

Dean Tennant

Associate



Dean Tennant is an Associate in our Corporate & Commercial practice.

About Dean

Dean joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Candidate Attorney in 2022 and was promoted to an Associate in 2024.

Credentials

Education

- BA, LLB; University of Cape Town
- Admitted as an Attorney: 2025

Experience

- Advising local and international oil and gas companies on commercial and regulatory advice as well as compliance with the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, No.28 of 2002 ("MPRDA"), including, but not limited to, advice on TCP applications in terms of section 76 of the MPRDA; the conversion of Technical co-operation permits to Exploration Rights in terms of section 78 of the MPRDA, the conversion of exploration rights to production rights in terms of section 83 of the MPRDA; the renewal of exploration rights in terms of section 81 of the MPRDA; the transfer and assignment of exploration rights in terms of section 11 of the MPRDA; the amendment of exploration rights in terms of section 102 of the MPRDA; contributions to the Upstream Training Trust, acreage rentals and appeals against conflicting minerals rights and petroleum rights, across all aspects of their South African oil and gas operations.
- Assisting with due diligence investigations and due diligence reports.
- Advised Namibia-based national oil company on its acquisition of an oil-producing asset in Angola from Sonangol Pesquisa E Produção.
- Advised on the sales of participating interest in Block 3B4B, scope of work included drafting of the farm-out agreement, obtaining Ministerial consents and approvals, and amendments to Joint Operating Agreement.
- Advised on the sale of participating interest in Block 1, scope of work included drafting of the farm-out agreement, obtaining Ministerial consents and approvals, and drafting Joint Operating Agreement.
- Advised TSX listed IOC on its acquisition of further interest in the Orinduik Block offshore Guyana.

Contact Dean

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Expertise

Corporate & Commercial Law

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

News

[Veil today, gone tomorrow? Piercing the corporate veil in modern company law](#)

Separate legal personality is a fundamental tenet of company law and provides for a company to be treated as a person in law, separate from the individuals who own the company. This concept is inextricably linked to the concept of limited liability, meaning that liability for acts of the company is limited to the company itself and does not extend to directors and shareholders. However, when the company form is used as a mask for deception or unfair dealing, a court can "pierce the corporate veil" and treat the individual and the company as one.

[Key developments from the Draft Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Regulations](#)

On 25 October 2024, the President assented to the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act 23 of 2024 (UPRDA). Although the UPRDA is not yet in force and awaits commencement on a date to be proclaimed in the Government Gazette, recent regulatory developments suggest that implementation is advancing.

[From queue to contest - Significant reforms to the acquisition of petroleum rights and permits](#)

The Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act 23 of 2024 (Upstream Act) was enacted just over a year ago in October 2024. While industry waits in earnest for the Upstream Act to come into effect, there are important changes from the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002 (MPRDA) framework that require consideration, with one such change being the introduction of licensing rounds under the Upstream Act.

[Publication of the Draft Regulations of the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act for public comment](#)

On 14 April 2025, the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Mr Gwede Mantashe, published the draft Regulations for public comment in GN.6123 GG.52507.

[Legislation on the move: The President signs the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act](#)

The Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill (now the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act 23 of 2024) (Act) was finally assented to by the President on 25 October 2024 and published in the Government Gazette on 29 October 2024.

[All news by Dean Tennant →](#)