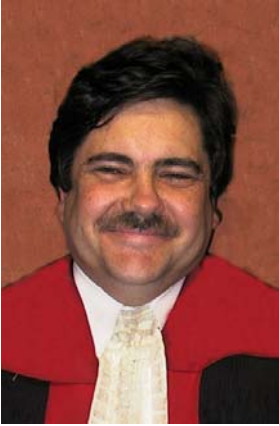


## ADRIAAN BEKKER 5<sup>TH</sup> ARMSA PRESIDENT 2001 – 2005



It is with a sense of achievement and humility that I would like to report back on the activities of ARMSA during the past four (4) years.

I took over the reins from Hamilton Cele after the Annual General Meeting held at Mount Aux Sources the weekend of the 23-25 November 2001. In doing so ARMSA for the first time since its inception had an Executive that did not originate from the “Last Out Post”

The new Executive faced a difficult road ahead. During the preceding era the car allowances for Regional Magistrates were re-introduced after an absence of several years. Hence there were great expectations from ARMSA members for the foreseeable future.

During the past 4 years I have strived to achieve the objectives as set out in the ARMSA’s constitution. One of the problems experienced by ARMSA during 2001 was the lack of effective communication between the ARMSA –Executive and its members.

At the time the practice existed that newsletters and other documents were sent to the Regional Chairpersons who then had to disseminate the said communications to the members.

This system had several flaws and the result was that members were both uninformed and dissatisfied. One of the first actions I took was to centralize the dissemination of newsletters from Pretoria. Regular monthly newsletters were also introduced from December 2001. I humbly submit that no member can currently claim that he / she is in the dark as to any of the activities of ARMSA or the Executive.

Since 2001 I held executive meetings mid year around June during which Regional Chairpersons as well as the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees have part take in planning the road ahead. This ensured an effective and goal orientated Executive.

In view of the fact that I have extensively reported on all this meetings as well as all other activities of ARMSA I don’t deem it prudent at this stage to report extensively on these activities again. Elsewhere on this compact disk you will find all newsletters, chairperson’s reports, and other supporting documents which you may study at your own convenience.

I will therefore only briefly outline the activities that ARMSA in since 2001:

**JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE:**

- I was a co-applicant in my personal capacity in Van Rooyen (1).
- Final judgment in Van Rooyen (1) in the constitutional court delivered in 2002

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- Publishing monthly newsletters since December 2001.
- Centralization of distribution of Newsletter
- Naming of newsletter – Ex Tempore – July 2005.

**COMMUNICATION:**

- Launching of official ARMSA website [www.armsa.org.za](http://www.armsa.org.za) – January 2002.
- Regular e-mail communication with members – January 2002.
- Currently only 28 /273 ARMSA members do not have access to e-mail.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

- Creating of new standing committees Ethics, Judicial Education, Projects (2003)

**PROJECTS:**

- Conducting community based projects in several regions (2003-2005)

**JUDICIAL EDUCATION:**

- Organizing conferences, workshops and training seminars (2002-2005)
- Peer training – Regional Magistrates lecturing newly appointed Regional Magistrates at Justice College (2004-2005).
- Obtaining funds from Department of Justice to conducting six sexual offences workshops.
- Conducted training independent of Justice College for the first time.

**REMUNERATION:**

- Sanctioned the drafting of a comprehensive job evaluation of Regional Magistrates (2002-2003)

**CONFERENCES:**

- Introduction of law related conferences sponsored with donor money (2002 - 2005)
- Obtained R2 million from Donor Funding during the past 4 years for conferences and workshops.
- Conducted the following conferences:  
2002 – The Judicial Officer and the Child Witness  
2003 – Restorative Justice in the Regional Courts

2004 – Protection of Human Rights in the Criminal Justice System – International Conference

2005 – The Vulnerable Witness in Sexual Offences.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

- Extending membership to - Newly appointed regional magistrates on probation  
Presiding officers in the divorce courts
- Actively recruit “new” members:
- Membership figures 2001 - 2005.  
2001 - 181 MEMBERS  
2002 – 206 MEMBERS  
2003 – 229 MEMBERS  
2004 – 269 MEMBERS  
2005 – 273 MEMBERS

**WE CURRENTLY REPRESENT 92% OF ALL REGIONAL  
MAGISTRATES AND DIVORCE COURT PRESIDING OFFICERS**

**ADRIAAN BEKKER  
1 NOVEMBER 2005**