



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Via ZOOM

27 OCTOBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

I report on the affairs of SASLAW for the 2021/2022 year as follows.

Membership

The Membership of the Society as of 25th October 2022 is 1370. We were able to keep our numbers steady through the pandemic and thereafter. We thank our members for trusting us through this period. As we transition into our new normal, members continue to appreciate the value that SASLAW offers. A big thank you goes to the chapter administrators and the membership portfolio holders on the chapter committees for keeping the energy of the Society vibrant and engaging. The number of new members is very encouraging. Our growing social media platforms are allowing us to reach more interested members, resulting in new members.

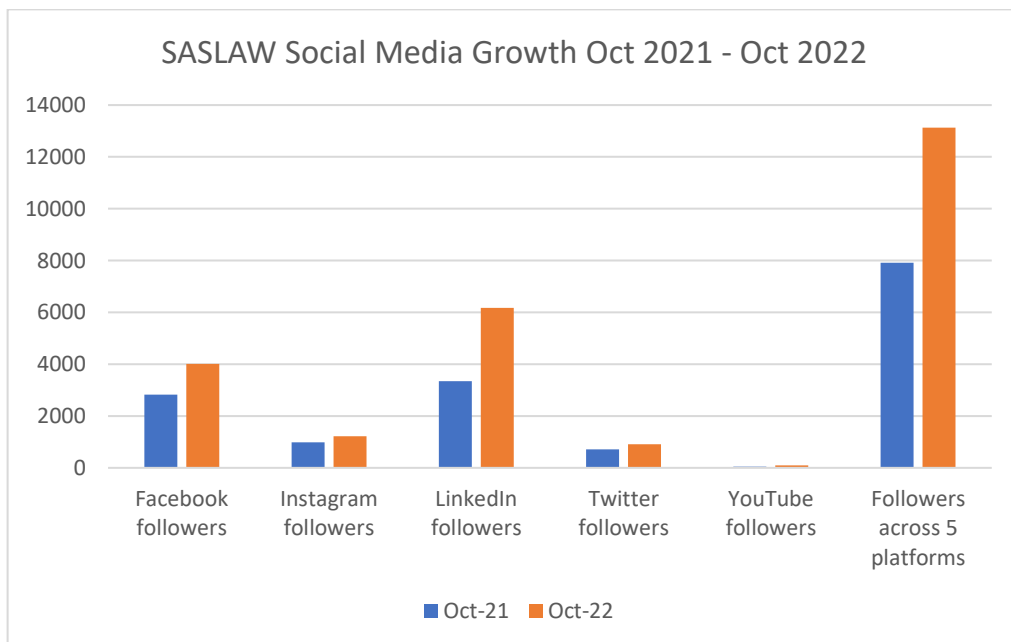
CHAPTER	TOTAL NUMBER OF PAID MEMBERS OCTOBER 2022
Eastern Cape	57
Free State	14
Gauteng	994
KZN	133
Limpopo	5
Western Cape	167
TOTAL	1370

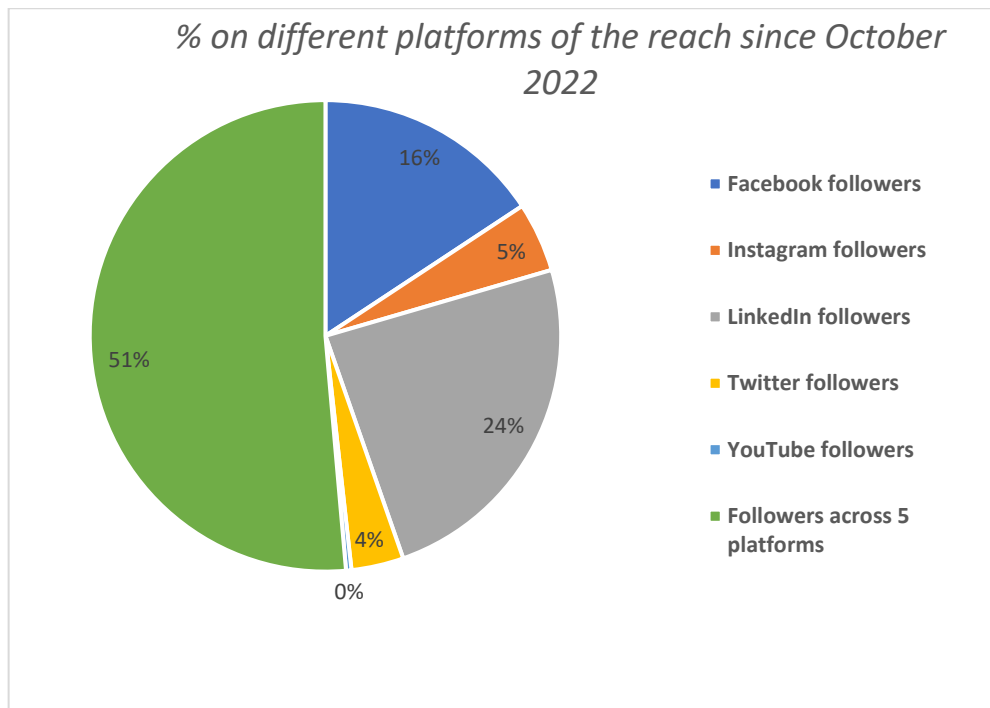
Social Media

The marketing plan, this year focused mainly on our Social Media platforms and the Glue up system. There was also bartering with organizations such as JUTA and SALLR with major databases allowing exposure for SASLAW. The Conference platform, swapcard, available to delegates who registered and attended will remain open for the next 6 months where they can access recordings of the sessions as well as network with other delegates.

