



News



Bobroffs throw curve ball at SA authorities

Published

2 years ago

on

May 5, 2022

By

[Nicola Miltz](#)

Fugitive father and son personal injury lawyers Ronald Bobroff and his son, Darren, have thrown South African prosecution authorities a curve ball.

The notorious pair entered into a quiet settlement with Israeli authorities in February last year, resulting in them dodging criminal prosecution in Israel.

This was unbeknown to South African authorities, who were expecting R95 million to be returned to South Africa by order of the South African Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) in May last year.

Behind closed doors, the Bobroffs reached a settlement with Israel in February last year to evade criminal prosecution related to suspected tax evasion and money laundering for money stashed in Israeli bank accounts.

As a result, the Israeli government seized about R70 million of the R95 million in turn for dropping criminal charges against the pair. It's understood that the Bobroffs may have retained several million.

The settlement came to light in South Africa after a replying affidavit was filed by Ronald in the Constitutional Court in June 2021 that disclosed the deal.

However, this is money which the South African asset forfeiture unit had legally laid claim to after it was determined to be the proceeds of crime.

To date, not one cent has been returned to South Africa in spite of the SCA ruling in May last year that the money was the proceeds of crime and must be forfeited to the state.

Now, questions are being raised as to whether this money will ever reach South African shores.

News of the settlement came to light recently after the Constitutional Court released its judgment upholding the earlier SCA ruling.

Local authorities were surprised because Israeli and South African legal authorities collaborated for months in securing a court victory in May last year against the Bobroffs.

In a unanimous ruling by the SCA, about R95 million held by the Bobroffs in Israeli accounts was declared to be the proceeds of theft and money laundering. The SCA ordered the money to be handed over to South African legal authorities.

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) said at the time the SCA judgment had found, “on a balance of probabilities” both “the allegations of dishonesty, theft, and fraud had been established”, as well as “the funds in the Israeli accounts were the proceeds of the unlawful activities”. It also said “the money had been laundered to disguise its origin and identity prior to deposit”.

The Bobroffs appealed against the forfeiture order granted by the High Court in Pretoria back in August 2019 in relation to their accounts held at the Bank Discounts and the Bank Mizrahi Tefahot in Israel. The court found that the bulk of the money in the Israeli accounts was the proceeds of crime.

The SCA declared that the Bobroffs’ overreaching (in fees charged), coupled with their decision to retain their gains and invest or reinvest same for their own benefit, after 2014, knowing that they were not entitled to the money, constituted theft.

Disgruntled by the SCA judgment, the Bobroffs took it to the Constitutional Court, telling the *SA Jewish Report* at the time that it was “plainly wrong and there were no irregularities” in terms of their Israeli bank accounts.

In the meantime, allegedly on the quiet, they had long before entered into discussions with Israeli authorities which they reportedly did not disclose to any of the South African authorities. Unbeknown to the NPA, the Bobroffs entered into a settlement agreement with the Israeli authorities in a bid to keep Darren out of jail in Israel for suspected tax evasion and money laundering.

According to Moneyweb, Israeli authorities never notified or consulted with the NPA or the South African Reserve Bank before reaching the settlement. The Bobroffs also allegedly didn’t disclose it to the South African courts, where they were engaged in litigation against the NPA.

It’s clear that the Bobroffs tried to keep the settlement, which an Israeli court sanctioned on 28 February 2021, a secret. They didn’t raise it during arguments in the SCA application, which was heard on 23 February 2021, less than a week before the settlement was approved. Nor did Ronald proactively disclose it in his failed application to the Constitutional Court for leave to appeal against the SCA judgment, which was made a few months later, on 28 June 2021, Moneyweb reported.

The Bobroffs acknowledged the settlement only in court papers submitted to the Constitutional Court.

The details eventually emerged in Ronald Bobroffs’ replying affidavit, in which he included the settlement agreement as well as communication between his legal team and Israeli authorities.

Some insiders speculate that the Bobroffs were hoping this settlement would be enough to put the matter to bed. However the Constitutional Court upheld the decision of the SCA.

The NPA told Moneyweb, “The only proposal the AFU [Asset Forfeiture Unit] received from the Israelis [after the settlement was reached] was to share three million shekels [about R14.5 million] with South Africa as a token of goodwill between the countries, which isn’t acceptable to the AFU.”

In 2016, the Bobroffs were disbarred following the emergence of details of financial irregularities. A warrant was issued for their arrest, but before it could be executed, they fled in haste for Australia. An Interpol Red Notice that allows for the provisional arrest of a person pending extradition or other similar legal actions was issued.

Since then, the Bobroffs have been enjoying their new life in Australia. They have reportedly bought expensive homes in upmarket suburbs in Sydney, and their grandchildren attend private schools.

Among other things, it’s alleged that the Bobroffs stole money due to clients from the Road Accident Fund.

They have vehemently denied this, and continue to profess their innocence, saying they fled the country in fear after receiving threats.

The NPA’s Bulelwa Makeke told the *SA Jewish Report* this week, “We would all love to see the Bobroffs face justice in South Africa, but so far they have used every trick possible to evade the law.”



[Featured Item](#)



Israel and SA unite to nab Bobroffs

Published

3 years ago

on

Jun 24, 2021

By

[Mirah Langer](#)

As Israeli and South African legal authorities collaborate in securing a court victory against Ronald Bobroff and his son, the fugitive attorney continues to rail about personal vendettas and conspiracies against him.

About R95 million held by the Bobroffs in Israeli accounts was declared as the proceeds of thievery and money laundering in a unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) last month, which ordered the money to be handed over to South African legal authorities.

Bobroff, who has since filed an appeal with the Constitutional Court, told the *SA Jewish Report* that this finding was “plainly wrong” and “there were no irregularities” in terms of handling their Israeli bank accounts. He asserted that his firm had always “delivered an exceptional service”, and clients “who believe that they have been overcharged are free to institute civil proceedings”.

In 2016, Bobroff, and his son, Darren, both Johannesburg-based personal-injury attorneys, were disbarred following the emergence of details of financial irregularities. A warrant was issued for their arrest, but before it could be executed, they left for Australia. An Interpol Red Notice that allows for the provisional arrest of a person pending extradition or other similar legal actions has since been issued.

In a statement issued by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) about the SCA judgment, it said the court had found, “on a balance of probabilities” both “the allegations of dishonesty, theft, and fraud had been established”, as well as “the funds in the Israeli accounts were the proceeds of the unlawful activities”. It also said “the money had been laundered to disguise its origin and identity prior to deposit”.

The Bobroffs appealed against a forfeiture order granted by the High Court in Pretoria in August 2019 in relation to their accounts held at the Bank Discounts and the Bank Mizrahi Tefahot in Israel. They contested whether the High Court had the jurisdiction to grant the order across countries. The court found it was, indeed, empowered to do so. It also found that the bulk of the money in the Israeli accounts was the proceeds of crime.

Advocate Priya Biseswar, the special director of public prosecutions in South Africa’s Asset Forfeiture Unit, praised the engagement between Israeli and South African legal authorities in securing this judgment. She told the *SA Jewish Report* that “co-operation between the countries had been consistent and helpful”.

Collaborative efforts between the two countries began in 2017, when the state attorney in Israel contacted South African authorities. Israeli police began a money laundering investigation after a bank compliance officer noticed a suspicious transaction in one of the Bobroffs’ Israeli accounts. When the Israelis became aware of the Red Notice, they contacted South Africa and the accounts were frozen. The High Court in Pretoria thwarted the Bobroffs’ attempts to get the money back, instead granting the forfeiture order.

The only concession the SCA gave was that about R7 million of about R103 million in the Israeli bank accounts could be directly identified as not sourced from criminal practices, and thus was excluded from forfeiture.

In the SCA judgment, drafted by acting Judge of Appeal Johannes Eksteen, he detailed how the Bobroffs described travelling overseas over many years, usually with their wives, and depositing their travel allowances in different banks abroad. The Bobroffs said the reason they opened and closed different accounts was because “they had been advised by the banks that it was a simple matter for banking authorities in South Africa to determine whether the travellers’ cheques had been deposited into international bank accounts, and then to take steps to attempt to attach the credit amounts”.

“The purpose of the exercise was accordingly to disguise the origin and identity of the money. This practice bore all the hallmarks of money laundering,” Eksteen said.

Moreover, said the appeals judge, the explanations provided by the Bobroffs about the origin and nature of funds in their various Israeli accounts were “vague and unhelpful” and fell “woefully short”. He went on to say, “In the absence of a cogent explanation, which is clearly called for, I consider that the overwhelming probability is that these funds are the proceeds of crimes.”

The SCA came to the conclusion that the Bobroffs were guilty of theft when it looked back at a 2014 Constitutional Court ruling declaring that the way in which the Bobroffs charged fees to certain clients was unlawful. In the judgment, Eksteen declared that “the Bobroffs’ overreaching [in the fees charged], coupled with their decision to retain their gains and investing or reinvesting same for their own benefit, after 2014, knowing that they were not entitled to the money, constituted theft”.

In voice recordings made after the SCA judgment which are in possession of the *SA Jewish Report*, Ronald Bobroff rants against the ruling, criticising the finding of thievery. He reflects how the court “said, well, but we kept the money and we invested it and used it and that’s theft as well”. He then sarcastically queries whether “what we should have done is we should have gone on our hands and knees, contacted every former client and said, ‘Indeed, I’m so sorry. You know, I worked for five years on a case on risks, spent lots of my own money, got you a great result, but, you know, because the court now said the agreement is now invalid – well, I want to pay you back and I’m going to pay back the difference between my percentage fee and the peanuts I can draw...’”

In the recordings, Bobroff also remains adamant that he and his sons are victims of a “lynch mob mentality – to get us no matter what”. The *SA Jewish Report* contacted Bobroff asking for confirmation of the veracity of various claims and extracts of the recordings. In a reply sent by his attorney, Richard Spoor, Bobroff verified that he believed himself to have been “unjustly vilified. I believe that I have conducted myself honourably throughout my long legal career in South Africa”.

Bobroff has now appealed to the Constitutional Court in the matter regarding his Israeli bank accounts. He told the *SA Jewish Report* he was confident that he would be vindicated.

Asked about the state of the NPA’s larger case against the Bobroffs, NPA spokesman Sipho Ngwema said it was “critical that those responsible for this mess account fully to their victims and the people of South Africa. We will pursue this matter until justice is done – there should be no hiding place for fugitives from justice”.

Before publication of this article, Bobroff chose to send a second response to the *SA Jewish Report*. In this letter, he stated that he remained proud of Israel’s achievements “notwithstanding my betrayal by certain officials”.

He also suggested that “readers might find some interest” in the assistance he had organised for disabled Israeli soldiers following a 1994 visit, after which he “resolved to try and do whatever I could in some small way, to assist the plight [of] these disabled soldiers”.

Bobroff also said he noted that “the *SA Jewish Report* has consistently maintained the narrative that I’m the archetypal ‘thieving Jewish lawyer’. I invite you to reflect on this”.



News



SA and Israel worked closely on Bobroff case

Published

4 years ago

on

Aug 29, 2019

By

[admin](#)

TALI FEINBERG

Acting Judge Gcina Malindi ruled in favour of the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the Pretoria High Court, ensuring that about R100 million held in two bank accounts in Israel in the names of father and son attorneys, Ronald and Darren Bobroff, must be forfeited to the state and brought back to South Africa. The Bobroffs are appealing the ruling.

“The huge freezing order was the result of excellent co-operation between the South African and Israeli authorities,” the NPA’s chief director of communications, Bulelwa Makeke, told the *SA Jewish Report* this week. “The Israeli authorities became suspicious after noting the transactions in the Bobroffs’ accounts, and contacted the South African authorities for verification and co-operation.

“In April 2017, Israel requested the assistance of the South African government,” reported Tony Beamish on *Moneyweb* and in the *Citizen* newspaper. “By that stage, it suspected that funds transferred from South Africa to the Bobroff bank accounts might be the proceeds of the crimes of fraud committed in South Africa.

