

David Thompson

Deputy Regional Head, Director



David Thompson is the Deputy Regional Head and Director in our Corporate & Commercial practice. He advises on all aspects of South African corporate and commercial law particularly mergers and acquisitions.

About David

David began his career as a Candidate Attorney in 1988. David joined Syfret Godlonton-Fuller Moore (now Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr) as an Associate in 1990 and became a Director in 1993.

Credentials

Education

- B.BusSc LLB LLM (Tax), University of Cape Town
- Year of admission as an attorney: 1990
- Registered with the Legal Practice Council

Memberships

- Chairman of the Cape Law Society Competition Committee
- International Bar Association (IBA)

Experience

- Shell

Disposal of 25% of major oil company (Shell) in BEE deal and related restructuring. David also advised Shell regarding its sale of a share of its refining business in South Africa to Thebe including drafting and negotiating all agreements.

- AIIF2 infrastructure fund

Advised various funds and investors on establishment, investment and buyouts, including investors in AIIF2 infrastructure fund.

- Tullow Oil

Advised with regard to the restructure of Tullow Oil in Africa and advised regarding operations in Kenya.

- DL Petroleum

Advising DL Petroleum on supply and franchising arrangements.

Contact David

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[David on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Corporate & Commercial Law](#)

[Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing](#)

[Projects & Energy](#)

[Corporate Governance](#)

[Listings, Stock Exchanges & Public Documents](#)

Location

[Cape Town](#)

Language

[English](#)

- Elf

Attended to the establishment of Elf joint venture in South Africa.

- Gulf Marine

Advising and establishing Southern African operations for Gulf Marine.

- Engen

Advising Engen regarding franchise issues.

- Supply agreements

Drafting numerous supply agreements for spot and term purchases of various products.

- Gas project

Advising on preliminary feasibility aspects of gas project in Southern Africa.

News

[Agribusiness acquisitions: What to know before you buy](#)

While each business acquisition is unique, acquiring an agri-business raises some specific, important issues. These should always be considered and dealt with to some extent in the relevant sale agreement/s. In this alert, we briefly explore five of these issues. The structure of the deal will influence the wording of the relevant clauses but not the principles involved.

[Board committees 101](#)

Section 72 of the Companies Act 71 of 2008 (Companies Act) empowers the appointment and operation of board committees (committees), which can play a key role in the operations of the board of directors. For example, specialist knowledge or extended time is required to deal with an important issue such as refinancing, building a new plant, or an office move.

[Minority protections against oppressive and/or prejudicial amendments to an MOI](#)

When considering the age-old question of which provisions should be contained in the memorandum of incorporation (MOI) and which provisions should be contained in the shareholders' agreement (SHA), one important consideration which is often overlooked is the threshold required to amend an MOI as opposed to an SHA.

[Should I ask my lawyer or should I just ChatGPT it?](#)

Have you heard of the powerful tool that is taking the world by storm? ChatGPT, a large language model developed by OpenAI, has been making waves lately for its ability to generate human-like responses to natural language prompts. Numerous recent articles on the internet report how ChatGPT passed the law bar exam in the US – although various commentators and journalists do acknowledge that this is very different from actually practicing and applying the law. But just how reliable is this technology? We put ChatGPT to the test by asking it some legal questions and were impressed by its capabilities.

[The rare and elusive fundamental transaction: Statutory mergers and amalgamation in terms of section 113 of the Companies Act](#)

Flexibility and adaptability when advising clients on any proposed transaction, whether a deal with third parties or an internal restructuring, are crucial skills for any mergers and acquisitions (M&A) lawyer. Fortunately, the Companies Act 71 of 2008 (Companies Act) provides a few options, including the rarely used statutory amalgamation or merger in terms of section 113. All distinctions between amalgamations and mergers in drafts of section 113 were removed from the final legislation, so this note only refers to a section 113 merger for convenience.

Podcasts

[David Thompson discusses CDH's win of Deal Flow for 10 years in a row](#)

Regional Practice Head and Director in our Corporate and Commercial Practice, joined Michael Avery on Classic FM, to discuss CDH winning Deal Flow for 10 years in a row at the DealMakers M&A Awards.

[All news by David Thompson →](#)

Recognition

- Chambers Global
 - Chambers Global 2024 ranked David in Band 5 for corporate/M&A.
 - Chambers Global 2015–2023 ranked him in Band 4 for corporate/M&A.
 - The Legal 500 EMEA 2020 and 2022–2023 recommended him for corporate, commercial/M&A.
 - IFLR1000 2021–2023 ranked David as highly regarded in M&A.