See below the growth in the various platforms since this time last year. All the webinars have been recorded and loaded to You Tube for the members to watch at their own convenience.

	October 2021	October 2022
Facebook followers	2821	4013
Instagram followers	982	1218
LinkedIn followers	3342	6170
Twitter followers	713	916
YouTube followers	52	95
Followers across 5 platforms	7910	13124





We encourage you to follow the Society on these platforms:

LinkedIn - <http://www.linkedin.com/company/sasocietyforlabourlaw>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/sasocietyforlabourlaw>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/SASLAW0>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxRTHdIWmvJDO6Ave0t-N-w>

Facebook conference event - <https://web.facebook.com/events/281738819821201>

Saslaw Probono LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/saslawprobono>

Young Scholar Society (YSS)

The Student Conference took place on 9th September 2022. It was an online Conference hosted by Labournet at their offices. There were interesting topics presented including “Workplace Harassment; Leading and Managing different ages in the workplace; Soft Skills and Inherent Requirements of a job as a defence to unfair discrimination claims”. We had 82 students registered for the Conference. Each student that attended the Conference received a 6- month complimentary SASLAW membership.

This year we invited students to the SASLAW 25th Annual Conference. They were chosen by their respective universities as their top Labour Law students. The aim was for the students to acquaint themselves with the Labour Law space through networking with other delegates and engaging in the different sessions of the Conference.

The Canadian Fellowship Student Programme was a great success as well. The students arrived in May and departed in July. They learned a lot about Labour laws in South Africa and also offered some sound feedback and tips for the next group of Fellowship students next year.

Pro Bono Project

The number of clients seen nationally since Feb 2011 was an amazing 29 137. All the project activities are covered in more detail in the report enclosed in this pack. Attorneys are physically coming in to assist in the four offices and are taking on matters on a regular basis. The Directors are grateful to the Court staff, and the administrators who work tirelessly for the project. I would like to thank Jacqueline Keet, the permanent attorney in the Johannesburg office, for her commitment.

Seminars and Webinars

29 webinars have been held since June 2021 to date. Some of our highlights for the year were:

- “The revitalisation of labour law: developments in the EU and the UK after Brexit”
- “Cannabis and Discipline in the Workplace”
- “Dismissals following the implementation of a Mandatory Vaccination Policy”
- Automatic Unfair Dismissals Based on Protected Disclosures

This year we held all our seminars and webinars via Zoom. The webinars have been held nationally giving exposure to all our members, irrespective of their chapters. With the end of the national state of disaster, the administrators decided to host one physical seminar per chapter in an effort to get our members to network again.

New Membership Benefit Offerings - 2022/2023

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary of SASLAW, we have expanded our offerings to our members to include the following:

- Research Portfolio headed by the Gauteng Chapter in partnership with North-West University research department.
- Knowledge leadership page includes Collective Law Toolkits, Labour law articles and judgements.

Our plan is to continue expanding our offerings to our members that are relevant and current to the labour law space.

25th Annual Conference

This year the conference was held on the 6th & 7th October 2022 at the same venue as last year, The Capital On The Park and via MY PLANNER. We decided to follow our new tradition of a Hybrid conference once again. This worked well as some of our delegates still preferred to attend online. Our Theme this year was Mental Health in the Workplace as October is Mental Health month. A unique element we decided to be included at the conference this year, was to have students attend. We sponsored 10 students that were chosen by their respective universities to join us and participate in the conference by networking and engaging in the sessions. As most of our speakers and delegates attended physically, it allowed for our traditional networking and mingling. The commitment to hosting a high level, informative and diverse conference paid off.

We were excited at the number of physical attendees we had this year. It demonstrates the comfort levels of people as we move forward. The speaker line-up this year was diverse and unique, it included Union Leaders, Wellness practitioners and Industrial Psychologists. With a conference packed with interesting topics, we received great feedback from our delegates.

Other pointers to mention about the Conference are as follows:

- The Conference Virtual Platform is still available for delegates to access for the next 6 months where they can view all presentations, connect, and expand their professional networks and access special conference offers from sponsors.
- The Conference Survey will be sent with the next newsletter
- The link to the photographs will be made available on the website as well.

A big thank you goes to our Sponsors whose commitment to the Society contributed to another successful conference. We hope the exposure you received this year has been well received. Thank you to the Speakers for interesting and diverse topics presented at the conference. Finally, much gratitude goes to Venolan Naidoo, Lerato Lenyehelo, Neil Searle, and the Administrators for organizing yet another successful conference.

Finance and Administration

The Audited financial statement for this period ending February 2022. After a successful conference in 2021 with excellent sponsorship received from the City of Johannesburg and other partners, we were able to move the society back into a positive standing. We are pleased to report that we were also able to settle any amounts owing to the Probono Project as well as mitigate the loss brought forward from the 2021 year-end. The society's financials are looking much stronger.

The administration and governance of the Society are in order

Closing Comments

As I bow out as SASLAW National Committee President, I would like to take this time to say thank you to each and every SASLAW member. Without your support the society would not be where it is. The Society is a testament to the passion each and every one of our members has for labour law. I would like to extend a special thank you to Venolan. His support has been invaluable during my time as President. I would also like to thank my national committee members and the members of the chapter committees. My extra special thanks goes to Pearl, Di, Fatima and Louise for their dedication and passion for the Society. Although I will no longer be part of the Committee, I will remain a committed SASLAW member and will be looking forward to seeing SASLAW grow to even bigger heights.

Anastasia Vatalidis

SASLAW National President
2021 - 2022