

Kalmen* Datt – My personal story

After leaving Northview I obtained a B Com, LLB from Wits. Did articles and then opened a practice in my name. Some years later I joined Raphaely Weiner as a partner and left that firm to become an advocate just before they amalgamated with Fluxmans.

Married Carol Rabinowitz and have a son Michael who still lives in SA. Divorced in late 70's and met Beverly. We have been together now for over 30 years. We have two girls and 4 grandchildren all of whom live in New Zealand.



Kalman with wife, Beverley

Around 1995 I was walking to my car in Eloff Street at about 6.00pm when I was mugged by a number of people with both guns and knives. Whilst this was happening pedestrians simply ignored what was happening and walked past thus incident. This is what motivated me to leave SA.

Whilst in SA I had a very successful commercial litigation practice as a barrister. During this time (and whilst practicing) I qualified to practice in both the UK and New Zealand.

We arrived in New Zealand in 1997. In NZ, I practiced as a lawyer before joining the Revenue authorities where I had control of a major anti-avoidance team. I am sure the papers throughout the world are full of news about how some multinational companies avoid paying any tax. In NZ I did master's degree in Tax at the University of Auckland and also lectured there on a part-time basis.

Left NZ in 2003 for Sydney Australia with Bev. Since coming to Australia I have lectured at the University of New South Wales in various tax subjects. With a view to having something to occupy me I commenced doing a PhD which hopefully will be completed sometime in 2014.

My last visit to SA was for the 50th Johannesburg reunion. I was overjoyed to see a number of my old friends and colleagues (most of whom I had not seen since leaving Northview). Hopefully I will be able to attend the next reunion.

[*Ed: Many of us recall Kalman as 'Cookie' – the origin of which still puzzles us all. During the Melrose reunion – Feb 2014 – he explained that when he was a baby someone said he was 'as cute as a cookie' and the name stuck! ... Cookie, forgive me if I got the story wrong! And please correct me if necessary]

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