

# CURRICULUM VITAE – SUSAN ABRO

## NOVEMBER 2016

1. Family name: Abro
2. First names: Susan Wendy
3. Gender: Female
4. Identity No:
5. Residence:
6. Contact No:

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### EDUCATION:

INSTITUTION (DATE FROM DATE TO)	DEGREE(S) OR DIPLOMA(S) OBTAINED:
Educated at St Anne's Diocesan College, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal	1976 – 1981 – Matric Exemption
University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg - 1985 (as it was then known)	Bachelor of Arts
University of Natal, Durban - 1987 (As it was then known)	LLB
Damelin College - 1993	Business Management Diploma

### LEGAL TRAINING

Served Articles of Clerkship with L J Paola Wright and Wilkinson	1987 to 1989
Attended Part – Time Practical Training Courses held by KwaZulu Natal Law Society	1988
Attended various voluntary courses by Continuing Legal Education Section of Law Society of South Africa throughout career	
Association of Law Societies (as it then was) Course in Family Mediation	1992
Certificate on Fundamentals of Child Custody Mediation	1993
Conducted and lectured Course for Law Society of South Africa on Divorce Practice for practitioners throughout Republic of South Africa with Advocate J A Julyan.	1999

## LEGAL CAREER

Admitted as an Attorney by the High Court of South Africa	March, 1990
Served as a Professional Assistant at Woodhead, Bigby & Irving from January to September 1990	September, 1990
Admitted as a Partner at Woodhead, Bigby & Irving in September 1990	September, 1990
Commenced practice for own account as Susan Abro Attorney in June 1995 –	specialising in Litigation – High Court and has become an expert in Family law, including applications in terms of the Hague Convention on Abduction of Children – having dealt in connection with Swedish, Australian, USA and UK jurisdictions. In addition practiced labour law, mediation and arbitration, and litigation, including commercial litigation.
Purchased a legal practice in March 2000 in partnership with Attorney Grant Mitchley, namely, Sylvia Oversby & Partners –	practiced in the areas of Conveyancing and Property, Personal Injury and Collections
Called upon to Act as a Judge of the High Court in the Durban and Coast Local Division in December 2005	2005
Appointed by the SA Judicial Service Commission as a Member of the Electoral Court for two consecutive terms.	2005

Language skills: (1 - excellent; 5 - basic)

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	1	1	1
Afrikaans	1	2	2
French	4	4	4

## HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGAL CAREER

Acted as Judge of the High Court of South Africa, Natal Provincial Division – December 2005.
Appointed by Judicial Services Commission as a Member of the Electoral Court – 2005 - for two consecutive terms
Appointed by KZN Finance Department as Chairperson, Municipal Bid Appeals Tribunal, Umzinyathi District – 2012 – to present
Elected as Council Member of Durban Chamber of Commerce – 2013 to present
Attended IBA World Women Lawyer's Conference – London – 2006
Chairperson - IBA World Women Lawyer's Committee - Outstanding World Woman Lawyer Award – 2006 – Judge Navaneetham Pillay
Addressed Parliament on Children's Bill on behalf of Law Society of South Africa – 2005
Co-Chairperson of the Law Society of South Africa – March 2004 to March 2005
Businesswomen's Association of SA – Regional Businesswoman of the Year Award – Professional Category - 2003
Member of Organising Committee for International Bar Association (IBA) Biennial Conference held in Durban, South Africa in October 2002 (attended by 15 000 lawyers from all over the world).
Organised and Addressed the Women's Interest Group Section session at the IBA Biennial Conference held in Durban, 2002.
Organised the Women's Interest Group Speaker, Judge Yvonne Mkgoro of the Constitutional Court, at the IBA Biennial Conference held in Durban, 2002.
Appointed Secretary of IBA Family Law Section – October 2002 – October 2003.
African Organising Committee of IBA World Women Lawyer's Conference – June 2003
Attended first World Women Lawyer's Conference in London in February / March 2001 on behalf of the Law Society of South Africa
Travelled to Sweden in 2000 and 2001 to attend on first trial, up to level of appeal, of matter based on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction – successfully obtained Order to return abducted children to South Africa
Attended International Society of Family Lawyer's Conference in Australia in July 2000
Attended International Society of Family Lawyer's Conference in Bath, UK in September 2001
Attended International Society of Family Lawyer's Conference in Chester, UK, in July 2007
Attended Law Council of Australia Annual Conference in October 2001 on behalf of Kwa-Zulu Natal Law Society and Law Society of South Africa, as Co - Chairperson
Joint Chairperson of Steering Committee of first Women Lawyer's Conference held by the Law Society of South Africa in November 2000
Addressed Parliament on behalf of the Law Society of South Africa in October 1997 on the Rights of Natural Fathers to Children born out of Wedlock Act
Executive Member of Joint NGO Committee preparing for Beijing Conference
Director of Advice Desk for Abused Women – 1999 – 2001
Attended various IBA and Family Law Conferences around the world
Received the Lawyer Monthly – Private Client Awards for Family - Lawyer of the year 2016 – South Africa.

