

Corné Lewis

Director



Corné Lewis is a Director in our Dispute Resolution practice. He has particular experience in the following sector: Gambling & Regulatory Compliance, Public Law, Mining & Minerals, Corporate & White-Collar Investigations and Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring.

About Corné

Corné began his career in 2009 as a Candidate Attorney at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr. He was appointed as an Associate in January 2011. In 2013 Corné was promoted to Senior Associate. He was appointed as a Director in 2016.

Credentials

Education

- LLB, LLM (Import and Export law), University of the North-West (Potchefstroom Campus)
- Notary Public
- Year of admission as an attorney: 2011

Experience

• Advising mining houses

Extensive experience in advising mining houses in both South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia including but not limited to mining licenses, sale of material, Ferro Alloy, Chrome and commercial litigation.

• Multinational oil and gas company

Conducted an investigation into allegations of bribery, fraud and procurement irregularities committed by a senior employee in a multinational oil and gas company. The work involved a review of information, internal policies and applicable legislation, analysing evidence including laptop and cellular phone data, leading interviews with persons of interest and preparing a report on the findings.

Contact Corné

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[Corné on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Dispute Resolution](#)

[Corporate & White Collar Investigations](#)

[Government and State-Owned Entities](#)

[Public Law](#)

[Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade](#)

[Technology & Communications](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

Afrikaans

- **Multinational mining corporations**

Advise multinational mining corporations, in relation to an internal investigation into allegations of fraud, procurement irregularities and conflicts of interest. Providing legal advice in relation to various criminal offences as well as advising on the duty to report in terms of section 34 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004 and preparing a report on the findings.

- **Registering criminal cases**

Advise and assist clients with registering criminal cases as well as fulfilling their reporting obligations in terms of section 34 of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004

- **SOE**

Providing anti-bribery and corruption training to senior management of a state – owned company in relation to the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act No 12 of 2004.

- **Public and private companies**

Advised both public and private companies on compliance with the Public Finance Management Act No 1 of 1999 in regards to entering of lease agreements with state organs.

- **Multinational dispute**

Advised client in a multinational dispute consisting of parties residing in Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Malta, United Arab Emirates, Australia and China. The dispute pertains to allegations of siphoning monies out of the Republic of South Africa estimated at \$1.9 billion.

- **Forensic investigation**

Conduct forensic investigation at the South African Post Office Board on management of tender procedure, irregularities, Public Finance Management Act No 1 of 1999.

- **Customs and excise**

Assisted in advising clients on customs and excise issues including tariff applications and advising on disputes and prepared detailed submissions to SARS in relation to customs and excise.

- **National Health Laboratory Services**

Advising the National Health Laboratory Services in dispute resolution matters, as well as commercial, litigation, and contract resolution and drafting.

- **National and Provincial Gambling Regulatory**

Extensive experience in advising clients on National and Provincial Gambling Regulatory compliances both in the Republic of South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho.

- **Review Applications**

Assists with a number of Review Applications on behalf of both South African corporates as well as Parastatals/State Owned Entities

- **Institution of liquidation**

Experienced in the institution of liquidation and sequestration proceedings and setting aside of dispositions and the holding of enquiries into the affairs of the company.

- **IDC**

Advised and assisted the Industrial Development Corporation in a multi-billion rand mining project in the Mpumalanga.

- **Multi-rand arbitration**

Member of team involved in multi-rand arbitration between major players in the primary energy sector of South Africa on coal supply agreements.

- **National Gambling Amendment Bill**

Member of team involved in providing advice and comment to National Gambling Amendment Bill.

- **Due diligence Investigations**

Member of team involved in due diligence Investigations into risks with various coal supply agreements for Eskom.

- **Evictions proceedings**

Extensive experience in the institution of both residential and commercial evictions proceedings.

News

Too late to litigate

Generally, courts will be loath to hear a 'moot' matter, which is one where the matter has become moot or academic as it no longer has a practical effect or no longer affects the interested parties. The recent Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) case of Western Cape Provincial Government and Others v D C Security (Pty) Ltd t/a D C Security and Others (971/2023) ZASCA 35 (1 April 2025) dealt with the issue of mootness concerning a security services tender which had been set aside by the High Court following a dispute over its allocation process.

Show me the money

In the case of National Director of Public Prosecutions v Dhurgasamy JOL 60116 (GJ), the National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP) applied for a forfeiture order under section 53, alternatively section 50 read with section 48, of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act 121 of 1998 (POCA). The application sought to declare certain property, specifically USD 630,700 in cash seized at OR Tambo International Airport on 11 September 2018, forfeit to the state. The Gauteng Division of the High Court in Johannesburg delivered judgment on 26 July 2023, granting the forfeiture order under section 50 of POCA. The court found that, on a balance of probabilities, the seized cash constituted the proceeds of unlawful activities, specifically violations of exchange control regulations and involvement in money laundering operations. The respondent failed to provide a credible explanation for the lawful origin of the funds, and his claims of obtaining the money through a loan for business purposes were unsubstantiated and lacked supporting evidence. The court noted inconsistencies and improbabilities in his account, leading to the conclusion that the funds were indeed derived from unlawful activities.

Mining on the same land for the same mineral: The overlapping rights conundrum

It has become the new norm for applications to be submitted for prospecting/mining rights over land where a right to mine has already been granted over the same land and for the same mineral.

'New Dawn' for Public Procurement in South Africa: The Public Procurement Act becomes law

Following its adoption by the National Assembly on 16 May 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa on 23 July 2023, assented to signed into law the Public Procurement Act 28 of 2024. The Public Procurement Act seeks to create a single framework that regulates public procurement, including preferential procurement, by all organs of state, with the necessary efficiency, cost-effectiveness and integrity and enhance transparency and integrity, among others, to combat corruption, ensure efficient, effective and economic use of public resources and advance transformation and broadened economic participation.

What's in a name? The status of Tax Courts as courts of law

The South African legal system is host to a number of quasi-judicial decision-making bodies which, while having the power to make decisions which are authoritative and may be binding on parties and while conducting proceedings in a judicial manner, cannot be described as courts of law in the proper sense. The High Court in the case of Poulter v The Commissioner for the South African Revenue Service (A88/2023) ZAWCHC had to determine whether the Tax Court was a court of law for the purposes of deciding whether a taxpayer could be represented by a layperson in the Tax Court. It should be noted that the Tax Court first considered the issue of a layperson's right of appearance before it in 2016 (see our Tax and Exchange Control Alert of 9 September 2016), which we refer to below.

Podcasts



Reporting Fraud

Dispute Resolution Director Corne Lewis joined 'The Honest Truth' with Benito Vergotine on Smile FM to take a look at when you should you report fraud, and when the decision to report fraud could put you in legal danger.

Does your spouse have suretyship when married in community of property

Corne Lewis, Director in the Dispute Resolution practice joined SAfm to discuss suretyship when married in community of property.

[All news by Corné Lewis →](#)

Recognition

- The Legal 500 EMEA 2024 - 2025 recommended Corné as a leading individual for dispute resolution.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2022-2023 recommended Corné for dispute resolution.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2022 recognised Corné on its Arbitration Private Practice Powerlist - Africa Region.