“The Israeli banks were then ordered, in terms of a mutual-assistance agreement, to pay the money into the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA) Criminal Assets Recovery Account at the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) in Pretoria,” wrote Beamish. “The Bobroffs were ordered to pay the National Director of Public Prosecutions’ (NDPP’s) legal costs.”

Said Makeke, “Court processes ensued since 2017 after the funds were frozen, culminating in last week’s success. Countries usually have bilateral arrangements for mutual legal assistance. That’s what happened with Israel. The money, once released by the Israeli authorities, will be paid into the Criminal Assets Recovery Account, and will be available for the state to use in fighting crime.”

The accounts have been frozen since July 2017, but it’s only with this order that the funds will be forfeited to the state. The money is being kept safe in Israel until the finalisation of forfeiture proceedings.

The Bobroffs fled South Africa in March 2016 for Australia after irregularities were uncovered at Ronald Bobroff & Partners (RBF), a legal firm specialising in personal injury claims. The Bobroffs were the firm’s directors.

They were struck from the roll of attorneys amid allegations that they charged a contingency fee of 40% of Road Accident Fund payouts, which was above the 25% cap. They are the

subject of an Interpol Red Notice (international wanted-person notice). Makeke confirmed that “extradition papers are being processed”.

The Bobroffs’ attorney, John Joseph Finlay Cameron, told the *SA Jewish Report* he was “shocked and devastated” about Malindi’s ruling.

“This is a travesty of justice, which is why we are appealing it. This is deprivation of property of the worst kind. Although the NPA is proclaiming it as a ‘great victory’, there was no great victory to be had,” said Cameron.

He said certain facts were “beyond dispute”, namely the fact that about R75 million in the accounts had been accrued since the 1980s, like most other white South Africans who moved money offshore in various ways. These funds might not have been “exported” in a fully legal way at the time, but they had nothing to do with the Bobroffs’ alleged misconduct in common law contingency fee agreements with clients, he said.

A further R10 million comes from the bonds of two properties in Australia. Only about R15 million in the Israeli accounts has question marks over it, but the rest is being wrongly frozen and seized by the state. Cameron said the affidavit explaining this was a “work of art” and he was disappointed that it had not been considered or accepted by the judge.

In addition, he said the Bobroffs had made this clear when they offered full disclosure as part of the SARB’s exchange control Special Voluntary Disclosure Programme (SVDP). The Bobroffs received approval in December 2018. They each paid a 10% SVDP administrative penalty to the SARB during 2018.

The Bobroffs haven’t returned to South Africa to fight the case for fear of being arrested without bail, and because Ronald has health problems and Darren has young children, Cameron said.

The NPA’s Makeke said they would not engage with the Bobroffs’ claims. “They have filed notice for leave to appeal. However, their arguments did not convince the judge of the Pretoria High Court.”

Bobroffs wanted by Interpol



Seeing the faces of Ronald and Darren Bobroff, the fugitive father-and-son attorneys, plastered on “Wanted” posters circulated by Interpol is a startling reminder that they have not been forgotten by South Africa’s law enforcement.

by TALI FEINBERG | Jul 19, 2018



The posters are Red Notices - requests to locate and provisionally arrest an individual pending extradition. Interpol’s General Secretariat issues these at the request of a member country or an international tribunal, based on a valid national arrest warrant. A Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant, explained Tony Beamish on *Moneyweb* last week. The Red Notices were issued back in 2016, but it only emerged this week that they were issued.

The Bobroffs were partners in, and directors of, the personal injury law firm, Ronald Bobroff & Partners (RBP) in Rosebank, Gauteng. The Red Notices state that the Bobroffs are fugitives wanted for prosecution for fraud. The notices read for both individuals: “It is alleged that the suspect committed fraud in that cheques were made out to clients of the firm Ronald Bobroff and Partners Inc as if they were the beneficiaries of said cheques, when said cheques were, in actual fact, paid into their own or other family members’ bank accounts.”

The Bobroffs face a range of civil and criminal charges in South Africa, including illegal fee agreements, tax evasion, theft, money laundering and fraud. Since they fled South Africa, there have been multiple investigations, conducted by the Law Society, the South African Revenue Service, the Road Accident Fund, the Hawks and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), which have amassed an estimated amount of ill-gotten gains exceeding R1 billion. The Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP) said: “The most devastating finding was that the Bobroffs’ trust account had ‘lost its identity’. They had mixed their clients’ funds with their own.”

Ronald and Darren Bobroff and their families fled South Africa in 2016, the day before they had agreed to hand themselves over to the Hawks to stand trial on charges of fraud and theft. Ronald’s wife, Elaine, stayed behind and was arrested before being let out on bail, having to hand in her travel documents and report to the police station weekly.

It is unclear how or why the Bobroffs were let out of the country. They currently live in the upmarket Sydney suburb of St Ives. On social media, Darren Bobroff is not shy about his life in Australia, even posting a picture of the Sydney Harbour on 8 July. On Ronald Bobroff’s Facebook page, a South African Jewish community member recently asked him to “come back with your son to SA and stand trial”.

But it seems that he, too, is settling into his new life. *Moneyweb* came across a testimonial from New South Wales (NSW) barrister and law professor Peter Cashman, showing that Bobroff senior is intending to rejoin the Australian legal profession. Cashman wrote that he believes Ronald Bobroff to be “a person of integrity and passion with regard to the interest of victims of all forms of personal injury and medical negligence, and a lawyer who has devoted most of his professional life to serving the South African attorneys’ profession”. He also writes that Ronald Bobroff, notwithstanding his being struck off of the Roll of Attorneys in South Africa, will be “a valuable member of the [Australian] solicitors’ profession...”

NPA spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku told the *SA Jewish Report* that “the extradition process cannot begin until the investigation is complete”, and with a forensic report still outstanding, this may take time. “You have to ensure that when a person is extradited, they will not face any other charges than the ones on the charge sheet,” he explained.

Despite all these processes in play, the Bobroffs insist on their innocence. On the website www.bobroffronald.com, they say they were “forced to flee South Africa in fear for their lives” and that they are “victims of a vendetta”.

Their local attorney, John Cameron, reminds readers that the NPA has had five years to close the case since a charge of fraud was first laid at the Rosebank Police Station in 2013. “To the knowledge of the Bobroffs, no extradition application has been finalised by the NPA - the only question that arises therefrom is why not, and the only inference to be drawn therefrom is that whatever criminal complaints of fraud that exist are without any substance and/or foundation,” he wrote in response to questions from the *SA Jewish Report*.

He said that the Red Notices do have consequences for his clients. Should they attempt to travel out of Australia, they face arrest and thereafter deportation to South Africa (essentially a type of extradition without due process).

He emphasises that “the Bobroffs continue to maintain their innocence” and they “hereby invite any of your readers to submit, in writing to our offices, instances where they have been defrauded by them in order that they may then consider such submissions and to then, if necessary, react thereto”.

Furthermore, he adds: “All the Bobroffs request is that the Jewish community does not decide in the ‘court of public opinion’ that they are guilty of crimes of fraud before knowing all the correct facts [that] the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU), despite a passage time of five years, is strangely not prepared to disclose to them.”

Bobroff money frozen in Israel



- *The South African Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) has frozen, and plans to confiscate, over R101 million of Ronald and Darren Bobroff's funds that were found by the Israeli authorities in Israel.*

by ANT KATZ | Aug 18, 2017

-
-
-
-

The Hawks and Interpol say they are trying to do the same with “a lot of (Bobroff) funds scattered all over the world”.

And the Hawks say extradition proceedings to bring the father and son, who are living in Australia, back to South Africa to face the music, are already in motion.

Personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff fled to Australia a day before they had agreed to hand themselves over to the Hawks in March last year after irregularities were uncovered at their legal practice.

They have since both been struck from the role of attorneys in South Africa and provisionally sequestered. The SA Law Society has advised the Australian authorities of this.

Ronald has previously claimed to be a member of the Israeli Bar. However, in 2014, the deputy general manager of the Israel Bar Association, Uri Elfersy, put paid to that suggestion by issuing a statement that Bobroff had never been admitted as a member. He did, in fact, write and fail the Israeli Bar exam in 1988.

The AFU is a division of the National Prosecuting Authority. NPA national spokesman, Luvuyo Mfaku, told the SA Jewish Report this week that the Israeli financial authorities recently “became aware of the suspicious movement of money” in the Bobroffs’ accounts. They then put a temporary freeze on the accounts and informed their South African counterparts.

Asked if there were any other assets elsewhere, Mfaku would not deny this, but said he could not comment on any other assets presently under investigation.

Hawks spokesman Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, however told the SA Jewish Report that “there are a lot of funds scattered all over the world”. The South African Police are working with Interpol and trying to trace and secure these, he said.

The Bobroffs face a range of civil and criminal charges in South Africa, including illegal fee agreements, tax evasion, theft, money laundering and fraud. Since they fled South Africa there have been multiple investigations into the web of deceit they allegedly left behind. These criminal investigations were conducted by the Law Society, South African Revenue Service, the Road Accident Fund, the Hawks and the NPA, which have amassed an estimated amount of ill-gotten gains exceeding a billion rand.

Not to mention medical aids and members of the community who have enormous civil claims against the pair, should they be found guilty.

The North Gauteng High Court heard last month that the R101 million was being held in cash in two separate bank accounts - one in Ronald and the other in Darren’s names - in Israel.

The freezing order “was the result of excellent co-operation between both the South African and Israeli authorities”, said Mfaku. The AFU believes that “the funds in the bank accounts are, in all probability, the proceeds of unlawful activities, namely, fraud and/or theft and/or money laundering”, he said.

“The money is currently kept safe in Israel until the finalisation of forfeiture proceedings,” which, said Mfaku, was “in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act”.

The Bobroffs had also invested a substantial amount of money from their now defunct legal practice, Ronald Bobroff and Partners (RBP) in a separate Israeli investment account. “The account was, however, not reflected as a trust creditor account in RBP’s trust accounting records,” said Mfaku.

In fact, he added: “The money in the investment account provided the Bobroffs with an opportunity to avoid the taxation of the interest earned on the monies invested, as well as with an opportunity to launder funds without being detected.”

The R100 million freeze order was granted “under the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, which provides that property that is used to commit a crime can be frozen, while the NPA applies for a final order to forfeit the money to the state,” said Mfaku.

Interpol’s world headquarters in Lyon were unable to confirm whether extradition proceedings were underway.

The Bobroffs delay and frustrate court proceedings



• *It used to be when you heard the name Bobroff, you thought of personal injury lawyers, but today when people hear the surname they think of scandal and long court cases.*

by ANT KATZ | Aug 10, 2017

•
•
•
•
“Despite repeated admonitions from several judges, (they) persisted in using every possible avenue to delay, frustrate and avoid facing up to the serious charges of a practice-wide conduct of (overcharging) clients, contravening the Contingency Fees Act... and other unprofessional, dishonourable and even fraudulent conduct,” said Judge Natvarlal Ranchod in the Pretoria High Court last month.

The judge was spelling out the reasons for the decision to strike the names of father-and-son personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff, off the role of attorneys.

“In so far as the Bobroff’s are concerned,” Ranchod said, “the only appropriate sanction was to strike their names... “

His judgment listed a litany of professional misdemeanours by the Bobroffs and holds them accountable for most of the costs.

While he acknowledged that the Bobroffs’ “unethical conduct warranted them to pay the bulk of the legal costs”, it said the Law Society should also “feel the brunt of its omission to act sooner”.

In terms of the cost order on this matter, the Law Society was ordered to foot 25 per cent of the legal bill, while the Bobroffs had to pay 75 per cent.

The reasons for their being struck off the role listed a plethora of contraventions, “the Law Society’s inspectors identified”. These included: “Contraventions of the Attorneys Act and the Law Society’s rules with regard to the keeping of proper books of account; The firm failed to ensure that trust money was kept separate from other money; the firm failed to pay amounts due to clients within a reasonable time; and accounting records were not retained.”

However, this is not the only legal woe facing the Bobroffs right now. They are in all sorts of bother in a number of other court proceedings playing out simultaneously.

In fact, the final sequestration of the Bobroffs' estates is being heard In the Johannesburg High Court. The two fled South Africa for Australia last year, one day before they had promised to hand themselves over to the Hawks.

