

# DEPUTY PRESS OMBUD (PART-TIME)

The Press Council of South Africa (PCSA) invites applications for the position of Deputy Press Ombud, a senior, independent role that strengthens media accountability and safeguards ethical journalism and public trust in the media. The position is part-time. The Deputy Press Ombud works alongside the Press Ombud and the other Deputy Press Ombud to resolve complaints against member entities of the Press Council independently and fairly. Within South Africa's system of independent co-regulation, the role upholds the Press Code of Ethics and Conduct, safeguards the public interest and promotes media freedom through transparent and impartial decision-making.

## Independence

Deputy Ombuds exercise adjudicative authority independently of the Council's governance structures.

## Terms and Conditions

- Part-time appointment, with workload dependent on complaint volumes and complexity.
- Appointment is made in accordance with the Press Council's constitution and governance framework.
- The role is incompatible with active editorial, political or commercial positions that could give rise to conflicts of interest.
- Applicants must be citizens of the Republic of South Africa and committed to the values underpinning the Constitution, as well as the Press Council's Code of Ethics and Conduct.

## Key Responsibilities

- Receive, assess and adjudicate complaints against member publications in accordance with the Press Code.
- Issue clear, well-reasoned rulings grounded in ethical principles and constitutional values, including freedom of expression and dignity.
- Support the Press Ombud in ensuring consistency and procedural fairness in adjudication, and act on the Ombud's behalf where required.
- Contribute to complaints processes that are effective, accessible and aligned with the Press Council's FAIR principles (Factual, Accountable, Independent, Responsible).
- Contribute to the interpretation and development of ethical standards, including those for digital journalism and emerging technologies.
- When appropriate, participate in public engagement and stakeholder discussions about the adjudication framework (without commenting on cases).

## Qualifications and Experience

- A sound understanding of the South African media landscape, journalism, regulation, adjudication, or related fields.
- Demonstrable expertise in media law, ethics or human rights.
- Proven ability to assess complex factual disputes and to apply ethical principles with clarity and fairness.
- Strong writing skills, with the ability to produce clear, publicly accessible decisions.
- A legal qualification is not essential.

**Applications must be sent to**  
**[recruitment@presscouncilsa.org.za](mailto:recruitment@presscouncilsa.org.za)**