



# CLIFFE DEKKER HOFMEYR

An overview of our firm



EVERYTHING MATTERS

At Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, we believe in partnerships. The partnerships we cherish and value are those we have forged through time and experience with our clients and, of course, our people.

**We are a leading business law firm in South Africa with a strong national presence in Johannesburg and Cape Town.**

**Our affiliation to DLA Piper, a global law firm, means we are positioned to help companies with their legal needs anywhere in the world.**

### **Our client-focused approach**

We are passionate about our commitment to providing a high degree of client care and relationship management. We make it our priority to get to know our clients so we can better understand their needs and provide a meaningful service.

We are totally committed to our clients, every step of the way.

Our approach is to give commercial and pragmatic advice, and enjoy a good rapport with our clients.

- We commit to protecting our clients' interests
- We aim to build long term relationships with our clients
- We ensure that our clients have control of the process
- We expose any key issues at an early stage
- We simplify the processes and make them easier to understand
- We strive to ensure that our clients are not burdened with unnecessary pressure
- We work in teams

### **Full service business capability**

At Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, we offer our clients the advantage of one law firm with the depth of resources, capabilities and experience to support their day to day business needs and long term strategies.

We support the strategic and operational needs of our clients by offering high quality legal advice across the full range of business legal services and industries, and providing practical and commercially focused legal solutions.

Our clients represent a broad cross-section of industries and sectors as well as all levels of government. We advise local, national and international companies, from emerging businesses to major brands.

### **Our areas of practice**

We offer clients a service that covers the complete spectrum of their legal needs through our core practice areas:

- **Competition / Antitrust**
- **Corporate and Commercial**
- **Dispute Resolution: Litigation, Arbitration and Mediation**
- **Employment Law**
- **Environmental Law**
- **Finance and Banking**
- **Intellectual Property**
- **Pro Bono and Human Rights**
- **Projects and Infrastructure**
- **Real Estate**
- **Tax**
- **Technology, Media and Telecommunications**
- **Trusts and Estates**

### **Strength and depth across practice areas**

The scale of the firm allows our lawyers to specialise in their particular fields of law. Our clients can depend on the strength of specialisation and experience offered by our dedicated teams of lawyers, no matter the size of the transaction.

We also draw on the expertise of lawyers from across specialities to provide a fully integrated service in specialised fields such as black economic empowerment, data protection and privacy, finance, infrastructure projects, insolvency and business rescue, mergers and acquisitions, private equity and regulatory.

### **Our sector expertise**

We have dedicated sector teams consisting of lawyers from across our practice areas with a wealth of experience in a wide range of industries including aviation, energy, financial services, hospitality and leisure, mining and minerals, and outsourcing.

We have a strong public sector focus.

### **Our global network**

Our exclusive relationship with DLA Piper, the world's largest law firm, means that our clients can rely on receiving the right service for any particular matter, whether requiring seamless coordination across multiple jurisdictions or delivery in a single location in all the major business centres globally.

### **Our Africa practice**

DLA Piper's Africa practice is unrivalled in geographical coverage. As the DLA Piper Africa Group firm in South Africa, we are able to offer our clients a genuine knowledge based service at locally competitive rates. Our Africa lawyers have direct experience of transactions in the financial services sector and in the key development sectors including mining, telecoms, energy, infrastructure, mining, hotels and leisure.

## Technical excellence and a commercial approach

We are committed to delivering the highest standards of advice. Many of our lawyers and practice areas are recognised as market leaders by independent professional directories such as Chambers Global and the Legal 500.

Our clients can depend on our partner led approach, which ensures we provide the right level of experience and efficiency to deliver a commercial solution to their matters. We work closely with our clients to understand their businesses and provide advice that will produce results.

## Value-added services

At Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, we offer more than legal advice. We commit to partnering with our clients and to ensuring a better service experience.

We prioritise efficiency. We value knowledge. We emphasise sharing, applying and managing our considerable knowledge assets for the benefit of our clients through continuous training and skills transfer. We keep our clients informed on proposed legislation and new regulations through our 'Matters' newsletters and email 'Alerts', and support clients with regular seminars and conferences.

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From the quality of our legal advice and business insight to the efficiency of our legal teams, we believe that when it comes to the way we serve and interact with our clients,

**EVERYTHING MATTERS.**

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Our knowledge management initiatives include advanced knowledge centres, extensive local and international precedent libraries; advanced legal research tools and systems; a sophisticated document management system; and updates and professional development programmes.

In addition to offering competitive rates, we take a flexible approach to fee arrangements.

## Transformation and diversity

We value diversity, respect for the individual and equal opportunity. Transformation is considered as the shared responsibility of everyone in our firm. We take pride in the ongoing initiatives and measures that are in progress to ensure we achieve our greater transformation aspirations.