Anthony Millar, for the parties who wish to finalise the sequestration, is also accusing the Bobroffs of trying to bog the courts down in paperwork.

The pair, who have been provisionally sequestered, are hampering the case by filing an ever-growing pile of papers, says Millar. They have filed another 174 pages of evidence which required applicants to file another 94-page affidavit in reply.

Millar, a former president of the Law Society, issued a scathing attack, accusing the Bobroffs of having "a stratagem to overwhelm not only the applicants, but also this Honourable Court with papers so as to obfuscate the issues and frustrate the legal process".

They are "not content for the matter to be adjudicated on the papers that have been already filed", he says, but rather "persist in filing further affidavits" and introducing new matters.

Millar "question(s) the bona fides" of the Bobroffs and says that "three points emerge clearly from the Bobroffs' further affidavits": the whereabouts of Darren Bobroff and concealment of assets; the refusal to properly respond to a notice served in June; and the role of Ronald's wife, Elaine.

Millar says he believes the Bobroffs are "living off the proceeds of monies sent from South Africa to Australia" and "all the assets that the (Bobroffs) have in Australia, originate from South Africa" and should form part of the insolvent estates in this country.

Apart from the painstakingly slow final sequestration process, the Bobroffs are also integral to several other legal matters before the courts, including:

- Forensic consultant Paul O'Sullivan and Melissa Naidu's kidnap and extortion trial in the Randburg Magistrate's Court, which began in March. Their alleged victim was Bobroff employee and whistle-blower, Cora van der Merwe. This trial resumes on September 14; and
- The Bobroffs are also being sued for millions of rand by attorneys and reporters who accuse them of slander.

Now Bobroffs hit with R24m defamation suit



Moneyweb ran a story this morning in which it said five people have sued Ronald and Darren Bobroff, whom they called “disgraced personal injury lawyers”, claiming a whopping R24 million in damages. Each applicant is claiming R100 000 for each case of alleged defamation. The five claimants are attorneys Anthony Millar and Norman Berger, Rael Zimmerman, ex-Bobroffs partner Stephen Bezuidenhout and the journalist who was instrumental in uncovering the scandal, Tony Beamish.

by ANT KATZ | Feb 06, 2017

Five people have launched a defamation suit against personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff” - claiming nearly R24 million in damages, according to Moneyweb this morning.

Included in the five claimants, is Moneyweb contributor Tony Beamish, whose original investigations were instrumental in uncovering the antics of the father and son duo - who [fled to Australia](#) last year to avoid prosecution on various charges of fraud, tax evasion and money laundering after they were found to be overcharging road accident victims with claims against the Road Accident Fund.

“From the safety of Australia, they allegedly defame their detractors,” reads the headline of the [MONEYWEB STORY](#) published on 6 February 2017.

The other four plaintiffs include [Anthony Millar](#), past president of the Law Society and the lawyer acting for various overcharged Bobroff clients, Millar’s partner Norman Berger. Stephen Bezuidenhout, a former partner of the Bobroffs, and [Rael Zimmerman](#) who originally acted as the family’s attorney.

This suit follows several public rants on social media platforms, especially by Darren Bobroff, which targeted these individuals. The Bobroffs also funded a special website that published extremely defamatory statements about all five - and others.

Each applicant is claiming R100 000 for each of the 34 cases of alleged defamation.

- The largest claim comes from Millar who claims R11.9 million, or R100 000 for each of the 119 alleged defamatory statements made about him;
- The second largest claim is by Zimmerman for R5.5 million;
- Beamish’s claim is for R3.4 million;
- Their ex-partner Bezuidenhout wants R1.6 million; and

- Millar's partner Berger is suing for R1.5 million.

New activity on Bobroffs' sequestration, claims



The Law Society has quadrupled the amount of claimed overcharging of clients by embattled fugitive personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff. The father-and-son pair were last month finally struck off the roll in SA and probably won't be allowed to practise in their new Australian home either. The sheriff of the court had some drama trying to attach property last week, and the Law Society president's family were threatened.

by ANT KATZ | Jan 25, 2017

Things are heating up for fugitive father-and-son former personal injury lawyers, Ronald and Darren Bobroff. Their temporary suspension made a final order earlier this month when they were permanently [struck from the roll](#) of attorneys in December.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA
GAUTENG LOCAL DIVISION JOHANNESBURG - POST
IN THE MATTER BETWEEN : CASE 1
HEYMANS GIDEON FRANCOIS, BERNARDUS APPLIC
and
BOBROFF RONALD 2ND RESPON
ORIGINAL (REQ.
RETURN OF SERVICE

On the 19TH JANUARY 2017 at 11h35 the Writ of Execution was executed against 2ND RESPONDENT at 48 PENTRICH ROAD, VICTORY PARK ESTATE, JHB. 2ND RESPONDENT was temporarily absent from place of RESIDENCE of Rule 45(3)c the disposable property inventorised in the searched and attached. A copy of Writ and

The pair's estates were also finally sequestered in December and the Sheriff of the Court has been trying to track down and attach their assets. The sheriff managed to attach just R30,000 worth of goods in December.

RIGHT: a snapshot of the [inventory](#) document that was leaked to JR today

Last week, at the home of Ronald Bobroff in Pentrich Road, Victory Park Estate, the sheriff had more success and did manage to attach goods worth some R120 000 (CLICK TO [SEE INVENTORY](#)). This event was not without drama as, says Anthony Millar, President of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP), was [watched live](#) by Darren Bobroff on facetime.

The sheriff didn't find what he was looking for, but later advised: "We had received information that since that visit, caravans and vehicles have been brought back."



Millar later told News24 that, later on Thursday afternoon, his office received a threatening phone call from someone warning him to "watch out, someone would be waiting when your wife comes home".

LEFT: Law Society President Anthony Millar

Anthony Millar confirmed to JR Online this week that the threat had been "made to my receptionist and a message left for me". He says he believes that it had been made by Ronald or Darren Bobroff. "To have that sort of threat made... has changed things. I intend to lay criminal charges," he told News24.

Speaking to JR Online this week, Anthony Millar confirmed that he was "in the process" of laying the criminal complaint. He is "presently awaiting the details of the caller from Telkom," who he had "asked to trace it".

In an interview last November Millar told JR Online that the Bobroffs had "brought [shame on their profession, their families and their community](#)". Millar said that 99 per cent of the questionable dealings so far uncovered by the LRNP had been "signed off by Darren Bobroff".

At that stage, the LSNP audit had identified some R3,5 million in overcharges that the Bobroffs' specialised personal injury practice, the now-defunct Ronald Bobroff and Partners Incorporated (RBP), had charged former clients. This week, Millar said that figure had increased almost five-fold to over R17 million... and investigation of their records continues.

Total losses exceed R1 billion and rising

Millar himself is currently representing 13 claimants, while attorneys Riekie Erasmus are also representing some of them, he says.

Apart from facing serious criminal charges, the father-and-son pair who are now fugitives in Australia, face a massive number of civil claims which are being investigated and quantified by numerous investigations being conducted by the Road Accident Fund, SA Revenue Services, the police special crimes unit - the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority and others.

One of the members of the authorities conducting these investigations told Jewish Report that the combined total of these claims had exceeded the R1 billion mark last October.

‘Indiscriminate in who they overcharged’



In terms of the mix of the allegedly injured parties, says Millar, “there have been Jewish victims also - they were indiscriminate in choosing who they overcharged.”

RIGHT: A quote from one of the Jewish victims

One of the first and most-read stories on Jewish Report early last April, [Sheila's Story - how tragedy played out](#), explains the plight of some of the affected Jews.

Millar’s present clients include “a 78-year-old woman and another who requires the money for urgent medical treatment”.

The Bobroff pair, who Jewish Report was advised by an Australian associate on condition of anonymity last year, were hoping to register to practice law in Australia, may also find that goose cooked for them.

Millar told Jewish Report this week that “the authorities in Australia were notified as soon as (Ronald and Darren Bobroff) were struck off (the roll) here, and they have acknowledged

receipt of that notification,” he said. “If you are not fit to practise in one country, it obviously is of interest to other jurisdictions. They handle that from their side.”

Due to face fraud and money-laundering charges involving hundreds of millions of rand the two fled before being questioned by the Hawks.

Story continues below image...



Claimants lodged a litany of allegations against the Bobroffs, alleging that they charged a contingency fee of as much as 40 per cent of Road Accident Fund pay-outs, exceeding the legal cap of 25 per cent or double their normal fees, whichever is the lesser. They are accused of later using every means at their disposal to silence dissenters. In [Bobroff whistleblower claims kidnapping](#) last year Jewish Report and Carte Blanche show how far they were allegedly prepared to go towards this end.

Financial powerhouse Discovery also has a long-running legal battle against the pair for, according to Discovery, claiming medical fees from the Road Accident Fund and advising clients not to reimburse Discovery with pay-outs due to them.

Bobroff threatens law society head



by Jewish Report | Jan 24, 2017



Bobroff pair are finally struck off the role



Fugitive father-and-son personal injury lawyers, Ronald and Darren Bobroff, finally had their temporary suspension made a final order earlier this month when they were permanently struck from the roll of attorneys.
by ANT KATZ | Dec 30, 2016

Two judges of the Gauteng High Court in Pretoria heard the arguments presented by lawyers acting for the Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP), and found that they were no longer “fit and proper to longer serve the legal profession.”

The Bobroffs fled to Australia in March this year after promising to hand themselves in to police for alleged criminal charges against them in South Africa regarding overcharging of clients, fraud and money laundering.

Forensic audits by a multitude of agencies, including The Law Society, The Hawks, SARS, the NPA, the Road Accident Fund and others, including clients of the now-liquidated practice, run into multi millions and one agency estimates it has topped a billion rand.

[35 related stories on this website](#)

Ronald, a former president of the Law Society for decades, ran the law firm Ronald Bobroff & Partners in Johannesburg. He was joined by his son Darren in later years.



Ronald Bobroff, a fugitive in Australia, had insisted that he would come to South Africa to defend this month's final hearing, despite running the risk of arrest when he landed on SA soil.

RIGHT: Ronald Bobroff in a social media picture posted from Australia (twitter)

Needless to say, the pair did not pitch at court to defend themselves, but through a lawyer advanced a number of technical defences, including that the application was not properly served on them.

These were all rejected by the court, who also slapped them with a punitive costs order.

According to the president of the LSNP, Anthony Millar, the pair will also not be able to practice in Australia, as the SA law society will alert its Australian counterpart about the order.

In an [exclusive Interview](#) last month, LSNP president Millar told JR Online that the Bobroffs had “brought shame on their profession, their families and their community.” Millar also said that 99 percent of the questionable dealings so far uncovered by the LRNP had been “signed off by Darren Bobroff.”

Papers served at luxury new Sydney home



The Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP) has begun the process of liquidating the personal estates of errant father and son personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff. Ironically, the sequestration order (for two debts totalling R3,5 million) for son Darren was served at a luxurious new R26 million Sydney home. SEE THE HOME and READ THE SEQUESTRATION NOTICE.

by ANT KATZ | Nov 10, 2016

The Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP) has begun the process of liquidating the personal estates of errant father and son personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff. Ironically, the sequestration order (for two debts totalling R3,5 million) for son Darren was served at a luxurious new R26 million Sydney home.

The sitting president of the LSNP, Anthony Millar, had the notice of motion to sequester the estates of the two lawyers issued jointly and separately - a normal practice when it is unclear where, and in whose name, assets may be. Ronald has since entered an appearance to defend, while Darren has not.



The fugitive pair were suspended from practising law in South Africa several months ago, and are both expected to be finally struck off the role of attorneys at a scheduled hearing at the Pretoria High Court on December 6. They are accused

of overcharging clients and overbilling entities such as the Road Accident Fund as well as a slew of other fraud and tax evasion charges.

RIGHT: Social media picture of Ronald Bobroff enjoying his 'retirement' in Sydney

Speaking to Jewish Report, Millar, from his practice in Orange Grove, outlined some of the latest developments in the ongoing skirmish between the now-disgraced attorneys, their profession and a myriad South African government authorities, including SARS, the Hawks, the NPA, Road Accident Fund and others.

