

# Timothy Smit

Sector Head, Director



Tim Smit is a Director in our Dispute Resolution practice and Head for the Consumer Goods, Services & Retail sector. He has practiced exclusively in commercial dispute resolution since his admission as an attorney. Tim specialises in High Court litigation, private mediations and arbitrations (both domestic and international), as well as forensic investigations. Tim has successfully resolved disputes concerning administrative law reviews, complex shareholder agreements, insurance policy response, professional indemnity claims, product liability claims, public liability claims, e-commerce and merchant services agreements and fintech contractual disputes. Tim has also investigated allegations of legislative and regulatory non-compliance, employee performance related complaints, as well as numerous claims of fraud against suppliers, employees, directors and designated officers of companies.

## About Timothy

Tim was admitted as an attorney in February 2011. Tim joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc as a Senior Associate in 2017 and was promoted to Director in the Dispute Resolution practice in 2019.

## Credentials

### Education

- B Comm, University of Witwatersrand
- LLB, University of the Witwatersrand
- Year admitted as an attorney: 2011

## Experience

- Telecommunications provider

Representing a major telecommunications provider and major outsourcing group in prosecuting and opposing administrative review proceedings relating to state tenders.

- International retail group

Representing a major international retail group in general commercial issues regarding perfection of securities, retail and real estate disputes.

## Contact Timothy

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## Expertise

Dispute Resolution

Consumer Goods, Services & Retail

Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring

Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade

Technology & Communications

Public Law

Pensions & Employee Benefits

Corporate & White Collar Investigations

International Arbitration

Insurance Law

## Location

Johannesburg

## Language

English

- **Insurers, brokerages, underwriters and individuals**

Representing insurers, brokerages, underwriters and individuals in professional indemnity claims, D&O claims, construction and engineering claims, product liability claims, subrogated recovery claims, public liability claims and claims of medical malpractice.

- **Minority shareholder**

Representing a minority shareholder of a joint venture in prosecuting derivative action proceedings against a large multinational company.

- **Fintech company**

Representing the shareholders of an eminent fintech company in the favourable settlement of a complex dispute between shareholders relating to the sale of a fintech subsidiary.

- **Motor vehicle manufacturer**

Acting for a major international motor vehicle manufacturer in regard to product liability claims.

- **Private hospital group**

Representing a major private hospital group in defending claims of medical malpractice and in prosecuting construction related disputes.

- **Fraud investigations**

Conducting fraud and under-performance related investigations for major corporations.

- **Major South African bank**

Assisting a director of a major South African bank in respect of a claim brought by the shareholders of the bank against the directors of the bank for shareholder value diminution.

- **Directors declared delinquent**

Pursuing actions against former directors to have those directors declared delinquent.

## News

### [The Consumer Code](#)

Earlier today, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition published the draft Consumer Goods and Services Industry Code of Conduct ("the Draft Code") for public comment and simultaneously issued an invitation for the public to comment on the Draft Code in terms of the Consumer Protection Act.

### [Trumped up charges](#)

The levy imposed by the Trump administration on goods imported into the US from South Africa is impacting both South African and US businesses, whether supply agreements are already concluded or are being negotiated (particularly where significant minimum supply quantities are an issue), as parties try and deal with an overnight 31% increase in the landed price of goods in the US.

### [Fast is fine, but accuracy is everything](#)

As Wyatt Earp said: "Fast is fine, but accuracy is final. You must learn to be slow in a hurry." It is important for litigants to consider and make use of the relevant available legal mechanisms to ensure that legal issues are properly crystallised. Without that exercise, misguided legal strategies are employed.

### [The Legal 500 Private Practice Arbitration Powerlist for Africa](#)

Congratulations to our Dispute Resolution Lawyers that have been included in the Legal 500 Private Practice Arbitration Powerlist for Africa.

### [Webinar Recording | Enemy at the Gates: The practicalities and difficulties of data breaches](#)

CDH hosted a webinar on the latest developments, practicalities, and insights derived from the coal face of data breach incidents.

## Podcasts

### [COVID-19 Vaccines: How would liability apply in the absence of the COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme](#)

To secure COVID-19 vaccines, governments from around the world called upon vaccine manufacturers to provide a partial exemption from liability, in the case of any severe side effects vaccines may cause. In April 2021, South Africa implemented the COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme. Although how would one claim for a COVID-19 vaccine injury, if such an exemption were not provided and how does the existence of the scheme change the position? Legal experts from the CDH Employment Law Practice discuss product liability, consumer protection law, and the influence of the COVID-19 No-Fault Compensation Scheme in this episode of the podcast series focusing on Liability and Recourse for Covid-19 Vaccine Injuries.

### [Insuring your tools of trade, such as your voice, legs or smile](#)

Tim Smit, a Director in our Dispute Resolution practice, featured on the Talking Point show on SAfm. He discussed insuring your tools of trade, such as your voice, legs or smile.

[All news by Timothy Smit →](#)

## Recognition

- Chambers Global 2025 ranked Tim Band 3 for corporate investigations.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended Tim for dispute resolution.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2020 - 2023 recommended Tim as a "Next Generation Partner" in dispute resolution.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2022 recognised Tim on its Arbitration Private Practice Powerlist - Africa Region