

Leading Southern Cape law firm “partners” with

SPOOR & FISHER

International intellectual property law specialist Spoor & Fisher, which specialises in all aspects of IP law throughout Africa, has entered into an alliance with George-based law firm Millers Incorporated.

“The alliance gives Spoor & Fisher a presence on the ground in the region, and will enable the firm to leverage the well-established client base of Millers Incorporated,” says Charles Webster, chairman of Spoor & Fisher. Headed up by Fanie Botes, the Millers George office – established in 1931 – comprises seven directors, six professional assistants, two candidate attorneys and 43 support staff, making it the largest law firm in the southern Cape. In addition, Millers has a branch in Cape Town which was established in 1997.

“Millers has a reputation for employing only the finest legal practitioners and support staff,” says Botes. “It’s also known to be progressive in its thinking and has played a key role in the southern Cape community from both social and legal perspectives.” The alliance with Spoor & Fisher gives Millers the capability to offer clients in the southern Cape region access to expertise in intellectual property. All IP-related matters will be referred to Spoor & Fisher, which focuses on intellectual property law including patents, trade marks, copyright and designs, and related litigation.

“It’s an alliance that heralds the beginning of a new era for Millers,” says Botes, who is MD of the firm. “We have grown over the years and developed proficiencies in many fields of practice in the law, including property law, medical malpractice, third-party claims, local government, municipal and administrative law, estate planning and trust laws, labour law and tax law, as well as many other areas of general and specialised law.

It has become crucial for us to be able to provide our clients with specialised services in the increasingly complex field of intellectual property law. An alliance with a firm like Spoor & Fisher, which has proven expertise in this area, means our clients can be assured of the very best legal counsel when it comes to protecting their IP.”

A Level 2 BEE contributor, Miller’s made the news headlines in 2010 when it received possibly the largest arbitration award, to the tune of R22,4 million, for a cerebral palsied child in a medical negligence case started in 1999. Spoor & Fisher has played a fundamental role in the development and international body of knowledge on IP law and has consistently been rated as the top IP firm in South Africa. Over the past few decades, the firm has also been involved in many landmark cases in the IP field.

The firm’s IP law experts have helped to develop statutory law in the IP field in South Africa and have played a major role in the drafting of numerous amendments to the Copyright Act.



Invitation to Seminar on the value of intellectual property

Millers Incorporated, in association with the George Business Chamber and Spoor & Fisher, will present an insightful seminar on the value of intellectual property, where the true worth and meaning of trade marks, patents, copyright, registered designs, anti-counterfeiting and plant breeders’ rights will be explained in greater detail. The seminar will be presented on Thursday, 31 March at the King George Protea Hotel, commencing at 17:00 for 17:30. If you would like to attend, please confirm by e-mailing k.vanwyk@spoor.com or calling Karien at 012 676 1134, no later than the 28th of March 2011.

Read more about intellectual property in the George Herald and Knysna/Plett Herald on 3, 10, 17, and 24 March, or visit www.spoor.com.

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patents • trade marks • copyright

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