Millar says the LSNP is only acting for the profession and for aggrieved clients. He says he is “shocked by the numbers that have come out” of the LSNP audits. When he started with this process after the Bobroffs skipped South Africa eight months ago - after promising to hand themselves over to the police - he “had no idea of the extent and duration” of the claimed fraud, theft and money laundering.

“They have brought shame on their profession, their families and their community,” said Millar.



LEFT: the recently purchased luxury St Ives home where Darren Bobroff signed for his [SEQUESTRATION NOTICE](#).

Below are links to some of the most-read stories on JR Online and one for all posts on this story...

23 Mar: [Fled to Oz, Bobba carries can](#)
4 April: [Interpol's extradition notices](#)
6 Apr: [Sheila's tragic story](#)
6 Apr: [Tales of woe from former clients](#)
20 Apr: [NPA opens another enquiry](#)
3 May: [Travails piling up for Bobroffs](#)
23 Aug: [Whistle-blower claims kidnap](#)
19 Oct: ['Shame on profession, family'](#)

[ALL PREVIOUS STORIES ON JR ONLINE](#)

READ MORE ABOUT THE HOUSE BELOW

Since the notice of motion was issued, the amounts involved have grown exponentially and the LSNP is still unsure what the final figure will be.

The original sequestration order (see it on our website) was issued on behalf of only two clients to the tune of R3,5 million. However, said Millar, another R16 million in definite claims will be added; while a further amount in excess of R100 million is under investigation by the LSNP.


These amounts, says Millar, are purely those that involve claims to the LSNP from clients of the now-defunct Robert Bobroff and Partners Inc. They exclude the far larger amounts owed to business creditors and state authorities. The total amount owing, including the fines and penalties on unpaid taxes, is said to exceed R1 billion.

The purpose of the sequestration bid at this stage, says Millar, is “so that we can start unravelling the web of trusts and other vehicles they used to affect their nefarious activities”.

The papers were served on both Ronald and Darren Bobroff in Australia.

Darren Bobroff signed for his copy at 11 Shannon Street, St Ives, Sydney. This was ironic and notable as there has been much speculation about Darren's purchase of the multi-million-dollar, plush, new house. Millar says the LSNP believes this to be Darren's new home - although they do not have conclusive proof of this.

Timeline: The house the Bobroffs allegedly bought:



Recently sold apm PriceFix

SOLD PRICE

\$2.5375m

Is this your home? Track its value

SALE DATE
2 June 2016

AGENT
(agency unknown)

11 Shannon Street, St Ives NSW 2075

4 beds 3 baths 2 Parking

What are my home loan options?

- In May 2016 a company - REB Properties Pty Ltd - was registered in Australia
- Information suggests the name REB comes from "Ronny & Elaine Bobroff"
- The ACN (Australian registration number) for REB Properties is 612 338 655
- The sole shareholder and director is listed as Darren Rodney Bobroff
- In June 2016 REB purchased a house at 11 Shannon Street, in the swish St Ives neighbourhood
- The four bed, three bath house sold for AU\$ 2,54m (R26.2m at today's exchange rates)
- Last month Darren Bobroff signed for his sequestration papers at this address.

Ronald Bobroff has indicated that he will be entering an appearance to contest the case. He continues to claim to have evidence of complicity and a vendetta against his business



However, says Millar, Ronald will not be able to file affidavits and will have to testify personally in this regard, "and put himself at the mercy of the court".

RIGHT: Darren, left, and Ronald Bobroff outside court at their last appearance in SA. They asked for the weekend to get their affairs in order before handing themselves over to police. The Hawks say they emptied out bank and trust accounts, put millions in the bank account of Ronald's wife, grabbed Darren's family and fled to Australia

Given that there is an arrest warrant out for him, should Ronald Bobroff return to South Africa for the liquidation hearing he would likely be arrested at the airport.

Millar says that 99 per cent of the questionable dealings so far uncovered in the LSNP audit "were signed off by Darren Bobroff".

The investigation into the matter is "ongoing and tragic", says Millar. "Unfortunately we will never be able to turn back the clock", he admits, and victims and their families are, and will continue to suffer from inadequate medical care and compensation

‘Brought shame on their profession & family’



BOBROFFS IN MORE BOTHER - The Law Society of the Northern Provinces has issued a notice of motion to sequester the estates of father and son personal injury lawyers Robert and Darren Bobroff, jointly and severally. Ronald has entered an appearance to defend while Darren, who was served at what is believed to be his multi-million-dollar plush new St Ives, Australian, home, has not. The numbers are staggering...
by ANT KATZ | Oct 19, 2016

Anthony Millar, of Norman Berger and Partners in Orange Grove, Johannesburg, in his current capacity of president of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP), has begun the process of liquidating Ronald and Darren Bobroff.

The pair, who were suspended from practising law in SA several months ago, are both expected to be finally struck off the role of attorneys at a December 6 hearing at the Pretoria High Court.



Speaking to JR Online on Wednesday, Millar outlined some of the latest developments in the ongoing skirmish between the now-disgraced attorneys, their profession and a myriad South African government authorities. These include SARS, the Hawks, the NPA, Road Accident Fund and others.

***RIGHT: Law Society
President Anthony Millar***

Millar says the LSNP is only acting for the profession and the clients. He says he is “shocked by the numbers that have come out” of the LSNP audits. When he started with this process after the Bobroffs skipped SA eight months ago - after promising to hand themselves over to the police - he “had no idea the extent and duration” of the alleged fraud, theft and money laundering.

“They have brought shame on their profession, their families and their community,” said Millar of the Bobroff father and son.

JR Online has up-loaded a [PDF COPY OF NOTICE OF SEQUESTRATION](#) for users to open, copy, print or e-mail. In the month since the notice of motion was issued, the amounts involved have grown exponentially and the LSNP is still unsure what the final figure will be.

The sequestration order was issued on behalf of two clients to the tune of R3,5 million. However, said Millar, another R16 million in definite claims will be added; while a further amount in excess of R100 million is under investigation by the LSNP.



LEFT: Statement by one of the alleged victims who spoke to JR Online earlier this year

These amounts, says Millar, are purely those that involve claims to the LSNP from clients of the now-defunct Robert Bobroff and Partners Inc. They exclude the far larger amounts owed to business creditors and state authorities. The total amount owing, including the fines and penalties on unpaid taxes, is said to exceed R1 billion.

The purpose of the sequestration bid at this stage, says Millar, is “so that we can start unravelling the web of trusts and other vehicles they used to affect their nefarious activities.”

The papers were served on both Ronald and Darren Bobroff in Australia.



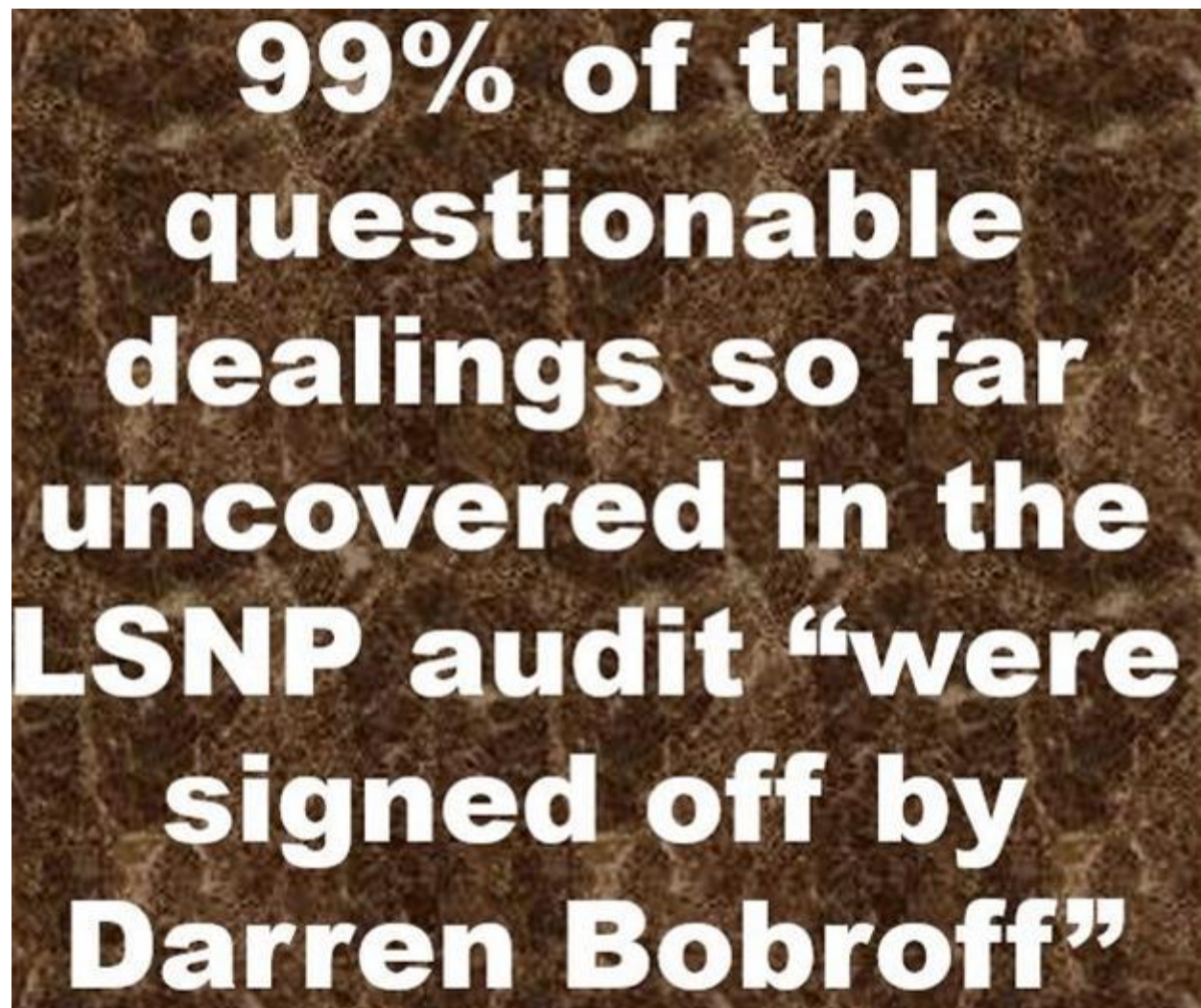
Darren Bobroff signed for his copy at 11 Shannon Street, St Ives, Sydney. This is interesting as there has been much speculation about Darren’s purchase of the multi-million-dollar plush new family home.

RIGHT: Darren and Ronald Bobroff outside a South African court earlier this year

Millar says the LSNP believes this to be Darren's new home - although they do not have conclusive proof of this. JR Online will run a story on this house next week.

Ronald Bobroff has indicated that he will be entering an appearance to contest the case, while Darren has not. Ronald continues to claim to have evidence of complicity and a vendetta against his business.

Story continues below graphic...



99% of the questionable dealings so far uncovered in the LSNP audit "were signed off by Darren Bobroff"

However, says Millar, Ronald will not be able to file affidavits and will have to testify personally on this “and put himself at the mercy of the court”. With an arrest warrant hanging over his head, should Ronald Bobroff return to South Africa for the liquidation hearing, he would likely be arrested at the airport.

Millar says that 99 per cent of the questionable dealings so far uncovered in the LSNP audit “were signed off by Darren Bobroff”.

The investigation into the matter is “ongoing and tragic” says Millar. “Unfortunately, we will never be able to turn back the clock”, he admits, and victims and their families are, and will continue to, suffer from inadequate medical care and compensation.

Exposed! Ronald Bobroff taking SA cases



• *Law Society looking at whether Bobroffs are practising in SA 'by proxy' - Bobba Elaine joins family down-under; Ronald continues to work on new SA cases. Now Law Society threaten to shut them down once and for all. Curators and investigators have had over 4,600 new emails since mid-July. Read how Moneyweb trapped Ronald Bobroff - see the paper-trail. And read about the balegan that followed Jewish Report's story last week.*

by ANT KATZ | Aug 31, 2016

• Elaine Bobroff, wife of lawyer under-investigation, Ronald Bobroff, is believed to have joined her husband and son Darren and his family in Australia where the Bobroff father and son personal injury lawyers high-tailed it to six months ago when the heat was turned on them in South Africa for alleged Road Accident Fund transgressions.

