



NOTIFICATION TO SAMLA MEMBERS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL TWO TIERS OF REGISTRATION FOR MEDICO-LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

SAMLA created a register of medico-legal practitioners to encourage the professionalisation of medico-legal practice, and to reflect an increasing standard of practice. The Board of SAMLA, at a meeting in February 2020, resolved that SAMLA would create an additional two tiers of registration for medico-legal practitioners that would allow for the development of the career path in the profession of medico-legal practice, commensurate with and an acknowledgement of acquisition of further knowledge, skills and experience. To this end, SAMLA has developed and approved three tiers of membership on the register of medico-legal practitioners. These tiers are entitled:

Tier 1, the entry level, entitled “Medico-Legal Practitioner”

Tier 2, the intermediate level, entitled “Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner”

Tier 3, the highest level, entitled “Senior Medico-Legal Practitioner”.

The description of the tiers is as follows:

Tier 1. Medico-legal practitioner

The registry for medicolegal practitioners has been established and medico-legal practitioners have already registered. At this time, the criteria for entry at this level are as follows:

Non-Profit Company. Registration Number: 2005/013822/08

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Directors: Prof Ethelwynn Stellenberg (National Chairperson); Dr Henry Lerm (National Deputy Chairperson – Legal; Eastern Cape - Branch Chairperson); Mr Trevor Reynolds (National Deputy Chairperson - Health Sciences); Dr Herman Edeling (Faculty Principal); Mr Johan Jordaan (National Treasurer); Dr Karen Levin (Communications Director); Mr JP Venter (Administration Director); Dr Sharon Munyaka (Marketing and Fundraising Director); Ms Philippa Styles (KZN - Branch Chairperson); Dr Stefan Jansen van Vuuren (Free State - Branch Chairperson); Ms Romany Sutherland (Western Cape - Branch Chairperson); Ms Carina Van de Wall (Gauteng - Branch Chairperson); Dr Hans Enslin (RAF Director); Adv Johanna Barnardt; Ms Desiree David; Ms Barbara Donaldson; Mr Rowan Haarhoff; Ms Grace Hughes Adv Jimmy Kyriacou; Dr Willem Moore; Dr Thabiso Rapapali; Prof Ramodungoane Tabane; Dr & Adv Anton Van den Bout

Non-Executive President: Judge CJ “Neels” Claassen



1. A professional in good standing with his or her own professional body (e.g. LPC or HPCSA).
2. A SAMLMA member in good standing.
3. A pledge to practice according to the SAMLMA code of conduct and
4. proof of reasonable knowledge of the field by having passed the SAMLMA/UCT Foundations Course in Medico-Legal Practice except that
5. this last requirement may be waived for applicants who qualify under the SAMLMA RPL policy.

Tier 1: Recognition of prior learning policy.

Applicants who believe they do not need the SAMLMA Foundations Course in Medico-Legal Practice will need to satisfy the Credentialing Committee that has been appointed by the SAMLMA Board, by process of peer review, that they have sufficient experience and that they practice to an acceptable standard. At minimum this process requires:

1. 5 years experience in medico-legal practice.
2. 2 references, one each from a reputable medico-legal lawyer and a reputable medico-legal expert.
3. The Credentialing Committee may call for further proof of competence for example by way of
 - (i) provision of a written opinion on a set of facts
 - (ii) demonstration of the number of cases he or she has successfully managed
 - (iii) a portfolio of reports, judgements et cetera in which he or she featured and/or
 - (iv) a live interview.



Tier 2: Criteria for advancement to the level “Advanced Medicolegal Practitioner” via the “Knowledge Route”

1. At least 5 years’ experience in his or her primary profession.
2. At least 5 years’ experience in medico-legal practice (the two may run concurrently).
3. An application for advancement to the level “Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner”, with that application supported by 2 referees, one being a reputable medico-legal legal practitioner and one being a reputable medico-legal healthcare practitioner, attesting to the applicant’s medico-legal competence.
4. Successful completion of at least 6 of the 10 SAMLA/UCT Workshops in Medico-Legal Practice (current workshops 1 to 10).
5. An appropriate portfolio of evidence, demonstrating competent medico-legal practice.
6. The Credentialing Committee may, at its discretion, call for further evidence of competence.

Tier 2: Recognition of prior learning policy

1. At least 10 years’ experience in his or her primary profession.
2. At least 10 years’ experience in medico-legal practice (the two may run concurrently).
3. An application for advancement to Tier 2, with that application supported by 2 referees, one being a reputable medico-legal legal practitioner and one being a reputable medico-legal healthcare practitioner, attesting to the applicant’s medico-legal competence.
4. An appropriate portfolio of evidence, demonstrating competent medico-legal practice.
5. The Credentialing Committee may, at its discretion, call for further evidence of competence.



Tier 3: Criteria for advancement to the level “Senior Medico-legal Practitioner”.

The only route for advancement to this tier is satisfaction of the following:

1. At least 15 years’ experience in medico-legal practice.
2. The applicant must be a registered Advanced Medico-Legal Practitioner.
3. An application for advancement to Tier 3, with that application supported by 2 referees, one being a reputable medico-legal legal practitioner and one being a reputable medico-legal healthcare practitioner, attesting to the applicant’s medico-legal competence.
4. Ongoing teaching, mentoring and supervision of Medico-Legal Practitioners
5. Evidence of the following, as professionally pertinent:
 - (i) Any other exceptional contribution the applicant is making to the field of medico-legal practice
 - (ii) Publications and/or citations
 - (iii) Peer reviews undertaken
 - (iv) Judgements
 - (v) An indication of the number of reports; opinions; heads of argument; advice on evidence/merits/quantum relevant to medico-legal practice.
6. The Credentialing Committee may at its discretion propose and motivate, with supporting evidence, to the SAMLA Board the meritorious advancement of an Advanced Medico-legal Practitioner to the status of Senior Medico-Legal Practitioner.