## SERVICE TO LEGAL PROFESSION AND MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

First Woman Vice - President – KwaZulu - Natal Law Society –	April 1999 to October 2005
Council Member and Management Committee Member of Law Society of South Africa –	October 1999 to March 2005
Co – Chairperson of Law Society of South Africa –	March 2004 to March 2005
Council Member – Durban Legal Association –	1990 to 1996
Served on Ministerial Task Team and Drafting Committee of the Legal Practice Bill	2001 to 2005
Served on Law Society of South Africa Standing Committee on Legal Education from	1997 to 2002
Chairperson of World Women Lawyer's Conference Committee to present Outstanding World Woman Lawyer Award to Naveneetham Pillay	2006
Deputy Chairperson – Women's Interest Group – International Bar Association –	January 2007 to July 2008
Chairperson and currently Member of Law Society of South Africa Gender Law Committee	1999 – to date.
Currently Chairperson and member of the Family Law Committee of the Law Society of South Africa.	1999 to date
Member of International Bar Association	
Member of International Association of Family Lawyers	
Council member of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry KZN -	2013 to present
Co – Chairperson of the Municipal Bid Appeals Tribunal – Umzinyathi District Kwaulu-Natal	2013 to present
Member of the English Speaking Union.	2015
Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers.	2016
Member of MiKK International Lawyers List specializing in cross-border family cases – Berlin, Germany	2016

## NGO POSITIONS

Former Trustee - Wheat Trust – provide bursaries to previously disadvantaged women from mostly rural areas to enable them to further their businesses	1998
Founding Trustee - Mazisi Kunene Foundation – First Poet Laureate of SA – created to preserve, translate and publish his works and encourage and assist emerging poets	1999
Chairperson of the International Jewish Women's Rights Project of the ICJW	2006
Chairperson – Durban Branch – Businesswomen's Association of SA -	2010
Founding Trustee – Chaine des Rotisseurs Foundation Trust – established Ikusasa School of Cooking for disadvantaged students –	2009 - 2015
Chanceliere Culinaire of the Chaine Des Rotisseurs, South Africa	2016

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

1000 Women One Voice Against Domestic Violence Seminar in Durban - presentation on Domestic Violence -	2016.
The International Centre for Family Law Policy & Practice – London, UK- 2013 – The Second International Family Law and Practice Conference – Presentation on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse, including Rape and how it relates to Minors, with specific reference to the context of Social Media	2016
The International Centre for Family Law Policy & Practice – London, UK – 2016 – Culture, Dispute Resolution and the Modern Family – Presentation on Family Law Arbitration in South Africa	2016
Limmud conference in Durban – Presentation on Hate Speech and the Jewish Community in South Africa -	2016
Miller Du Toit University of Western Cape – Family Law Conference – Presentation on Arbitration in Family Law	2016
Kwazulu- Natal Women in Business - Presentation on how to be a Mentor - Durban	2016
2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Law Conference hosted by Clarks Attorneys – Johannesburg – 2015 – Presentation on Arbitration in Family Law.	2015
21 <sup>st</sup> South African Psychology Congress Symposium in Johannesburg – 2015 - Presentation on Expert Witnesses in a Family Law Case.	2015
Miller Du Toit University of Western Cape – Family Law Conference – 2015 – Presentation – Maintenance Defaulters	2015
Miller Du Toit Family Law Conference – Cape Town – April 2013 – Presentation on Cyber bullying and the Law.	2013
Miller Du Toit Family Law Conference – Cape Town – March 2012 – Presentation on Maintenance and the Law.	2012
Citadel – Private Client Wealth Management Company – 2008 – addresses on Family Law to their clients	2008
Union of Jewish Women and WIZO – 2007 & 2008 - addresses on Family Law on various occasions - nationally	2007
Durban United Hebrew Congregation – 2008 – Civil Union Act 17 of 2006	2008/2006
IBSL - 2005 - Women and the Law	
Business Partners – 2005 – Inspirational Address	2005
Women in Public Sector – 2004 – address on Women in Employment and Business – rights and other issues with regard to labour matters	
Businesswomen's Association of South Africa – 2004 - launch of Regional Business Achievers Awards – Inspirational Address	2004
Co – Chairperson of Law Society of South Africa 2003 / 2004 – Various official functions in South Africa and Internationally	2004
IBA World Conference – Women's Interest Group – 2002 – The Unlevel Playing Field for Women	2002
Addressed Parliament on various pieces of family legislation on behalf of the Law Society of South Africa.	