It is not clear whether Elaine - who was originally charged with fraud and money laundering of millions of rand but the charges against her had been dropped - will return to South Africa.



New reports surfaced this week that the suspended Bobroff father and son may have continued to take on new cases in South Africa, while living in Australia.

RIGHT: Elaine Bobroff - in Australia with family

This week Moneyweb published an exclusive story on how the agency had trapped Ronald Bobroff - whose website is still running - and showed the [paper-trail](#) they had used to entrap him. A fictitious enquiry was sent via the Robert Bobroff and Partners website (which the Law Society says should not exist) by a fictitious new claimant Moneyweb had set up, called “Mandi Lottering”.

The fake mail-trail led a Bobroff family member who replied. The next mail came from Ronald himself, typed all in capitals - so possibly written by him personally - in which he tells her how she should act and says that another well-known Johannesburg attorney would contact her. This lawyer has since denied any involvement.

But the Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP) is not taking the new Moneyweb revelations lying down. Thinus Grobler, director of the LSNP, said this week: “The Law Society has, with concern, noted the facts relating to the continued use of the Ronald Bobroff & Partners website by suspended attorneys, Ronald and Darren Bobroff.”

Grobler added: “This issue will certainly be followed up by the Law Society in liaison with the curator (of the company).”

While a slew of investigations is said to have revealed over R1 billion in “misappropriated, missing or underpaid funds to clients” and “massive tax evasion, fraud and money-laundering” charges are being consolidated, the investigations are far from over yet.

Estelle Veldsman, an attorney who works on members’ affairs at the LSNP, has been appointed spokesman on the Bobroff case. Asked about the new allegations that the Bobroffs are practising, using their website and seemingly being assisted by local parties, Veldsman told Jewish Report on Tuesday: “We have addressed enquiries in this regard and getting legal advice.”

She said that winding up the Bobroff matter was a massive task. A dedicated curators’ team at the LSNP have the experience and the manpower to do so, but the curators were still receiving between 120 and 180 e-mails a day. “We have had over 4 600 e-mails since mid-July” she said, “and that does not even include the phone calls.”

Veldsman says the Bobroff father-and-son pair were not allowed to act as attorneys in South Africa as they are currently suspended from the roll of attorneys.

The Bobroffs were the subject of a long-running case which attempted to have them disbarred when, just prior to Easter, they did a runner to Australia - after telling the Hawks investigative unit they would hand themselves over to them for questioning, after the weekend.

The judgment against them was already being considered when the pair absconded, says Veldsman, but on March 23 the LSNP brought an urgent application to have the business placed under the control of an LSNP-appointed curator.

On April 26, the order suspending the Bobroffs from the Roll of Attorneys was granted and the “Striking off Application” has been set down for a hearing on December 6.

A slew of strange events followed Jewish Report's publication of the story last week on [Paul O'Sullivan's trial for having kidnapped the original whistle-blower](#) in the Bobroff matter. One was the story was very widely tweeted, including by the whistle-blower herself. Another was an attempt by someone with an Australian IP address trying to pass themselves off as the chairman of the Board of Deputies. The third, which JR Online is currently verifying the veracity of, was an e-mail from an Australian correspondent called "tipoffaus" with details of a [R28-million house](#) that the Bobroffs have apparently just purchased in Australia. SAJR cannot confirm this information today - but watch this space as we second-source the information.

Bobroff whistle-blower claims kidnapping



Forensic consultant Paul O'Sullivan, 60, is currently appearing on a number of criminal charges - including kidnapping, extortion and intimidation - bringing a surprise to the fore - charges that - while possibly acting for the Bobroffs in 2014 - and investigating a leak of information at the now-defunct personal injury legal firm Ronald Bobroff and Partners Inc (RBP), he had acted illegally to obtain the information that ultimately played a part in the Bobroffs' downfall.

by ANT KATZ | Aug 23, 2016

The State alleges that O'Sullivan kidnapped Bobroff whistle-blower Cora van der Merwe by threatening that if she did not accompany him, she would not see her children again. The leak eventually uncovered an alleged massive R170 million fraud of the Road Accident Fund (RAF) committed by Ronald Bobroff and his son Darren, both of whom are understood to be taking refuge in Australia.

O'Sullivan gained recognition for bringing down disgraced police commissioner Jackie Selebi and Czech criminal Radovan Krejcir.



Then a candidate attorney at RBP, Cora Van der Merwe was suspended from the law firm after she apparently gave confidential information to O'Sullivan, on unlawful practices at the firm in October 2014.

RIGHT: Forensic investigator Paul O'Sullivan is facing a host of criminal charges which he says are spurious

RBP was placed under curatorship in March and the father-and-son team of Ronald and Darren Bobroff are currently fugitives in Australia.

O'Sullivan has been a constant and ongoing thorn in the side of the police and is now claimed that "certain factions" among the police have begun persecuting him on spurious charges.

He has asked the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) to investigate the "gross abuse of power" and the "monstrous abuse of my constitutional rights" due to his having called the appointment of the police's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI, or Hawks) Gauteng head Major-General Prince Mokotedi "unlawful".

The war between General Mokotedi and O'Sullivan goes back to the days of the late police commissioner Jackie Selebi - Mokotedi testified for Selebi.

'I'm not your boy'

O'Sullivan told IPID in his complaint regarding the Bobroff whistle-blower: "Curiously, the alleged kidnapping took place in October 2014, yet Van der Merwe only comes forward with her case 19 months later, being a few weeks after I was arrested on the Section 26 B allegations."

The Hawks are now investigating O'Sullivan's allegations of "biased and unlawful actions" by their Gauteng head, Mokotedi.

An interesting exchange occurred in Randburg Magistrate's Court last Friday where O'Sullivan appeared briefly for two separate cases. Prosecuting advocate, Jabulani Mlotshwa, and O'Sullivan's defence lawyer, Darryl Furman, got into a verbal wrangle after the latter told the prosecutor he did not have the docket against O'Sullivan. He had asked "for the docket four times" said Furman. "Are you shouting at me? Are you shouting at me? I'm not your boy!" retorted advocate Mlotshwa.

O'Sullivan jumped into the argument, saying he was going to report Mlotshwa for misconduct. "I've opened a docket against you; I'm going to report you! This is the problem when you have criminals running the justice system. I'm not going to take this crap," said a furious O'Sullivan.

"How do you expect me to run a trial without the docket?" asked Furman. Mlotshwa snapped: "You think you can intimidate me like you intimidate the complainants? Threaten what you like."

The spat took place just before Magistrate Gail Pretorius entered the courtroom for the first case, where O'Sullivan is being charged for fraud for allegedly misrepresenting himself. This is the fourth criminal case opened against the forensic investigator.

O'Sullivan and a former staffer, Melissa Naidu, were appearing on kidnapping, extortion and fraud charges relating to their questioning Bobroffs' Van der Merwe, about RAF abuses. According to the evidence, the words "Help me!!!" form the beginning of a string of panicked text messages between Van der Merwe and her lawyer as she was driven by O'Sullivan and Naidu to the forensic consultant's offices in 2014.

The duo was investigating a leak of information from the chambers of Ronald Bobroff & Partners.

In her statement, Van der Merwe said O'Sullivan had told her if she did not accompany him and Naidu, she would spend the night in jail and there was "a possibility that I would not see my children." Surmising he was a policeman and "terrified", Van der Merwe said she went with O'Sullivan, who has denied this and said Van der Merwe went with him willingly.

The case was postponed to September 8 for the defence to obtain copies of the docket. O'Sullivan is well-known for using bad language in public. Two recent examples:

- *Last month, on board a plane from Heathrow airport, O'Sullivan sent an SMS to [News24](#) on hearing SA police may be waiting to arrest him at the airport for allegedly contravening*

Section 26B of the Citizenship Act. (the dual citizen had left the country on his Irish passport and was the first person ever in South Africa to be charged for the offence): "I'm coming home and I'm going to fight these criminals with badges and beat them. I'm an Irish South African, and these crooks, led by dirty cops, have pissed in my beer. No one pisses in an Irishman's beer."

- *Independent Online last week quoted O'Sullivan jumping into an argument between his lawyer and prosecutor advocate Jabulani Mlotshwa: "I've opened a docket against you; I'm going to report you! This is the problem when you have criminals running the justice system. I'm not going to take this crap," said a furious O'Sullivan.*

Call for Bobroff claims, extradition planned



Bobroffs' curator, Johan van Staden, wants to wind up the practice of the firm and the state is poised to institute extradition proceedings against Ronald and Darren Bobroff for fraud, money laundering, contravening the Income Tax Act, the VAT Act, the Companies Act, the Attorneys Act and the Rules of the Law Society, among others. Van Staden has called on clients of the now-defunct firm, whose claims have been lodged but who have not been paid, to come forward. Any pay-outs from the RAF since March are safe.

by ANT KATZ | Jul 20, 2016

The curator of personal injury lawyer Ronald Bobroff & Partners Incorporated (RBP) is working towards winding up the practice after the firm's two key directors, father and son Ronald and Darren Bobroff, fled to Australia in March.

Johan van Staden, head of member affairs at the Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP), was appointed curator of RBP soon after the pair skipped the country, facing arrest by the SA Police Service's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks) on charges of overcharging victims for claims against the Road Accident Fund (RAF).

Van Staden told Jewish Report that clients of the practice who have won RAF awards and remain unpaid, will be paid their settlements - and that they may have their legal fees reduced if they had been overcharged by the firm.

This is due to the maximum fee which attorneys may charge for contingency fees (so-called no-win-no-pay) being 25 per cent of the settlement awarded. This was confirmed by the highest courts in the land, against the protestations of the Bobroffs.

The father and son pair absconded to Australia after being informed by the Hawks that they should present themselves for arrest on charges of fraud and money laundering, and possible theft of money that should have been held in trust. They agreed to do so in three days but absconded during that time - but not before allegedly depositing millions of rand into the cheque account of Elaine Bobroff, wife of Ronald. Elaine maintains she did not know about the transfers.

Elaine is being presented with a prestigious award from the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society (JWBS) for 40 years' service this month. The JWBS is a 110-year-old organisation that works closely with the Chevrah Kadisha.

The state is now poised to institute extradition proceedings against the two Bobroffs for fraud and money laundering. Having inspected RBP's books, Van Staden's team have added contraventions of the Income Tax Act, the VAT Act, the Companies Act, the Attorneys Act and the Rules of the Law Society to the litany of other charges.

A highly placed source, who cannot be named, told Jewish Report two weeks ago that the amount of money overcharged, missing, misappropriated or due in unpaid taxes by RBP had passed the R1billion mark last month.

The Hawks referred the question of whether this figure was correct (the last reliable figure Jewish Report had was R550 million) to the NPA. "At this stage the NPA is not in a position to confirm the amount of funds till all investigations are finalised," the NPA's regional spokesman for Gauteng, Phindi Louw, had said in response at the time.

The NPA opened their own investigation in early May, adding to those already being conducted by the Hawks; the Law Society of the Northern Provinces; the curator of the now-defunct legal practice; the Justice and Correctional Services Department; and the SA Revenue Services (SARS).

The Road Accident Fund also started combing through all their prior cases which involved the Bobroffs in March and, in just the first week, laid almost 20 charges with the NPA, claiming that the errant lawyers had billed them, the RAF, for appointments supposedly held with clients - who subsequently denied that those meetings in fact took place.

- *Johan van Staden can be contacted at (012) 316-0600.*

Charges withdrawn against Elaine Bobroff



A relieved 69-year-old bobba Elaine Bobroff, who went into court as a defendant charged with fraud and money-laundering of millions of rand and walked out a free person last week, told Jewish Report: "I've done nothing wrong." But she is angry and traumatised. The NPA would not confirm or deny that the various investigations trying to quantify the alleged fraud of her husband and son had passed the R1-billion mark. Mrs Bobroff is to receive a prestige award for 40 years' service to the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society.

by ANT KATZ | Jul 06, 2016

Elaine Bobroff, wife and mother of absconded personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren respectively, walked into court last week as a defendant on bail, charged with fraud and money laundering of millions of rand, and walked out a free person. But it may only be a temporary reprieve.

