

CTH TRIBUTE TO ANTON STEENKAMP



Cheadle Thompson & Haysom (CTH) is deeply saddened by Anton Steenkamp's tragic death on 20 May 2019. Anton made a considerable personal and professional contribution to the firm over more than 10 years (1991 – 2002).

He commenced articles of clerkship at CTH in 1991 where he found a ready professional home. Anton's legal acumen and his prior experience as student activist, progressive journalist and researcher at the Independent Board of Inquiry into Informal Repression (initiated by the South African Council of Churches to investigate apartheid hit squads) boosted the firm's arsenal in a decisive historical period. He was admitted as an attorney in 1993.

Anton's early legal practice at CTH was human rights based, representing clients at the Goldstone Judicial Commission of Inquiry (appointed to investigate political violence between 1991 and 1994) and in civil and criminal cases stemming from the intense political resistance and state repression of the early 1990's. He later focused on labour law, representing trade unions and their members across a wide range of economic sectors.

He moved to Cape Town in 1996 and helped establish the CTH office there. Anton became a CTH partner in 1997 and built a dynamic trade union labour practice in Cape Town over the next 5 years. He also developed a substantial practice in Namibia working closely with that country's mining and food sector trade unions. He regularly appeared in the Labour Court, taking on (often single-handedly) with great success large teams of attorneys and counsel representing employers.

Anton wrote extensively, contributing chapters to a number of leading publications, including *Labour Relations Law*, *Labour Law through the Cases* and *South African Labour Law*.

He left CTH in 2002 and was subsequently director in the labour law departments of Sonnenberg Hoffman Galombik and thereafter Bowman Gilfillan.

Anton became a judge of the Labour Court in 2010 and delivered over 450 well-reasoned judgements with a significant impact on labour law jurisprudence. In a statement issued on behalf of the Labour Court, Judge President Bashir Waglay has fittingly remembered Anton as having -

"... a deep love of his country and a zest for life. He will be remembered for his independence, his integrity and his significant contribution to labour law jurisprudence in South Africa as a practitioner, scholar and judge."

CTH mourns the loss of a dear friend and colleague and extends its heartfelt condolences and solidarity to his wife Catherine and to their children Stewart and Marion.