

ing any benefit from the will.

- Where a witness to a properly executed will is also named as a beneficiary in the will, the will remains valid but the witness may be precluded from inheriting.

He concluded by stating that a will does not have a sell-by date as it remains operative until it is revoked. Mr Shapiro stressed that it was imperative that one's will be updated on a periodic basis, but especially when there is a change in status such as a birth, death, marriage, cohabitation, divorce or separation.

Mr Carroll discussed the impact of the different matrimonial property regimes on estate planning. He stated that, although they do not realise it, most people have four different 'estates', namely -

- personal assets,
- trust assets;
- contractual arrangements such as life assurance with nominated beneficiaries; and
- retirement benefits.

Mr Carroll added that the latter three cannot be bequeathed in a will.

Mr Basson addressed the conference on the systems and information technology developments in the registration of trusts at the various offices of the master across the country. He said that after a few weeks of testing, it was all systems go for the New Integrated Case Management System for Masters Trust. Mr Basson said that the pilot projects at the Pretoria and Pietermaritzburg masters offices proved that the system was stable and ready for more volume. He said that there were no issues or timeouts on the new system, even with a remote slow internet connection.

Mr Basson added that there was a phased-approach rollout of the system at all masters offices country-wide from September. At the time of the conference, the next rollouts were planned for Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Kimberley, Johannesburg and Durban before the end of October 2013.

Mr Basson concluded by saying that it

is envisaged that the process will be virtually paperless in the near future.

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