A relieved 69-year-old Elaine Bobroff said to Jewish Report this week: "I've done nothing wrong." But she is angry and traumatised.



Elaine says that the early-hours raid on her home in March which led to her appearing in the Johannesburg Specialised Commercial Crimes Court charged with fraud of R26 million and money laundering, has turned her life and that of her family upside down.

"They've destroyed my family, and they have done nothing wrong," Elaine insisted.

RIGHT: Elaine Bobroff is a tireless communal worker. Her husband and son are fugitives in Australia - but she insists that they have done nothing wrong

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) regional spokesman for Gauteng, Phindi Louw confirmed to Jewish Report that “the case was provisionally withdrawn by the State pending further investigations”.

Elaine Bobroff, known as a tireless communal worker, will next month be presented with a prestigious award from the Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society for 40 years’ service. The JWBS is a 110-year-old organisation that works closely with the Chevrah Kadisha.

Elaine’s husband and son took flight to Australia in March after they had agreed to hand themselves over to the police to face charges of fraud pertaining to Road Accident Fund payments.

A highly placed and reliable source, who cannot be named, maintains that the amount of money overcharged, missing, misappropriated or due in unpaid taxes by Ronald Bobroff and Partners has passed R1 billion last week.

The Hawks referred the question of whether this figure was correct (the last reliable figure Jewish Report had was R550 million) to the NPA. “At this stage the NPA is not in a position to confirm the amount of funds till all investigations are finalised,” Louw said in response.

The NPA opened their own investigation in early May. “I can reassure the public that the matter is receiving the requisite attention from my office and that of other law enforcement agencies,” National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) Shaun Abrahams said.

Abrahams added that the NPA was working very closely with the various enquiries that are taking place. “I will address the issue in greater detail in two and a half weeks’ time when I intend giving a press briefing in respect of the work of the National Prosecuting Authority.”

Jewish Report is still trying to establish whether this briefing ever took place.

The NDPP’s announcement of an investigation by the NPA added another investigation to the already long list of investigations against the Bobroffs, which include those of: The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks); the Law Society of the Northern Provinces; the Curator of the now-defunct legal practice; the Justice and Correctional Services Department; and the SA Revenue Services (SARS).

The Road Accident Fund also started combing through all their prior cases which involved the Bobroffs and in the first week laid almost 20 charges with the NPA, claiming that the errant lawyers had billed them, the RAF, for appointments supposedly held with clients - who subsequently denied that those meetings in fact took place.

Elaine Bobroff is adamant that her husband (whom she says had not consulted clients for a decade) and son were being persecuted and had done nothing wrong. She expects her family to be together again sometime soon, but says the saga has traumatised her family.

Bobroffs maintain their innocence on charges



In response to recent coverage on Ronald and Darren Bobroff, the personal injury lawyers under investigation for overcharging clients, the in the Jewish Report offered the family an opportunity to provide their side of the story. Read their statement.
by BOBROFF FAMILY | May 25, 2016

We deny any wrongdoing of whatsoever nature and anybody who alleges such wrongdoing must prove it.

No formal charges have been laid against Ronald, Elaine, Darren or Lisa Bobroff to date.

We would like to place the following undisputed facts on record:

Save for the current allegations and disputes, no director of the practice, which has been in existence for over 42 years has ever been found guilty of unprofessional conduct or any criminal offence.

Ronald has since 1983 served on virtually every committee and council of the organised profession, voluntarily. This includes 20 years' service on the Council of the LSNP (Transvaal), Law Society, and being honoured after 10 years' service on the Council by fellow councillors by being elected as only the fourth Jewish person to serve as president of the Law Society in its 125-year history.

Ronald also served on the council of the Law Society of South Africa from its inception in 1996 until 2012.



The law firm has worked tirelessly to assist the less privileged members of our society. Ronald has also served as a commissioner (judge) in the Small Claims Court, presiding over cases for four hours weekly at night for almost 20 years.

Ronald has given freely of his professional time to assist the less privileged members of our Society in obtaining access to justice by teaching students and advising members of the public at the Wits Legal Clinic every Friday for more than a decade.”

Ronald hosted his own radio show "*A word on legal matters*" for two hours every Monday night for more than a decade on Talk Radio 702. Over that period he received thousands of letters and e-mails from grateful listeners for the legal advice he had given on air and by e-mails to them.

Ronald and Elaine supported in the most substantial manner, needy members of the community, by becoming Pillars some years ago.”

Ronald Bobroff & Partners’ contingency percentage fees were at all times Law Society compliant and charged out on exactly the same basis as thousands of other attorneys including major corporate law firms, who made extensive use of such agreements.

A Law Society survey indicated that more than 74 per cent of the Law Society’s members utilised such agreements exclusively in their practices. This system of no-win no-fee, percentage fees, has been the norm in America in all personal injury and medical malpractice litigation for more than 100 years with a minimum fee of one third increasing to over 50 per cent.

No finding has ever been made by any court or Law Society disciplinary committee against the firm of overcharging or any other professional offence, nor have any sanctions ever been imposed in the firm’s 42-year existence.

Our families, including spouses, children and grandchildren have suffered a great deal as a result of the tirade of allegations and the surrounding public vilification and controversy.

Our family members during this very difficult time should be left alone and the law should be allowed to take its course. Each and every allegation will be dealt with at the appropriate time and in a proper manner.

Readers who wish to avail themselves of more information with regard to the background to recent events should visit www.ronaldbobroff.com or www.bobroff.co.za.

Bobroff saga: If innocent, why not face music



George van Niekerk, Director, ENS Africa, responds to the Bobroffs' claims in last week's paper that they are innocent of overcharging Road Accident Fund clients. Van Niekerk is the attorney representing Matthew and Jennifer Graham, a couple who took the Bobroffs to court, alleging that they had overcharged the Grahams when representing them in a personal injury suit, after Matthew was severely injured in a car accident. The Grahams' case involved a four-year battle in the courts, including the Supreme Court of Appeal and the Constitutional Court. In the end they won their case.

by GEORGE VAN NIEKERK | Jun 01, 2016

On May 25, the SA Jewish Report published a statement by the Bobroff family, "Bobroffs maintain their innocence on charges", wherein the Bobroffs deny any wrongdoing of whatsoever nature.

The statement is rejected.

The facts are: Eight recent High Court judgments catalogue their unprofessional conduct. There are another 10 pending civil cases against them based on overreaching.



The judgments contain trenchant criticism of the manner in which the Bobroffs have conducted themselves in the litigation against them.

Justice John Murphy held that they were “acting tactically to avoid and frustrate scrutiny” and that they have made the “calculated decision... to delay the disciplinary and investigative process”.

Justice Sharise Weiner concluded that their “attorney and client bill was manipulated in order to obtain a higher fee”.

Justice Elias Matojane found a “deliberate strategy... employed by the Bobroffs to delay for as long as they can the investigation of their financial affairs in the face of serious allegations of impropriety that are being made against them”.

In the De La Guerre matter, the full bench of the South Gauteng High Court found that the Law Society and the Bobroffs were aware of the illegality of common law contingency fee agreements “as long ago as November 1992”.

Instead of answering the allegations against them, the Bobroffs have tried to appeal the judgments against them. These appeals have been found to be “contrived” and “intended to delay an inspection of their books”. They have been found to be in contempt of court.

These are not our assertions; these are High Court judgments.

The courts have ordered them to pay the legal costs of their former clients, and indeed in several instances the courts made punitive cost orders as a mark of the courts’ displeasure.

For the past five years the Bobroffs have steadfastly and studiously avoided answering the very serious allegations of unprofessional and unlawful conduct against them.

They claim in their statement to this newspaper that the law “should be allowed to take its course” and that “each and every allegation will be dealt with at the appropriate time and in a proper manner”. Yet Ronald and Darren absconded from this jurisdiction to avoid prosecution. As a consequence, their erstwhile attorneys of record withdrew as their attorneys, and they have been suspended from practice.

A report by two inspectors of the Law Society concluded, on the basis of findings of very serious misconduct and criminal offences, that “the directors of the firm are guilty of unprofessional conduct”. The report by the Law Society remains unanswered by the Bobroffs.

Ronald and Darren Bobroff suggest that they are untainted attorneys who should be trusted. They have abused that trust, most recently by fleeing the jurisdiction of the very courts of which they are officers, to evade justice.

If the Bobroffs really believe in their innocence and that the law should be allowed to take its course, they should return to South Africa to face the music.

Travails keep piling up for the Bobroffs



The Pretoria High Court suspends Bobroffs from practising as attorneys; Darren's luxury home goes on the market as an "unfurnished rental" - SEE THE PICTURE; NPA head Abrahams expected to give more details this week; Complainants get order regarding their R500 000 fee - five years later; and, to the NDPP and Justice Minister's dilly-dallying on the extradition order, an angry Reuters newsman says: "It is, dare I say, nonsense!" Read on...

by ANT KATZ | May 03, 2016

Judges at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria last week Thursday made a suspension judgment, ruling that personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff, who absconded to Australia, be suspended from practising as attorneys and conveyancers.

The Bobroffs face charges of fraud and money laundering, relating to suspected infringements in their handling of Road Accident Fund (RAF) claims.



Right: Darren Bobroff and his father, Ronald outside the North Gauteng High Court last month. They promised to hand themselves in the following week but absconded to Australia

The judgment is temporary and is pending the determination of the applications of the Law

Society and Mathew and Jennifer Graham. Matthew Graham was injured in a car accident and the Grahams are first and second applicants in the case in the High Court against the Bobroffs. They applied to have Ronald and Darren Bobroff barred from practising as attorneys pending disciplinary proceedings against them, by either the Law Society of the Northern Provinces or the High Court.

The Grahams, who were represented by the Bobroffs in a claim against the RAF, allege that the Bobroffs deceived, defrauded and overcharged them - charges which the Bobroffs have denied.

George van Niekerk, a director at attorneys ENS Africa who acted on behalf of the Grahams, said the couple went to the Bobroffs after Matthew Graham was injured in an accident. They wanted the Bobroffs to pursue a claim against the RAF on their behalf.

While the legally allowable limit on contingency fee cases is 25 per cent of the sum awarded, "the Bobroff's collected a payment from the Road Accident Fund and picked a fee of 40 per cent of what they collected", Van Niekerk told the court.



Ronald Bobroff spun a tangled web with more knots than answers

That, he said, was way above the limit "prescribed in the Contingency Fees Act" and it became clear "that the Bobroffs were systematically overreaching their clients, in other words they were stealing from their clients under the guise of taking fees".

Van Niekerk told EWN last week Thursday that the Grahams felt vindicated that the Bobroffs had finally been suspended. He said the fugitive attorneys had taken an estimated R500 000 from the Grahams' claim and that it had taken the Grahams "about five years" to get to this point.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Times reported in "Fugitive Bobroffs house up for rent" last weekend that while Ronald Bobroff was "evading arrest in Australia, his home in Victory Park was available for rent at R30 000 a month. SA Jewish Report found out that it is actually Darren's house. "It's advertised as ideal for an entertainer," the newspaper said.

Jewish Report Online carried the story two weeks ago that the head of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Shaun Abrahams, had expressed concern that the Bobroffs had evaded justice and promised to give further details this week.



ABOVE: The Victory Park house of Darren Bobroff has been advertised for R30 000 rent a month, unfurnished. The five bedroom, four-and-a half-bathroom home is listed for immediate occupation.

"I can reassure the public that the matter is receiving the requisite attention from my office and that of other law enforcement agencies," Abrahams said, according to the African News Agency (ANA).

Abrahams added that the NPA was working very closely with the various enquiries that are taking place. "I will address the issue in greater detail in two and a half weeks' time when I intend giving a press briefing in respect of the work of the National Prosecuting Authority."

The NPA inquiry adds to the long list of current investigations against the Bobroffs which include those of the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks); the Law Society; the Curator of their now defunct legal practice; the Justice and Correctional Services Department; and the SA Revenue Services (SARS).

