

Johan de Lange

Deputy Practice Head, Director



Johan de Lange is the Deputy Practice Head of our Banking, Finance & Projects practice. Johan is a banking and finance lawyer with years of experience in the domestic and international debt markets where he practiced as a leading transacting lawyer with preeminent commercial law firms in London and Johannesburg. His field of specialisation includes acquisition and leveraged finance, private equity fund financings, project and infrastructure finance, commercial real estate finance, asset and structured finance, general syndicated debt and capital restructure transactions where he has worked on several of market-leading transactions in these areas.

About Johan

Johan started his focus on banking and finance transactional work whilst working at [Allen & Overy,] a leading 'Magic Circle' law firm in London. On his subsequent return to Johannesburg, he established, and for several years headed, one of the leading Johannesburg banking and finance practices at another South African 'top four' commercial law firm. His general business background benefits from experience gained during other phases of his career at [Arthur Andersen,] an international audit firm and [Coronation Capital,] an investment bank in Johannesburg and, more recently, [Prime Kapital,] a commercial property developer and investor based in Bucharest. Johan joined CDH in September 2023.

Credentials

Education

- MSc (Law and Accounting) - London School of Economics, 2003
- LLM (Corporate Law) - University of Johannesburg, 1997
- B Juris LLB - University of Potchefstroom, 1994
- Law Society of the Northern Provinces
- Law Society of the Cape of Good Hope
- Year of Admission: March 1997
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Experience

Contact Johan

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Expertise

Banking, Finance & Projects

Projects & Energy

Location

Cape Town

Language

Afrikaans

English

- Johan's legal transactional experience extends to those areas where finance law interfaces with taxation, mergers and acquisitions and bank and financial institution regulation.
- Represented banks and institutional lenders on several landmark financing transactions, including on the financing of the V&A Waterfront's commercial real estate portfolio, the restructure and refinancing of the senior.
- the financing of the Amakhala Emoyeni wind farm (the largest in South Africa).
- The restructure and refinancing of the Lonmin, Neotel and Edcon groups, as well as syndicated loan and preference share facilities for the Steinhoff group.
- High-yield and payment-in-kind debt capital structures of the AfriSam group as well as the Peermont Global group
- The financing of the Khi Solar One, Kaxu Solar One and Xina Solar One concentrated solar plants of Abengoa (comprising cutting edge solar trough and solar tower technologies).
- The financing of the Amakhala Emoyeni wind farm (the largest in South Africa).

News

[Local and regional trends in the bank, institutional and general debt markets](#)

The banking, finance and projects space is a dynamic environment with market positions and the required legal advisory roles changing continuously. In recent months we have noticed increases in lending margins, a willingness to lend at upstream holding company levels on a basis which results in structural subordination to lenders at subsidiary operating cash flow level and the shift towards alternative lender finance. This article highlights some key aspects of these developments and the options available to both lenders and borrowers.

[General considerations when providing or taking security](#)

All commercial agreements have varying degrees of risks associated with them – how those exposures are mitigated, underwritten and secured is crucially important for the sustainability any transaction. This article seeks to identify some practical considerations that should be taken into account when taking or providing security. These include key principles on how to keep security simple and focused on its purpose, as well as guidance on how best to mitigate risks, ensuring sustainable and commercially viable agreements, particularly in funding transactions.

[CDH welcomes multi-disciplinary finance lawyer Johan de Lange to its ranks](#)

After approximately four years with an Eastern European property investment fund and developer, Johan de Lange recently returned to South Africa to join CDH where his considerable finance law and deal-making experience will now further complement the existing capability of the firm. Ranked by both Chambers Global and Legal 500, Johan's track record in banking, finance and projects legal practice spans a period of more than 20 years, which is buoyed by his stellar reputation as one of the leading finance lawyers in South Africa.

[All news by Johan de Lange →](#)

Recognition

- Chambers Global

- The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended Johan for projects & infrastructure.
- IFLR1000 2024 highly regarded Johan as a leading lawyer in Restructuring and Insolvency, Banking, Project Finance, Capital Markets: Debt, and Capital Markets: Equity.
- Chambers Global 2011 - 2018 ranked Johan in Band 1 for Banking & Finance
- Legal 500 EMEA 2012 - 2018 ranked Johan as a "Leading Individual" for Banking & Finance
- IFLR1000 2010 - 2018 ranked Johan as a "Leading Lawyer" for Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Restructuring and Insolvency, Energy and Infrastructure, Project finance.
- Africa Legal Awards 2014 Banking, Finance and Restructuring Team of the Year 2014 for Peermont Global's R16bn capital restructure