

4.

In respect of this work, [REDACTED] raised invoice number: 096/2020 dated 25 September 2020. He charged a breathtaking R162 000.00 for such work. The debits raised on 24 September 2020 totalled a staggering R126 000.00 based upon seven hours work at R18 000.00 per hour. This is at least more than four times the average hourly rate a Silk would charge for this type of matter.

5.

[REDACTED] is a Senior Junior and has practised since 2008.

6.

The matter concerned an application by [REDACTED] against *inter alia* the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was his employer and involved an interdict restraining [REDACTED] employer from making allegedly unlawful deductions from monies owing to [REDACTED]. The application papers were drawn by [REDACTED] instructing attorney [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The application was not formally opposed and no answering affidavit was delivered. On the day of the hearing being 25 September 2020, the [REDACTED] briefed Counsel and a consent order was agreed.

7.

Even accepting that the application was semi-urgent, there does not appear to be anything complex about the matter. In regard to the fee of R126 000.00 for the work done on 24 September 2020, we do not consider that such work should be separately charged for as

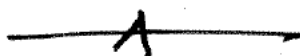
it forms part of the work in preparing for such application and therefore is an integral part of the composite fee for moving the application including the appearance.

8.

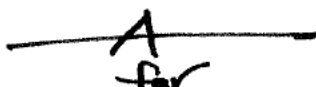
Having given careful consideration to this matter, a reasonable fee for a Senior Junior for the necessary preparation for the application and the appearance is in our view in the range of R18 000.00 and R24 000.00. In the circumstances, we regard the mean of these two amounts being R21 000.00 as a reasonable fee. From this amount must be deducted R5 000.00 which has been paid, so R16 000.00 is due and payable.

9.

We add that the approach by [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] instructing attorney did not initially complain about the fees and by implication is bound to pay such fees as being of no substance and does not justify the charging of an extremely excessive fee for the work done.



N D HOLLIS SC



R SINGH (MS)

Fee Dispute Committee

Chambers
DURBAN

25 April 2022