The Road Accident Fund has also been combing through all their prior cases which involved the Bobroffs and in the first week laid almost 20 charges with the NPA, claiming that the errant lawyers had billed them, the RAF, for appointments supposedly held with clients - who subsequently denied that those meetings in fact took place.

Ronald and Darren Bobroff made a name for themselves as personal injury lawyers for those injured in car accidents.

ANA confirmed from Abrahams' media briefing that the Bobroffs had disappeared ahead of handing themselves over to the Hawks.

RELATED READS ON THE BOBROFF AFFAIR

Abrahams and Justice Minister Michael Masutha, however, had declined to answer questions as to whether South African authorities were asking Australia to extradite the pair - even though the Hawks and Interpol had confirmed this earlier in the same week.

A Reuters correspondent told Abrahams in the media briefing that this was unacceptable. "There are hundreds of people (affected) and possibly tens of millions of rands lost... It is, dare I say nonsense," the reporter remarked.

NPA opens yet another Bobroff enquiry



National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) head Shaun Abrahams has expressed concern that personal injury lawyers Ronald and Darren Bobroff have evaded justice and fled to another country news24 reported Tuesday.
by ANT KATZ | Apr 20, 2016

"I can reassure the public that the matter is receiving the requisite attention from my office," Abrahams said "and that of other law enforcement agencies." The NPA is working very closely with the various enquiries that are taking place.

It was recently reported that the Bobroffs had left for Australia after they "were accused of overcharging accident victims for claims against the Road Accident Fund," said News24.

Abrahams said on Tuesday that he would address the matter in a comprehensive manner in two weeks' time.

It is noteworthy that the NPA head has taken a personal interest in this matter, and the NPA investigation adds to the long list of current investigations Jewish Report is aware of that are underway at this time. These include:

The Hawks; The Law Society; the Curator of the now defunct legal practice; the Justice and Correctional Services department; and, no doubt, SARS.

The Road Accident Fund have also been combing through all their prior cases with the Bobroffs and in the first week laid almost twenty charges with the NPA, claiming that the errant lawyers had billed them, the RAF, for appointments supposedly held with clients - who subsequently denied that said meetings took place.

Tales of woe from former Bobroff clients



The scandal around the flight of father and son attorneys Ronald and Darren Bobroff escalates on a daily basis. New claimants come forward all the time and several forensic, criminal and civil investigations are underway, while the legal firm has been placed under curatorship by the Law Society. Follow all the latest Bobroff news as of Wednesday - and watch this space as it changes daily
by ANT KATZ | Apr 06, 2016

The scandal around the flight of father and son attorneys Ronald and Darren Bobroff escalates on a daily basis. New claimants come forward all the time and several forensic, criminal and civil investigations are underway, while the legal firm has been placed under curatorship by the Law Society.

Hawks spokesman Major Robert Netshiunda told SA Jewish Report that the extradition process, facilitated by Interpol's issuing red notices for the Bobroffs - who two weeks ago skipped the country for Australia, with Bobroff junior's wife Lisa - is underway. They will face justice in South Africa, the Hawks insist.



"Hundreds of millions of rand" have already been identified. "We are still investigating," says Netshiunda.

RIGHT: Darren Bobroff, left, and his father Ronald outside the High Court - they are not used to being the accused

Two weeks ago, the Bobroffs had pleaded guilty to overcharging two clients and agreed to hand themselves over to police the following Tuesday. They didn't; they skipped the country instead.

Ronald Bobroff and Darren and his family are hiding in Australia hoping to escape justice. Just prior to leaving it, Jewish Report understands they had deposited millions in a bank account of Elaine (68), Ronald's wife, who was left behind, carrying the can.

Elaine last week Tuesday found herself in the dock on charges of fraud of R26 million and money laundering. She insists that she is innocent of any wrongdoing.

The Bobroffs sold their active files to another attorney, Rael Zimmerman, who told SAJR last week that he had also employed all of the Bobroff staff, but had not bought the business, debts or obligations of RBP Inc (Robert Bobroff and Partners).

RBP Inc placed under curatorship

The Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP) has placed RBP and its accounts under the curatorship of Johan van Staden, who says there is about R27 million in the firm's trust funds.

Among the most common charges against the Bobroffs is that they overcharged Road Accident Fund (RAF) victims who elected to go the contingency fee route. In these cases, attorneys are legally allowed to charge "twice the normal attorney-client fees, or take 25 per cent of the settlement, whichever is the lesser amount".



Numerous cases have been brought against the Bobroffs in the past for exceeding these amounts, sometimes by a large margin.

LEFT: Robert Bobroff

Jewish Report has had calls from angry community members seeking information or simply wanting to share their own experiences.

One was Shirley Katz, whose then-18-year-old son, Lance, was involved in a horrendous road accident 14 years ago.

He has since fully recovered. Darren Bobroff got Lance a R300 000 settlement from the RAF and RBP paid him only R120 000 - retaining 60 per cent for themselves.

Shirley is livid: "Darren called me a few years ago," she says, "and said that if Discovery (Health) queries anything with me I must not give them any information." This relates to a long-standing legal battle between the medical aid and the Bobroffs who, says Discovery, tell clients who receive pay-outs for medical expenses claims, not to return the money to Discovery. The Bobroffs have always denied this.

Another community caller, Sheila (67), who asked SAJR only to use her first name, was [involved in a collision 22 years ago](#) in which she and her husband (73) were seriously injured. Also represented by RBP, Sheila says her husband received just R48 000 of the R100 000 RAF pay-out, while she was awarded R300 000 - but received just R198 000 from RBP.

Sheila was sent to four doctors. One single 2004 consultation and examination was reflected on her legal charges bill at R25 000. "I was none the wiser that I'd been ripped off," she says, and claims that she was also told other "lies" which have resulted in her living in agony and with no recourse..

RAF spokesman Linda Rulashe said this week that, on hearing of the charges, RAF began their own forensic audit of the Bobroffs' legal fee accounts. RAF had already referred 18 matters to the police by the weekend, where monies had been claimed by RBP for meetings which their clients say never took place. "Ongoing investigations may lead to other referrals," she said.

Follow the Back-story

- **February 2014 to 19 March-**[THE BACK-STORY IN FIVE INSTALMENTS](#)
- **22 March-** Jewish Report Online -[BOBROFFS DO A RUNNER](#), 68-year old bobba Elaine Bobroff was arrested this morning according to her husband, Ronald, who with his son Darren fled SA for Oz over the weekend after earlier this month admitting that a contingency fee agreement they got some of their clients to sign was illegal.
- **22 March-** [LISTEN TO RONALD BOBROFF](#) talking to CapeTalk's Kieno Kammies from Oz this morning saying his wife had been arrested. Read what we have and hear the radio interview. Police and Hawks spokesmen are looking into the matter for SAJR. Come back to follow this evolving story...
- **22 March-** The untaste shura - only on JR Online.[BOBBA ELAINE ARRESTED THIS MORNING](#) and appeared before the Johannesburg Specialised Crimes Court on a charge of fraud this afternoon. Her husband Ronald, son Darren and his family skipped the country over the weekend. Read about the outcome of Elaine's fraud and money-laundering trial today... only onwww.SAJR.co.za
- **23 March-** husband and son flee to Australia accused of fleecing South Africans of millions, and 68-year-old Bobba Elaine was left to carry the can,[CHARGED WITH FRAUD OF R26 MIL AND MONEY LAUNDERING](#). Hawks say investigation shows much more is missing.
- **30 March-** Bobroff's is running[UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT](#). On Thursday afternoon the Hawks are expected to release the report on their investigation and Jewish Report Online will then, hopefully, be able to tick many of the outstanding boxes
- **01 April-**[HAWKS CAN'T COMPLETE INVESTIGATION](#) - Hawks were expected to complete investigation 29 March, draft a report on morning of 30th and brief the media in the afternoon on certain key elements such as how much money was misappropriated, how, how many victims there were, and what was the state of the trust accounts. They didn't - as more and more claimants kept coming forward.
- **04 April-** Interpol issued notices and[EXTRADITION PROCESS BEGUN](#) on the go
- **06 April-** [CHARGED R25,000 FOR ONE DOCTOR VISIT](#) - All the latest on the Bobroff scandal
- **06 April -** Read[SHEILA'S STORY](#) to understand just some of the heartbreak the Bobroffs have left in their wake.

Interpol notices issued, extradition process begun



Bobroffs will face justice say determined Hawks. Ronald and Darren hide in Australia but Interpol and Hawks say they'll be extradited to answer to fraud and money-laundering charges involving "hundreds of millions" and possible charges of theft of trust funds. They are being debarred and their firm has been placed under curatorship by the Law Society. They left 68-year-old bobba Elaine to carry the can. She's on bail for fraud of R26m. One Jewish woman told the SAJR today that she had paid sixty per cent fees to the Bobroffs!

by ANT KATZ | Apr 04, 2016

ABOVE: Ronald and Elaine Bobroff in happier times

Ronald Bobroff, later with son and partner as Ronald Bobroff and Partners Inc (RBP), made his name as a crusader for justice for those injured in car accidents and by medical negligence - the classic do-gooder who was passionate about protecting peoples' rights.

He and his son, Darren (and, to a lesser extent, their partner Stephen Bezuidenhout) vowed to take on "the crooked, corrupt and creepy" according to a story in yesterday's Sunday Times.



But now Ronald, Darren and Darren's family are hiding out in Australia, on the run and hoping to escape fraud and money-laundering charges in involving hundreds of millions for overcharging their clients, as well as possible charges of missing trust funds.

RIGHT: Ronald, left, and Darren Bobroff - hawks looking for hundreds of millions

Two weeks ago, just prior to the long Easter Weekend, the Bobroffs had pled guilty to overcharging two clients and had agreed to hand themselves over to the police on the Tuesday after Easter. They didn't.

Rather, Ronald, Darren, and Darren's family had legged it to Australia and, Jewish Report understands, they had deposited monies in the bank account of Bobba Elaine, Ronald's wife. She was left to carry the can, arrested and charged by the Hawks the 68-year-old Elaine last Tuesday found herself in the dock for fraud of R26 million and for money laundering. She was given bail, told to report to police weekly and to return to court on 1 July.



The men also sold their active client files to another attorney, Rael Zimmerman of Taitz and Skikne, Zimmerman last week told JR Online that he had only taken over the files of his staff was calling clients to see if they

wanted him to finalise their cases.

He took over the premises and the staff but not the debts or obligations of the business and his practice in Germiston continues to operate as normal.

Meanwhile the Bobroffs are being stripped of their rights to practice law and their firm has been placed under the curatorship of Johan van Staden by the Law Society of the Northern Provinces (LSNP).

All of the firm's assets, accounts and trust funds are in the hands of Van Staden.

A two-year long Hawks investigation, which was drawing to a close last week, cannot be closed as more and more complainants are coming forward daily claiming to have been fleeced by the Bobroffs. While not prepared to put a figure to it until they have completed their investigation, the Hawks now believe that hundreds of millions are involved.

Jewish Report, too, is receiving calls from people who believe that they were duped by being overcharged. One Jewish lady told the writer today that she had paid sixty percent of her RAF payout to the Bobroffs!



ABOVE: Ronald Bobroff in court

Last week, the Bobroffs' criminal lawyer, Ulrich Roux (son of Oscar Pistorius Advocate Barry) of BDK attorneys refused to comment when asked to by Jewish Report Online.



While still refusing to speak to the media, however, Roux has confirmed that his firm has since withdrawn as the Bobroffs' criminal lawyers.

An insider at the firm told the Sunday Times' Monica Lamparsand that Roux had been red-faced upon reading in the press of his clients' brazen dash to Australia, which had led to the firm dumping them.

RIGHT: BDK's Ulrich Roux reportedly dropped the Bobroffs like a hot potato when he heard they had done a runner

of Hawks spokesman Major Robert Netshiunda says: "we are still investigating but hundreds of millions of rand have been making the rounds in their bank accounts."

More victims are coming in, he says, so the Hawks cannot give any numbers yet.

Bobroffs to face justice, say Hawks

Netshiunda told Jewish Report Online last Friday that Interpol had issued red notices for the Bobroffs and that extradition processes between Australia and South Africa had begun.

