

Taking a modern approach to legal representation

WHILE studying law at the University of Stellenbosch, three women hit it off and became friends.

Today, they make up a formidable team in the legal fraternity, offering clients top-sheff, tailored legal representation combined with innovative pricing and inscrutable attention to detail.

Suma de Bruyn, Jeanelize Maritz and Judi Hayes, who have between them 16 years of local and international legal experience, are a breath of fresh air in the usually stilted atmosphere of the legal fraternity, with their personal approach to their clients.

When you meet them, don't be fooled by their relaxed, informal approach. Their professionalism and work ethic is wrapped in their user-friendly interaction with their clients.

"We accommodate the smaller client who can't afford the service of the bigger law firms. But you can expect the same high level of legal representation and specialised knowledge," Suma said.

"With superior service, we are confident to retain our clients and grow together over the years," she added.

Their practice, Themis Law Chambers, is named after the Greek goddess of divine justice, Themis, who governed the affairs of humans through consensus and foresight.

In the same vein and with the same energy, the trio offers a studied and practical approach to resolving legal issues through consent and vision rather than confrontation.

Suma graduated BCom LLB before working for the legal department of PSG Investment Bank and, thereafter, joining Hofmeyr Herbststein Gihwala Inc (Hofmeyr), latterly as a senior associate. She was admitted as an attorney in 2003, obtained a higher certificate in "Financial Markets and Instruments" and specialised in commercial law prior to joining Themis. Suma specialises in matters of a commercial legal nature and recently obtained her higher diploma in income tax.

Jeanelize obtained her BA LLB and was admitted as an attorney in 2003 after completing her articles of clerkship with Bowman Gilfillan Inc. Jeanelize successfully completed the "Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test" and was accordingly admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales, where she worked from 2003, giving her extensive international exposure.

After returning to South Africa in 2005, she worked as an associate attorney in the commercial department



FORMIDABLE TEAM: Judi Hayes, Suma de Bruyn and Jeanelize Maritz are the directors of Themis Law Chambers.

at Hofmeyr, specialising in commercial law.

She specialises in commercial and litigation matters and also holds a higher diploma in income tax from the University of Cape Town.

"My experience abroad complements the skills and experience of my colleagues, so that we can collectively offer a complete 'A-Z' service to our clients," Jeanelize said.

Judi completed her BA LLB in 1999. She commenced her articles of clerkship at De Abreu & Cohen Inc after completion of her practical legal training at the University of Cape Town. During 2000 and 2002, she worked as a legal consultant for the property department of a London council, and during that time she was admitted as an attorney in South Africa.

Upon her return to South Africa in 2003, she worked as an associate attorney for a sole proprietor in Durbanville. Judi specialises in conveyancing and litigation matters.

Judi said when they started their three-women legal firm just more than a year ago, it was about survival in a man's world, "now it is not about survival anymore, it's about making a mark in our industry".

In these three attorneys' experience the legal profession was steeped in history and lore, and change was often slow and met with much resistance.

The formation of Themis Law Chambers, with its modern approach and capability of operating in an ever-changing environment in line with the business world of today, is testimony to their innovative slant in providing legal services.

See the advertisement for contact details.

