

Elgene Roos

Senior Associate



Elgene Roos is a Senior Associate in our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice.

About Elgene

Elgene started her career as a Candidate Attorney at a public interest NGO, specialising in public interest litigation and constitutional law. She remained at the NGO as a junior attorney and in 2019 was appointed as the lead attorney of the Forced Migration Focus Area. At the end of 2019 she joined a law firm in Johannesburg and focused on class action litigation.

Elgene joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Senior Associate in our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice.

Elgene has published pieces on subjects relating to:

- Refugee Law
- Constitutional Law
- Citizenship Rights
- International law
- Equality Rights
- Children's Rights

Credentials

Education

- Registered with the Legal Practice Council
- BCom Law – University of the Western Cape
- LLB – University of the Western Cape
- Year of admission as an attorney - 2017

Experience

Contact Elgene

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[Elgene on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Pro Bono & Human Rights](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- Litigation in the High Court, Supreme Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court in a wide range of matters, notable cases:
 - The right to citizenship – challenging the interpretation of section 4(3) of the Citizenship Act
 - Challenging the closure of the Cape Town Refugee Office and other arbitrary practices by the Department of Home Affairs
 - Ensuring compliance with the Alteration of Sex Description and Sex Status Act 49 of 2003
 - Access to free Health Care for migrant women and children under the age of six.
- Researching and drafting legal submissions to the Standing Committee of Refugee Affairs, parliament, regional and international bodies relating to specific laws and human rights information for consideration in developing human rights standards.
- Conducting litigation in the Magistrates Court and the Family Court relating to rescission of judgment applications, application and stay of execution of property, representations to the Senior Prosecutor in a criminal matters.
- International, regional and national advocacy on the use and implementation of the Maputo Protocol for women in Africa, Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and other human rights instruments in ensuring that women and children's rights are made a reality at national level in South Africa.
- Monitoring of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and implementation thereof in South Africa.

News

[The right to belong: Judicial victory for stateless children](#)

Citizenship in South Africa has long been a complex and evolving legal issue, particularly concerning children born to foreign nationals. The recent Gauteng High Court ruling in *M.M.E and Others v Director General, Department of Home Affairs and Another* (21970/2021) ZAGPPHC 202 (12 March 2025) represents a pivotal moment in reinforcing the constitutional rights of children.

[Upholding human rights all year round](#)

At CDH, we recognise the responsibility we have to promote access to justice and safeguard basic human rights.

[The profound reach and impact of our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice in 2024](#)

At CDH we are committed to promoting human rights, enabling access to justice and driving meaningful change. This is why we set up a dedicated Pro Bono & Human Rights Practice (Pro Bono Practice), which provides thousands of hours of pro bono assistance to numerous deserving individuals and organisations each year. In 2024 alone, our firm dedicated over 10,000 hours to providing more than R37 million in pro bono legal services to individuals, organisations, and causes.

[Unlocking citizenship: Overcoming irregular birth certificates](#)

Nearly a decade after the coming into effect of various amendments to the South African Citizenship Act 88 of 1995 (Citizenship Act), which included a new ground of citizenship through the insertion of section 4(3) the Department of Home Affairs (Department) continues to impose arbitrary requirements that create unnecessary barriers to deserving applicants seeking to enforce their right to citizenship under section 4(3) of the act. This pattern of deprivation not only violates the clear provisions set forth in the Citizenship Act, but also effectively undermines the rule of law by denying individuals their legitimate rights entrenched in our Constitution, 1996. It raises serious concerns about the integrity and fairness of the implementation of the legal framework governing citizenship.

[A force for justice: A fierce approach to upholding Human Rights in South Africa](#)

Brigitta Mangale, Director, and Elgene Roos, Senior Associate in the Pro Bono & Human Rights practice, were recently featured in Public Sector Leaders in an article titled "A force for justice: A fierce approach to upholding Human Rights in South Africa."

Videos

[A guide on how to apply for a protection order in terms of the Domestic Violence Act 116 of 1998](#)

Today marks the commemorative close of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

[Video | The significant impact of our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice](#)

As we commemorate Human Rights Day on Thursday, 21 March, one of the ways CDH demonstrates our commitment to the transformation of our society is through our dedicated Pro Bono & Human Rights Practice. We provide pro bono representation of the highest standard to deserving individuals, communities, NGOs and other organisations that promote human rights or the public interest.

Podcasts

[Reflecting on Freedom Day: Are our children free?](#)

South Africa celebrates Freedom Day on 27 April each year, honouring the date of our first democratic elections in 1994. However, more than 30 years later, there is no doubt that freedom is not equally enjoyed by all.

[Justice and Public Interest on the Mic - Episode 3 - Vital pathways to citizenship under the South African Citizenship Act 88 of 1995](#)

Since 2011, CDH's Pro Bono & Human Rights practice (Pro Bono practice) has been at the heart of our firm's commitment to making a real difference. Over the past decade, our Pro Bono practice has passionately championed the cause of public interest, providing pro bono legal support to clients in need.

[Reflecting on World Refugee Day: A South Africa for All](#)

Thursday, 20 June 2024 marked World Refugee Day. A day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe and acknowledge the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home countries.

[Beyond 16 Days Episode 2: The importance of Human Rights Day and exploring constitutional damages as an effective remedy](#)

In episode two of our Beyond 16 Days Series, Director Brigitta Mangale and Senior Associate Elgene Roos in the Pro Bono & Humans Rights practice unpack the importance of Human Rights Day and exploring constitutional damages as an effective remedy.

[Beyond 16 Days | Working on women's rights, all year round](#)

Director Brigitta Mangale and Senior Associate Elgene Roos in the Pro Bono & Humans Rights practice are both passionate about women's rights and the fight against violence for women.

[All news by Elgene Roos →](#)

Recognition

- Identified as a young practitioner making a difference in the legal field by the Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII): 2019
- Received a special mention award at Probono.org awards: 2022