Among the most common charges against the Bobroffs is that they overcharged clients regularly. Road Accident Fund (RAF) victims usually elect to go the contingency fees (No-Win-

No-Pay) route. This allows firms like RBP to charge “twice the normal attorney-client fees, or take 25 percent of the settlement, whichever is the lesser amount.” There are numerous cases where the Bobroff’s have been prosecuted for exceeding these charges.

The RAF’s spokesman, Linda Rulashe, said on the weekend that her organisation alone had already referred 18 matters to the police where RBP had claimed charges for services they apparently had never rendered. “Ongoing investigations may lead to other referrals,” she said.

The LSNP’s curator, Johan van Staden, says there was about R27 million in the trust funds which would be used to pay the client and debtors - although pundits do not believe this will be anywhere near enough to settle the debts.

The Act relating to contingency fees, No-Win-No-Pay, is explicit: firms like RBP “can charge twice the normal attorney-client fees, or take 25% of the settlement, whichever of them is the LESSER amount

Latest real news on the Bobroff affair



The Bobroff matter remains by far the top-read story on Jewish Report Online. On Wednesday the Hawks were expected to complete their investigation into the matter and draft a report on Thursday morning. By Thursday afternoon it was hoped that they would have briefed the media on certain key elements everyone was waiting to hear, such as how much money was misappropriated (if any), through what means, and to how many victims, if any. Read about the answers...

by ANT KATZ | Apr 01, 2016

The latest REAL NEWS on the Hawks' Bobroff investigation is... nothing! The reason, the elite police unit The Hawks have been unable to close their investigation as "more and more victims are coming forward" reports Hawks spokesman Major Robert Netshiunda.

The investigation continues unabated and the Hawks investigators are giving no clue of when they may now conclude - which is understandable if they are adding further claimants daily.

It is expected that once again weekend newspapers may speculate on matter and figures.

A source close to the investigation who cannot be named as he does not speak in an official capacity, however, confirmed to Jewish Report this afternoon that the Hawks' procedures that they spoke of last week to extradite the Bobroffs continue unabated and that they are certain they will be brought back from Australia to face a South African Court.

Jewish Report will continue to follow the matter and will only report on what we have personal knowledge of from reliable sources, such as Bobroff family members; attorneys acting for the parties; official spokesmen of the SA Police's priority crimes unit, The Hawks; court transcripts and legal reports.

Read Wednesday's story which links to all earlier posts:
[BOBROFF'S RUNNING UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT](#)

Latest information:

- The amount of money involved remains R79 mil as far as the Hawks are concerned - until the Thursday mid-day briefing on the outcome of official Hawks investigation (which JR Online will bring to readers tomorrow afternoon);
- RBP Inc (Ronald Bobroff and Partners Incorporated) has been placed under curatorship by the Law Society and a curator has assumed control of all of the trust monies, accounts and all other financial affairs of RBP Inc Attorneys;
- A curator has been appointed and will be thoroughly checking through all past dealings of RBP Inc;
- There are two investigations currently;
- A criminal investigation by the Hawks, which will be concluded today and from which, SAJR hopes to be able to get numerous answers tomorrow afternoon;
- An investigation by the curator appointed by the Law Society into the books, accounts and trust funds of the firm is about to begin;



- Rael Zimmerman, an attorney and the proprietor of Taitz and Skikne, a Germiston-based legal firm of long standing, has purchased the clients of RBP Inc “but not the business” he is very specific to add;
- Taitz and Skikne has hired all of the staff at RBP Inc - which will continue to trade in their present Rosebank premises;
- Zimmerman has been the personal and family attorney of the Bobroff family for eight months - but does not do criminal work;
- Ulrich Roux, a director at BDK Attorneys is the family’s criminal lawyer. He told JR Online today that he did not wish to comment at this stage; and that
- Both Roux and Zimmerman were in court with 68-year-old Elaine Bobroff last week when she was charged with fraud and money laundering - and later given bail - while her husband Ronald, her son Darren and his family were in Australia.

Many figures and claims were bandied about in the weekend newspapers. We will not repeat these as Hawks spokesman Major Robert Netshiunda this afternoon assured SAJR that he is aware of the figures and charges that have been mentioned.

These, he insists, are “pure speculation”, and that he “will be getting the actual figure tomorrow” (Thursday) as the Hawks investigation into the matter will be concluded today, a report drafted, and an internal meeting held at which he will be present.

Until tomorrow afternoon, therefore, SAJR will await the outcome of the criminal investigation before bandying any numbers or claims.

Sheila's Story - read how tragedy played out



• *The heart-breaking story of 67-year-old Sheila and her 73-year-old husband (names withheld) were involved in a collision back in 1994. Both were seriously injured, although she more so than him, particularly in light of the fact that she underwent a serious shoulder surgery a few days prior which was completely undone in the accident. Pictured left are Ronald and Darren Bobroff outside the High Court.*
by ANT KATZ | Apr 06, 2016

•
•
•
•
The couple were represented by Darren Bobroff of Robert Bobroff and Partners Inc (RBP), Sheila says. Her husband received R48,000 of the R100,000 Road Accident Fund (RAF) pay-out (meaning RBP kept 52 per cent), while her matter took longer to settle and she was eventually awarded R300,000.



“I only got R198,000 of that,” she told Jewish Report Online, while RBP retained R102,000. They should have been allowed to take a maximum of R75,000 as prescribed by law.

The Act relating to contingency fees, the so-called No-Win-No-Pay situation - is quite explicit. It prescribes that firms like RBP, working on a contingency basis: “can charge twice the normal attorney-client fees, or take 25 per cent of the settlement, whichever is the LESSER amount.”

RIGHT: Darren Bobroff

Sheila and her husband were sent to a host of doctors by the lawyers to prepare for the RAF claims.

She herself was sent to four doctors: “one was at Wits, one in Pretoria and two in Corlett Drive,” she recalls. “Darren would send their driver, Edward, to collect me and take me to doctors - Edward was such a nice man, and I thought Darren was too.” RBP, says Sheila, couldn’t do enough for them. Little did she know at the time that she would have to pay for every cent, and more, in the end, she says.

“I asked Edward one day how ‘mister’ Darren was. He told me that he was in Australia. Already then they were scouting out the country,” she says.



LEFT: Ronald, left and Darren Bobroff who Sheila calls mamserim

“One gets hurt in an accident, one is off work, one has to endure pain and suffering, and one puts oneself in the hands of Jewish people one feels one can trust.”

The breaking of that trust, says Sheila, is what she feels the most hurt by.

“If I saw the Bobroffs face-to-face today I would call them *mamserim*. I’ve had them in chunks,” said a now furious Sheila. She also feels a bit stupid for falling for some of the stories she was told and some of the things she saw.

"I've had a hard life," says Sheila, who was born with a club foot which caused her to have 45 operations to remedy. There were things that she feels she should have noticed, "writing on the wall" issues she says. They had a very high staff turnover, she says, and that is often a warning sign. "One of them was forever in Australia."

And in 1994, says Sheila, RBP was flourishing. "It was like a railway station in their reception. They even had to build on to their fancy offices in Rosebank."

No medical aid

Sheila's main injury as a result of the accident 22 years ago was that she had "just had reconstructive shoulder surgery" a few days before the event and the accident put her shoulder into a worse situation that it had been.



Her husband, now 73, had bad whiplash "which he still suffers a lot of pain from," she says.

As they had no medical aid, Darren Bobroff had been wonderful at the time and had Sheila checked in to the Morningside clinic where the operation was re-done. "But the surgery wasn't successful," says Sheila. "Darren was supposed to organise a second operation but he never came back to me." Again, in retrospect, Sheila feels a little silly that that she had allowed herself to have been taken in.

After her "pay-out" says Sheila, and before she knew she would need further surgery, she asked Darren if by settling the claim the RAF would no longer entertain claims in this regard.

"Darren said to me that any further treatment you need will be covered," she says. "He told me to just go to Morningside Clinic where I had the original operation and the RAF will give you a letter and they will pay for any further treatment as a result of the accident."

Sheila found that comforting as she has no medical aid. But she continued to suffer from ever-increasing pain, until late last year, and "because I was in so much agony," she called the

Road Accident Fund directly. Sheila explained what she believes Darren had told her regarding RAF paying out any future claims for pain and suffering.

“They just laughed at me and said it was not true,” she says. She intended to take the matter up with Darren but was amidst another family tragedy at the time so thought she would wait.

Now, she says, she and her husband have to accept that “we are living in pain because of Darren’s ‘lies’,” she told Jewish Report.

And, as far as the Bobroffs are concerned, says Sheila, she would like to tell them: “As my bobba used to say (excuse spelling of Yiddish -ED) *“zos du waksen vic a tzibilla Arunta en die vees in de heich”* (may they grow like onions with their heads in the ground).”

We still have pain and suffering

It is 22 years on, and Sheila and her hubby are still suffering. As they have no medical aid, Sheila has resigned herself to the fact that she has no use of her arm. It hurts all the time, she says, and excruciatingly so when she uses it - so she just doesn’t, she says.

Sheila tells the story of one single consultation and examination which Edward drove her to Pretoria for. “He was so nice,” says Sheila, he would patiently wait for me and then take me home afterwards.”

The doctor “asked me to pick up two buckets with four bricks each in each one, so that she could assess the damage to my shoulder. I am not a bricklayer,” Sheila told her, and, in any case, she says she would not have been able to raise the bucket with the damaged arm at all. “Not even an inch,” she says.

When she was finally paid out her miserly R198,000, says Sheila, and was given a breakdown of the bill of costs, that single doctor’s visit was billed at R25,000, She has no idea what the doctor had actually charged RBP, but is in no doubt that it was a lot less than that. “I was none the wiser that I’d been ripped off at the time,” she told JR Online yesterday, “I was just happy thinking the ordeal was over.”

Clearly, for this couple, it never will be...

Follow the back-story

- February 2014 to 19 March - [THE BACK-STORY IN FIVE INSTALMENTS](#)
- 22 March - Jewish Report Online - [BOBROFFS DO A RUNNER](#), 68-year old Elaine Bobroff was arrested this morning according to her husband, Ronald, who with his son Darren fled SA for Oz over the weekend after earlier this month admitting that a contingency fee agreement they got some of their clients to sign was illegal.
- 22 March - [LISTEN TO RONALD BOBROFF](#) talking to CapeTalk’s Kieno Kammies from Oz this morning saying his wife had been arrested. Read what we have and hear the radio interview.

Police and Hawks spokesmen are looking into the matter for SAJR. Come back to follow this evolving story...

- **22 March** - The untaste shura - only on JR Online. [**BOBBA ELAINE ARRESTED THIS MORNING**](#) and appeared before the Johannesburg Specialised Crimes Court on a charge of fraud this afternoon. Her husband Ronald, son Darren and his family skipped the country over the weekend, Read about the outcome of Elaine's fraud and money-laundering trial today... only on www.SAJR.co.za
- **23 March** - husband and son flee to Australia accused of fleecing South Africans of millions, and 68-year-old Bobba Elaine was left to carry the can, [**CHARGED WITH FRAUD OF R26M AND MONEY LAUNDERING**](#). Hawks say investigation shows much more is missing.
- **30 March** - Bobroff's is running [**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**](#). On Thursday afternoon the Hawks are expected to release the report on their investigation and Jewish Report Online will then, hopefully, be able to tick many of the outstanding boxes
- **01 April** - [**HAWKS CAN'T COMPLETE INVESTIGATION**](#) - Hawks were expected to complete investigation 29 March, draft a report on morning of 30th and brief the media in the afternoon on certain key elements such as how much money was misappropriated, how, how many victims there were, and what was the state of the trust accounts. They didn't - as more and more claimants kept coming forward.
- **04 April** - Interpol issued notices and [**EXTRADITION PROCESS BEGUN**](#) on the go
- **06 April** - [**CHARGED R25,000 FOR ONE DOCTOR VISIT**](#) - All the latest on the Bobroff scandal
- **06 April** - Read **SHEILA'S STORY** to understand just some of the heartbreak the Bobroffs have left in their wake.