"Everything Matters" is not just how we refer to our service to clients; it also describes our commitment as corporate citizens to give back to our local communities through volunteer and pro bono work. Our dedicated Pro Bono and Human Rights practice facilitates access to justice for the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

## Market Recognition

- **Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr rated South Africa's No. 1 law firm in 2011 and for 2012.** Highest rated firm in the large law firm category in an independent survey conducted nationally by PMR.africa. The respondents were law firm clients who were asked to rate South Africa legal firms across a range of 28 of the most important attributes clients require in a law firm. Ranked 1<sup>st</sup> overall and named winner of the Diamond Arrow Award for outstanding service. Ranked No. 1 six times over the last nine years.
- Ranked Tier 1 in Corporate M&A, Dispute Resolution, Mining, Projects and Infrastructure: **The Legal 500 2011**
- Ranked Band 1 in Outsourcing, IT & Telecommunications: **Chambers Global 2011**
- Corporate M&A Law Firm of the Year: **Finance Monthly Global Awards 2011**
- Best M&A Firm; Best Corporate and Commercial Firm; Best Competition and Antitrust Firm; Best Insolvency and Restructuring Firm: **World Finance Legal Awards 2011**
- Best Competition and Antitrust firm; Best Corporate and Commercial firm; Best Insolvency and Restructuring firm; Best M&A firm: **ACQ Law Awards 2011**
- Legal Adviser to the Private Equity Deal of the Year: **DealMakers Catalyst Awards 2010**
- Ranked No. 1 by deal volume: **Mergermarket South African M&A Roundup for 2010**
- Ranked No. 1 by number of M&A transactions over two years: **DealMakers M&A Awards 2009 and 2010**

## CONTACT US

If you would like to know more about the services we offer, please contact us.



**Chris Ewing**  
Chairman  
Director  
Corporate and Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1158  
E [chris.ewing@dcladh.com](mailto:chris.ewing@dcladh.com)



**Aadil Patel**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Employment  
T +27 (0)11 562 1107  
E [aadil.patel@dcladh.com](mailto:aadil.patel@dcladh.com)



**Attie Pretorius**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Real Estate  
T +27 (0)11 562 1101  
E [attie.pretorius@dcladh.com](mailto:attie.pretorius@dcladh.com)



**Brent Williams**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Director  
Corporate and Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1167  
E [brent.williams@dcladh.com](mailto:brent.williams@dcladh.com)



**Terry Winstanley**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Environmental Law  
T +27 (0)21 481 6332  
E [terry.winstanley@dcladh.com](mailto:terry.winstanley@dcladh.com)



**Emil Brincker**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Tax  
T +27 (0)11 562 1063  
E [emil.brincker@dcladh.com](mailto:emil.brincker@dcladh.com)



**Gasant Orrie**  
Cape Managing Partner  
Director  
Corporate and Commercial  
T +27 (0)21 405 6044  
E [gasant.orrrie@dcladh.com](mailto:gasant.orrrie@dcladh.com)



**Ludwig Smith**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Finance and Banking  
T +27 (0)21 562 1103  
E [ludwig.smith@dcladh.com](mailto:ludwig.smith@dcladh.com)



**Preeta Bhagattjee**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Technology, Media and Telecommunications  
T +27 (0)11 562 1038  
E [preeta.bhagattjee@dcladh.com](mailto:preeta.bhagattjee@dcladh.com)



**Nick Altini**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Competition  
T +27 (0)11 562 1079  
E [nick.altini@dcladh.com](mailto:nick.altini@dcladh.com)



**Eben van Wyk**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Intellectual Property  
T +27 (0)21 481 6311  
E [eben.vanwyk@dcladh.com](mailto:eben.vanwyk@dcladh.com)



**Johann Jacobs**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Trusts and Estates  
T +27 (0)21 481 6380  
E [johann.jacobs@dcladh.com](mailto:johann.jacobs@dcladh.com)



**Ian Hayes**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Corporate and Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1234  
E [ian.hayes@dcladh.com](mailto:ian.hayes@dcladh.com)



**Kieran Whyte**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Projects and Infrastructure  
T +27 (0)11 562 1132  
E [kieran.whyte@dcladh.com](mailto:kieran.whyte@dcladh.com)



**Christine Jesseman**  
Director  
Pro Bono and Human Rights  
T +27 (0)11 562 1162  
E [christine.jesseman@dcladh.com](mailto:christine.jesseman@dcladh.com)



**Tim Fletcher**  
Director  
National Practice Head  
Dispute Resolution: Litigation,  
Arbitration and Mediation  
T +27 (0)11 562 1061  
E [tim.fletcher@dcladh.com](mailto:tim.fletcher@dcladh.com)

### BBBEE STATUS: LEVEL THREE CONTRIBUTOR

#### JOHANNESBURG

1 Protea Place Sandton Johannesburg 2196, Private Bag X40 Benmore 2010 South Africa  
Dx 154 Randburg and Dx 42 Johannesburg  
T +27 (0)11 562 1000 F +27 (0)11 562 1111 E [jhb@dcladh.com](mailto:jhb@dcladh.com)

#### CAPE TOWN

11 Buitengracht Street Cape Town 8001, PO Box 695 Cape Town 8000 South Africa  
Dx 5 Cape Town  
T +27 (0)21 481 6300 F +27 (0)21 481 6388 E [ctn@dcladh.com](mailto:ctn@dcladh.com)

5th floor Protea Place Protea Road Claremont 7708, PO Box 23110 Claremont 7735 South Africa  
Dx 5 Cape Town  
T +27 (0)21 683 2621 F +27 (0)21 671 9740 E [ctn@dcladh.com](mailto:ctn@dcladh.com)