

Jacquie Cassette

Practice Head, Director



Jacquie Cassette is a Director and Head of our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice. Jacquie is responsible for the management of the firm's pro bono and human rights practice, both with regard to its existing projects and individual matters, as well as the identification of future projects. She practiced as an advocate at the Johannesburg Bar for a number of years before she joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr. At the bar she practiced mostly in the fields of constitutional and administrative law (public law), pension fund law as well as general commercial law. She also has experience in the advertising industry, having acted as the Chair of the Advertising Industry Tribunal for a few years.

About Jacquie

Jacquie previously taught at the Wits Law School for a few years before obtaining an LLM in International Human Rights Law at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana USA. After her year at Notre Dame she spent a year as an intern in the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICTY and ICTR in The Hague. Jacquie subsequently returned to South Africa to serve as a research assistant to Justice Goldstone at the Constitutional Court. From there she was employed as a senior investigator at the Office of the Public Protector for two years, before joining the Johannesburg Bar where she practiced from 2001 to 2013. She joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Director in 2014.

Credentials

Education

- BA LLB, University of the Witwatersrand
- LLM (International Human Rights Law), University of Notre Dame (USA)
- Year of admission as an advocate: 2000
- Year of admission as a member of the Johannesburg Bar: 2001

Experience

Contact Jacquie

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[Jacquie on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Pro Bono & Human Rights](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- In 2011 while still at the Bar and in her capacity as a member of the CCCAA (the Constitutional Court Clerks Alumni Association) Jacquie was instrumental in establishing a training project which offers training on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to members of the Alexandra community in Gauteng and the Mitchells Plain community in the Western Cape. The project, which is conducted on a pro bono basis, is a collaborative one between members of the CCCAA and Edward Nathan Sonnenbergs. The training programme comprised of full day seminars developed and facilitated by members of the CCCAA on various aspects of the Constitution and human rights. From 2011-2013 Jacquie assisted with the development and implementation of the programme which was initially piloted in Alexandra and then also rolled out in Mitchell's Plain.
- While at the Bar Jacquie was a member of her Group's pro bono Sub-Committee and was involved in various public interest law matters.

News

Upholding human rights all year round

At CDH, we recognise the responsibility we have to promote access to justice and safeguard basic human rights.

The profound reach and impact of our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice in 2024

At CDH we are committed to promoting human rights, enabling access to justice and driving meaningful change. This is why we set up a dedicated Pro Bono & Human Rights Practice (Pro Bono Practice), which provides thousands of hours of pro bono assistance to numerous deserving individuals and organisations each year. In 2024 alone, our firm dedicated over 10,000 hours to providing more than R37 million in pro bono legal services to individuals, organisations, and causes.

Unlocking citizenship: Overcoming irregular birth certificates

Nearly a decade after the coming into effect of various amendments to the South African Citizenship Act 88 of 1995 (Citizenship Act), which included a new ground of citizenship through the insertion of section 4(3) the Department of Home Affairs (Department) continues to impose arbitrary requirements that create unnecessary barriers to deserving applicants seeking to enforce their right to citizenship under section 4(3) of the act. This pattern of deprivation not only violates the clear provisions set forth in the Citizenship Act, but also effectively undermines the rule of law by denying individuals their legitimate rights entrenched in our Constitution, 1996. It raises serious concerns about the integrity and fairness of the implementation of the legal framework governing citizenship.

A municipality found in contempt of court opens the door for a possible award of constitutional damages for ongoing violation of socio-economic rights

"The commitment to transform our society into one which respects and observes the values of human dignity, freedom and equality lies at the heart of our constitutional order ." – Chief Justice Chaskalson

Traditional Khoi-San Leadership Act: The importance of meaningful public participation during the law-making process

"This case is about the significance of participatory democracy for millions of South Africans who for the most part live away from the centres of power, in rural areas and some of the poorest parts of our country."

Videos

Video | The significant impact of our Pro Bono & Human Rights practice

As we commemorate Human Rights Day on Thursday, 21 March, one of the ways CDH demonstrates our commitment to the transformation of our society is through our dedicated Pro Bono & Human Rights Practice. We provide pro bono representation of the highest standard to deserving individuals, communities, NGOs and other organisations that promote human rights or the public interest.

The challenges posed to asylum seekers during the COVID-19 lockdown

Pro Bono and Human Rights Director Jacquie Cassette recently joined Newzroom Afrika to unpack the challenges posed to asylum seekers during the COVID-19 lockdown.

[The landscape for women in law](#)

National Practice Head and Director in the Pro Bono & Human Rights practice, Jacquie Cassette, recently joined SABC's Morning Live to discuss the landscape for women in law.

[Nationals Schools Moot Competition Seminar hosted by the Pro Bono and Human Rights Practice](#)

[Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr continues to support the Come Together Home](#)

Come Together is a key project in Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's Corporate Social Responsibility portfolio. We have seen the Come Together project flourish over the years. We are proud to be part of this worthy initiative, which has and will continue to make a significant difference to the lives of a number of children and adults in the Sebokeng community.

Podcasts

[Justice and Public Interest on the Mic - Episode 3 - Vital pathways to citizenship under the South African Citizenship Act 88 of 1995](#)

Since 2011, CDH's Pro Bono & Human Rights practice (Pro Bono practice) has been at the heart of our firm's commitment to making a real difference. Over the past decade, our Pro Bono practice has passionately championed the cause of public interest, providing pro bono legal support to clients in need.

[Justice and Public Interest on the Mic – Episode 1](#)

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[Hijab-wearing policy at top Jo'burg girls' school in the spotlight](#)

Director and Head of Pro Bono and Human Rights, Jacquie Cassette, joined Radio 702's Joanne Joseph to discuss a complaint by hijab-wearing pupils at Jeppe Girls' High who were disciplined for wearing religious attire.

[All news by Jacquie Cassette →](#)

Recognition

- Chambers Global 2021 - 2025 ranked Jacquie in Band 3 for Administrative & Public Law.