

13 May 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

## **UNLAWFUL CONTINGENCY FEES**

We have been advised that you were previously a client of the firm Ronald Bobroff and Partners. As you may be aware, there has been significant media attention on this firm, in particular with regards to the manner in which it levied fees on its clients.

In the recent Constitutional Court matters of SAAPIL v The Minister of Justice and De La Guerre v Ronald Bobroff and Partners, Ronald Bobroff and Partners' common law contingency fee agreements with its clients were declared unlawful. The effect of these judgments is that a number of former clients of Ronald Bobroff and Partners have probably been severely overcharged.

The extent of the overcharge depends on what a reasonable fee would have been for the legal work actually performed by Ronald Bobroff & Partners in each particular matter. As an illustrative example: In the recent High Court case of Bitter NO v Ronald Bobroff & Partners, it was suggested that the fee charged by Ronald Bobroff & Partners amounted to 25 times that which they would ordinarily have been entitled to.

Should you wish to have the fee charged to you by Ronald Bobroff & Partners assessed, we suggest that you contact Ronald Bobroff & Partners directly and request the firm to provide you with a detailed statement of account for work actually performed. Alternatively, you can employ the services of another attorney to contact Ronald Bobroff and Partners on your behalf.

For your further information we attach the judgment of Bitter NO v Ronald Bobroff and Partners where Justin Bitter was successfully represented by Anthony Millar of Norman Berger and Partners Attorneys.

Should you require any further details, please feel free to contact Discovery Legal Services per return e-mail on legal\_services@discovery.co.za.

Yours faithfully,

**Discovery Legal Services** 

155 West Street, Sandton; PO Box 786722, Sandton 2146; Tel 0860 99 83 77 or 083 123 8377 (Client Services); (011)529 2888 (Switchboard) Fax (011) 539 2958; www.ducovery.co.ea

Directors: M 1 Historitz [Chairperson], A Gora\* (Group CEO), Dr 1 Broomberg\* (CEO), H L Borman, Dr 8 A Brink, J 1 Durand, S B Epstein (USA), R Farber\*, H D Xaliner\*, H S Koopowitz\*, Dr T V Maghai, H P Mayers\*, TT Alboweni, Dr P M Moumakwa\* (Thabi), Dr A Ritsaluba\*, A L Owen (UK), A Pollard\*, J M Robertson\* (ClO), S E Sebotsa, T Slabbert, B Swartzberg\*, S V Zűwa (\*Executiva), Secretary: M 1 Botha

Discovery Health (Pty) Ltd. Registration number: 1997/013480/07