
Media Release

Embargo: None

14 August 2020

Legal practitioners' benevolent scheme

The Legal Practice Council would like to inform all legal practitioners of the establishment of the Legal Practitioners Benevolent Scheme ("the Benevolent Scheme") by the Legal Practice Council as an intervention to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the legal profession in South Africa. The Benevolent Scheme will provide once-off assistance totalling R15 million to eligible legal practitioners in a form of a R5000 grant per applicant.

The Legal Practice Council would like to encourage eligible legal practitioners to apply for financial assistance to the COVID-19 Benevolent Scheme from 18 August 2020 until 18 September 2020 ("the application period"). Applications received after 17h00 on 18 September 2020, will not be considered. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis. Once the full R15m has been disbursed to eligible applicants, no further applications will be processed.

"As the Council we acknowledge that the legal profession is experiencing difficulties during this time, and we are hoping that this limited support will assist practitioners who have been severely affected by this pandemic. Our profession has a number of practitioners who have limited access to funding from commercial institutions," said Kathleen Matolo-Dlepu, Chairperson of the Legal Practice Council.

"We urge those who have not been financially affected by the pandemic and who are able to donate to the Benevolent Scheme in support of fellow legal practitioners to do so by contacting the Legal Practice Council"

Categories of legal practitioners eligible to apply for the Benevolent Scheme include the following:

- Practising legal practitioners in good standing with the LPC; or
- A registered candidate attorney or pupil, as defined in the Legal Practice Act 28 of 2014;
- Must not be subject to an application for suspension or striking from the roll;
- Must have a net income of less than R30,000 per month.

The application forms with comprehensive information on the Benevolent Scheme and qualifying criteria may be downloaded from the www.lpc.org.za. The fully completed application form together with all supporting documentation must be returned by email to the administrators of the Benevolent Scheme on the following case sensitive email address: LPCBScheme@absa.africa

Applications will be considered in the strictest confidence and are subject to the completion of all the relevant documents, submission of all the required supporting documents and meeting of the set qualifying criteria. All applications received before the closing date which will be announced by the LPC will be processed as soon as reasonably possible. The decision of the LPC on any application is final.

ABSA Western Cape has agreed to administer the Benevolent Scheme on behalf the Legal Practice Council on a complimentary basis. The LPC expresses its gratitude to ABSA Western Cape for the kind gesture of generosity towards the legal profession.

Inquiries on the fund can be emailed to info@lpc.org.za.

ENDS

For media enquiries:

Issued by the Legal Practice Council

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About us

The Legal Practice Council is a national, statutory body established in terms of section 4 of the Legal Practice Act, No 28 of 2014. The Legal Practice Council and its Provincial Councils regulate the affairs of and exercise jurisdiction over all legal practitioners (attorneys and advocates) and candidate legal practitioners.

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