



CHARLES BUTLER
Johannesburg, South Africa

Until 2006, Charles was the CEO of law firms in South Africa for over 30 years. He holds an MBA, IT and Accounting diplomas, and has been a member of ALA for over 25 years. He is now the Company Director of a private investment company (investment and real estate).

Q. What are the major issues you face as a legal administrator in your country?

A. Black Empowerment and skills shortage.

Q. Where do you see legal administration headed in your country?

A. It will experience growth as the need for professional management is realised more and more by the legal profession as a whole.

Finish this sentence: By participating in PLMW, I hope that managers will be encouraged to engage with and learn from colleagues around the world.

Q. What initiatives have you taken or do you plan to take to promote the awareness of legal administration (one of the goals of PLMW)?

A. Encourage support by managers in the profession.

Q. Why is legal administration important to people in your country?

A. It helps to bring professionalism to the role of practice management.

Finish this sentence: A career in legal administration has given me insight into business and people.

Q. How do lawyers in your country view the legal management profession?

A. Generally highly regarded, but sadly in some instances, considered to be like an insurance policy – a necessary evil.

Q. What types of programs would you like to see implemented in your country to advance this profession?

A. A professional degree / diploma course along the lines of the CLM.

Q. How has legal administration evolved since you entered the field?

A. Most larger firms (more than 20 partners in SA!) have legal administrators at one or other level.

Q. What does PLMW mean to you?

A. Broadening the scope and awareness of legal management.

Q. What advice would you give to someone who wants to increase awareness in legal administration?

A. Encourage participation by other managers and lawyers in functions and knowledge sharing offered by ALA.

Finish this sentence: When it comes to legal administration, I would be happy if lawyers were taught the basics of business management as an integral part of their professional qualifications.

Q. What advice would you give to someone in your country interested in entering the legal administration profession?

A. Learn people skills first and then operational and strategic skills.