

LEGAL
ROBES OF DISTINCTION

birch's
Sewn in Distinction
SINCE 1860

MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA

Birch's slogan '*Sewn in Distinction*' represents our promise to our customers; it is our mantra of assurance in our quality craftsmanship and attentive service. And with a strong heritage of 150 years, our name is sewn into the history of South Africa's most distinguished fraternities - designing and manufacturing robes for leading church, academic and political figures since the Birch's Robe Factory opened its doors in 1940. In fact, Birch's was commissioned to design and manufacture the first robes of the Constitutional Court.

With this, we would like to extend our service to you in hand-making your legal robe, with additional customisation options available to match exact technical and aesthetic requests.

We assure you of meticulous attention to detail, skilful fabric handling and timeous delivery without compromising the quality we are known for, guaranteeing satisfaction.

Yours in Distinction.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Chris Mowbray' and the second is 'Nick Mowbray'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris & Nick Mowbray
Directors

LEGAL ROBES

ADVOCATES OF QUALITY

Birch's has a long history of supplying the legal fraternity of South Africa with a full range of specialised legal robes. Our robes can be found in chambers across the nation, from Constitutional Court Judges to Senior Council, from Barristers and Advocates to Attorneys and Magistrates.



OUR HERITAGE

SEWN IN DISTINCTION

The Birch's Robe Factory in Grahamstown, South Africa, has robed many great Africans and earned a reputation synonymous with quality and distinction within the fraternities they supply. Over the past eight decades, our family-managed and run business has become renowned for remarkable service and attention to detail, supported by the expertise of generations of dedicated craftsmen and women.

THE FACTORY

GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

One of South Africa's oldest and most loved frontier cities is home to the Birch's Robe Factory. It is here, where generations of skilled craftsmen and women design and meticulously work fabrics into legal robes that are internationally revered.

Our 2900sqm factory houses an array of the finest fabrics that have been globally and locally sourced, along with ribbons, linings and trimmings specifically suited to traditional legal robes, including Judge's scarves and cinctures, Clerk's robes, Jabot's and Advocate's bags.

Decades of manufacturing the finest robes for the South African legal fraternity, has afforded us unique experience. And with this expertise behind our brand we are able to plan and produce robes to the specific requirements of our esteemed customers.

Consistency of colour accuracy is guaranteed, as is the ability to repeat fabrics and colours in years to come. From sampling to delivery, Birch's allows you complete confidence in our quality.



OUR ROBES

WHAT THEY ARE MADE OF

Hand-tailored to the highest standards, our robes are made from a choice of Polyester Cashmere or Texturised Polyester. The robes are finished with bespoke trim and detailing which hangs superbly and will surpass all expectations.

- » *Polyester Cashmere / Texturised Polyester*
- » *Made to measure (Bespoke)*
- » *Dry-cleanable*
- » *Locally and globally sourced fabrics*
- » *Designed, woven and made in South Africa*



LEGAL ROBE

COLLECTION

Allow us to introduce our collection of legal attire. From Magistrate's Robes to Senior Council's Waistcoats and Advocate's Bags, our products are fully guaranteed and customers may place orders with the confidence that meticulous care will be taken to produce the finest handmade garments.

MAGISTRATE'S ROBE



Black gown with silken braid on yoke and sleeves, with a scarlet red band affixed to the centre of the front panels and on either side of the silken braid seen on the front of the bell-shaped sleeves. It is worn with an Advocate's Jabot.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, Polyester Cashmere, lightweight Wool and Trevira.

REGIONAL MAGISTRATE'S ROBE



Black gown with scarlet red lapels running down full length of gown and yoke. It has cuffed bell-shaped sleeves. The Regional Magistrate is required to wear the gown with an Advocate's Jabot.

Available in: Polyester Cashmere.

JUDGE'S ROBE



Following in English tradition, under the Judges' Rules of 1635, this red robe is worn by Judges presiding in criminal cases. It is pictured here with the hood which is optional where it is compulsory for the robe to be worn with the black cincture and scarf.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, Polyester Cashmere, lightweight Wool and Trevira.

ADVOCATE'S / BARRISTER'S ROBE



Black gown features classic fluting with pleated sleeves and detail buttons as well as shoulder tab as a token to the days when Barristers had remuneration pouches attached to the back of their robes. It is to be worn with an Advocate's Jabot and either an Office Jacket or Junior Advocate's Waistcoat.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, Polyester Cashmere, lightweight Wool and Trevira.



