**Advocate Patrick van den Heever – In Memoriam**

**30 May 1958 – 19 November 2017**

Patrick’s life was a celebration of excellence. Despite several health challenges and setbacks, he persevered in reaching his goals he set for himself. He attained and mastered his profession and excelled in rendering service of the highest quality. Despite his achievements as academic, writer, counsel, supporter and friend, he retained the balance between hard work, leisure and family time. His most outstanding quality was an impeccable integrity towards all persons he dealt with. His was an exemplary life to be revered, followed and remembered. We will sorely miss his gentleness and unassuming manner. We hold him in high regard and keep his family and friends in our prayers. May the Comforter comfort them with an endearing comfort during their time of bereavement.

* Judge Neels and Marietjie Claassen

I weep for my dear friend and colleague. Let us keep in mind the huge intellectual contributions Patrick has made to SAMLA, its Faculty, medical mediation and medico-legal practice and understanding. All in his quiet, knowledgeable and logical style, and mostly behind the scenes.

It is with great sadness that I have to say goodbye to a giant.

* Dr Herman Edeling

I will always remember him for his gentleness and his knowledge both of which he excelled in. May peace for his loved ones bring solace for us too, as we will surely miss him.

* Dr/Adv Anton van den Bout

Although we prepared ourselves for the passing of Pat the announcement of the death of a colleague and friend is always devastating for the void is so everlasting. But with Pat, our very dear friend, although I shall miss him, what brings solace to me is the tremendous contribution he made as a lawyer and academic. Even though he departed this life, I shall continue to stand on those broad academic shoulders and continue to eat from the fruits of his labour, intuition and experiences as a remarkable man. He contributed in changing the law in a number of ways. May his soul rest in peace. My condolences to his loved ones.

* Dr Henry Lerm

One will always remember Pat for his passion and dedication and huge contribution in medical law both in legal practice and in the academic world. SAMLA and the legal fraternity especially in the Cape where he practised for so long first as an attorney and later as an advocate will miss him!

* Albert Lamey

Pat was one of those rare people who was actually too good for this world.

As a child, he earned the nickname "Laggende Pat" — for very good reason. As a practitioner, he was able to do his duty by his clients, and to the courts, without causing undue friction with his opponents at both the Bar and when he practiced as an attorney. He has left an indelible mark on the law of delict, especially in the field of medical negligence claims, his specialty and his passion in his professional life.

As one of nature's gentlemen, Pat will be sorely missed at the Bar - for his collegiality, by his briefing attorneys - for his dedication and by the academic world, to which he contributed so effectively with his insights, his thorough research and his prodigious output. His international research of the case law on the notion of "wrongful life" (sometimes called "wrongful birth") was instrumental in winning H v Fetal Assessment Clinic, surely Pat's finest hour in the Constitutional Court, notwithstanding that he was not well enough to appear on the day of the hearing. In addition, the textbook he wrote with Natalie Lawrenson will ensure that his name will live on in the minds of those who get to use the book in the course of their work.

Go well Pat, you will surely be missed in many different ways by many different people whose lives you've touched. Your memory will live on in the law reports and in your learned writings.

* Paul Hoffman SC

It was with MUCH SADNESS that I learnt about the passing of Pat. I met Pat as a doctoral student of mine in 1998. His thesis on *res ipso loquitur* in medical negligence law was highly acclaimed and is often quoted by the courts. Pat was an attorney, an advocate, a professor and an acting judge. He had a sharp intellect, a passion for medical law, a wonderful sense of humour, an unwavering commitment to humanity and fairness and a man who loved and celebrated life.

To me he was a mentor, friend and a much-revered colleague. He made a huge contribution to medical law and the medico-legal fraternity in South Africa. He authored several books and many journal articles and reports (mainly on medical malpractice law) - he was a true scholar.

Pat will be sadly missed, but we will remember him not only in our heads and minds, but also in our hearts - he truly was a remarkable man!

Prof Pieter Carstens