



# EMPLOYMENT ALERT

## TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN FRIEND

“Contrary to the cliché, genuinely nice guys most often finish first or very near it.”  
- Malcolm Forbes

A dear friend, beloved colleague and genuinely nice guy, Tim Mills, sadly passed away on 24 May 2012 following a tragic car accident. An avid sportsman who excelled in rugby, cricket, golf, road running and any other sport he decided to take up, Tim left a lasting impression on anyone who met him; whether on a field, pitch, course, road or in court. His genuine charm and pleasant demeanour brought smiles and appreciation wherever he went. He is sorely missed already.

Millsy was an integral part of the Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr team and stalwart in the Employment Law practice. His enviable client list is an indication of the high regard in which he was held by clients. Tim was part of that rare breed of attorney who instantly grasped complex legal issues without losing sight of the practical solutions sought by clients. An opponent commented yesterday that Tim was the only attorney he knew who was able to reach settlement in the complex matter that had been the subject of litigation between clients; a result of his affable nature, genuine appreciation and knowledge of the law and unquestionable commitment to the profession.

Tim has achieved numerous accolades during his career. He was recently recognised for his contribution to the employment law fraternity by being requested to act as a judge in the Labour Court – a responsibility he shouldered with the effortless aplomb for which he was known.

He played rugby for Border, significantly guarding the rear as fullback, a quality for which he was known in his professional life as well – Tim was the go-to person whenever an onslaught was expected or when the odds were stacked against us. He also successfully completed 10 Two Oceans ultra-marathons, exhibiting his staying power loved by clients and admired by everyone else.

Tim was a committed family man who leaves behind a grieving family: his wife, Barbara, his daughter, Nicola and son, Andrew. Words cannot begin to describe the emotion we share with them during this incredibly sad time. They remain in our thoughts and prayers.

The Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Athletic Club will honour Tim this Sunday by wearing commemorative insignia on their running vests while participating in the Comrades Marathon. Tim will forever remain in our thoughts and hearts, his legacy being a group of committed attorneys that were moulded under his hand, inspired by his lust for life and dedication to a profession he loved, striving to be the father, husband and friend that he was. Rest in peace, Millsy. Your running shoes will never be filled, but the race you ran left nobody that witnessed it untouched. You were proof that nice guys often finish first.

*Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Employment Law Team*



**11 May 1958 - 24 May 2012**

In loving memory of  
Timothy Elton Mills

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