SENIOR COUNSEL'S ROBE

Worn by Judges presiding in civil trials and Senior Advocates, it is hand-tailored in the traditional style of the distinctive uniform worn by the Queen's Counsel. A black robe with a flap collar and long closed sleeves which has slits above the elbow for arm opening. An Advocate's Jabot and Senior Counsel's waistcoat are required to accompany the gown.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, Polyester Cashmere, lightweight Wool and Trevira.

ATTORNEY'S / PROSECUTOR'S ROBE

Like the Senior Counsels and Advocates, this robe is black. It is said that this dates back to the year 1685 when Charles II died and the entire English bar went into mourning. It is adorned with silken braid and detail buttons on the yoke and bell-shaped sleeves. Featuring pleating on the front and back of the yoke as well as the shoulders. It is also required for an Advocate's Jabot to be worn with the robe.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, Polyester Cashmere, lightweight Wool and Trevira.



WAISTCOATS, JACKETS AND ACCESSORIES

SENIOR COUNCIL'S WAISTCOAT



Black tailored according to individual's measurements. Two flaps and pockets on front, trimmed with silken braid and covered buttons. Sleeves also finished with braid and buttons but one does have the options of either sleeveless or without flaps. Additional inside pen pocket/s is an optional extra.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, Polyester Cashmere, lightweight Wool and Trevira.

JUNIOR ADVOCATE'S WAISTCOAT



Black tailored according to individual's measurements with two front pockets. Option of additional inside pen pocket/s available on request.

Available in: Polyester Cashmere.

ADVOCATE'S OFFICE JACKET



Black and tailored to standard suit sizing. Longer in length compared to the waistcoat.

Available in: Texturised Polyester, lightweight Wool and Trevira.

ADVOCATE'S BAG

Manufactured from imported Brocade. The bag is available in Blue for Junior Counsel and Red for Senior Counsel. Up to 4 initials can be hand embroidered in traditional script.



Also Available:

JABOTS
BOX PLEAT LACE JABOTS
LACE JABOTS
PLAIN JABOTS
LADIES ADVOCATE BEFFIES

CONSTITUTIONAL JUDGES' ROBES
JUDGES' SCARVES
JUDGES' CINCTURES
CLERKS AND USHERS' ROBES



WHY INVEST IN A BIRCH'S ROBE?

- » Hand-crafted quality of distinction
- » Superior customisation alternatives
- » Proudly locally manufactured by skilled craftsmen and women
- » Consistent, high-quality solutions via a global and local sourcing system
- » Revered in many corners of the globe

THE BIRCH'S OFFERING

MUNICIPAL ATTIRE

- » The Mayor's Robe
- » The Mayor's Gloves
- » The Mayor's Hat

CLERICAL ATTIRE

- » Pulpit Robes, Choir Gowns, Baptismal Gowns, Vestocks, Clerical Shirts and Vests, Verger's Gowns, Surplices for the Clergy, Cassocks, Capes, Cloaks, Chorister's Cassocks, Surplices, Albs, Clerical wear for Bishops, Gothic and Romanian Vestments, Copes and Stoles
- » Pulpit Falls are also available, as well as Coffin Palls
- » Mitres, Birettas and Scull Caps

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

- » Graduation, Academic, Diploma and Ceremonial
- » Academic Hoods, Diploma Collars, Stoles and Scarves
- » Mortarboards, Velvet Bonnets and Hardcrown Mortarboards

LEGAL ATTIRE

- » Magistrate's Robes
- » Advocate's / Barrister's / Attorney's Robes
- » Judge's Robes

Please contact us for any of the above services.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

To make your purchasing experience more convenient, kindly note the following is available upon request:

- » On-site measurements for individuals or large groups. Self-measurement forms available on request
- » Custom Vestment or Robe design
- » Fabric swatches
- » Academic, Clerical, Legal and Municipal catalogues

POSTAGE / TRANSPORT COSTS

Transport costs are not included in listed prices and charges for packing, postage, freight and insurance will be an additional cost. Unless otherwise instructed, orders will be dispatched by the safest, quickest and most economical means.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Goods made to special order are not returnable. The illustrations in this brochure feature a small range of items in both traditional and modern style, which can be tailor-made in our factory to your specifications. Should you require something different to what we show in this catalogue, we offer a special design service at no extra cost. Simply let us know what you have in mind in terms of design or theme, the colour and type of fabric favoured and we will design to your specific requirements.

Should you wish to receive more specific information regarding any of our products, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sewn in Distinction
SINCE 1860



birch's
Sewn in Distinction
SINCE 1860

www.robles.co.za / www.birchs.co.za

T. 046 622 2509 14 Froude Street, Grahamstown, 6139, South Africa

Colours in this catalogue are shown only as a rough guide.