

Chris Charter

Practice Head, Director



Chris Charter is a Director and Head of our Competition Law practice. Chris has over 20 years' specialist experience in African anti-trust and has advised numerous blue-chip South African and multinational businesses on all aspects of competition law compliance, including merger control, prohibited practice investigations, interim relief and litigation, and market inquiry work.

Chris has advised in mergers involving major South African listed companies and has advised a number of global companies in obtaining South African and African regulatory clearance in respect of multinational transactions. He and his team have extensive experience in a number of African jurisdictions including COMESA.

About Chris

After time spent at Price Waterhouse Coopers London, Chris began his legal career at Cliffe Dekker (now Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr) in 2001. He has been a Director since 2007.

Credentials

Education

- BA LLB, University of Stellenbosch
- Year of admission as an attorney: 2003
- Registered with the Legal Practice Council

Memberships

- Chris has served as a member of the Executive Committee and as Chairperson of the Association of Competition Law Practitioners, the successor body to the Competition Law Committees of the Council of the Law Societies of the Western Cape and Northern Provinces
- Co-Chair of the International Bar Association's Working Groups on Unilateral Conduct and Digital Markets

Experience

Contact Chris

+27 (0)11 562 1053

chris.charter@cdhlegal.com

[Chris on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Competition Law](#)

[Consumer Goods, Services & Retail](#)

[Gambling & Regulatory Compliance](#)

[Government and State-Owned Entities](#)

[Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade](#)

[Private Equity](#)

[Transport & Logistics](#)

[Corporate & White Collar Investigations](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

[Financial Institutions, Services and Fintech](#)

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

[Technology & Communications](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- **Massmart Holdings**

Successfully acting for Massmart Holdings (part of the Walmart group) in general compliance matters and in relation to a number of horizontal mergers.

- **Harmony Gold**

Advising Harmony Gold Mining Company in its hostile takeover bid for Gold Fields.

- **Independent News and Media**

Successfully defending Independent News and Media against allegations of abuse of dominance.

- **Pioneer Foods**

Acting for Pioneer Foods in investigations into alleged collusion in the bread, maize and wheat industries.

- **Aveng Limited**

Acting for Aveng Limited an GrinakerLTA in regard to Commission investigations into collusion.

- **Coca-Cola Company**

Advising The Coca-Cola Company on compliance throughout Africa and in regard to various major acquisitions and restructures to its bottling system in South Africa and Africa.

- **Investec Bank Limited**

Advising Investec Bank Limited in the restructure of its private equity division and the creation of Investec Equity Partnership (IEP) as well as ongoing advice to IEP (now Bud Group).

- **Sinopec**

Advising Sinopec in regard to its proposed acquisition of Chevron South Africa.

- **Remgro**

Advising Remgro in regard to its acquisition of Unilever's spreads business in South Africa and neighbouring countries.

- **ANZ Bank**

Advising ANZ Bank in regard to ongoing proceedings brought by the Commission against numerous banks alleged to have engaged in foreign exchange collusion.

- **Lonmin Plc and Sibanye-Stillwater**

Advising Lonmin Plc and Sibanye-Stillwater in various matters including Sibanye-Stillwater's acquisition of Lonmin.

- **Major pharmaceutical company**

Advising a major pharmaceutical company in an ongoing excessive pricing investigation and subsequent referral for prosecution.

- **MiXTelematics**

Advising MiXTelematics on dual distribution.

- **Remgro**

Advising on Remgro's acquisition of Vumatel, a major transaction in the fibre-to-the-home and related infrastructure market.

- **Private equity firms**

Advising private equity firms including Brait, Metier, RMB Corvest, Abraaj, Capital Works, PSG Capital, Agile Capital, Stockdale Street and others on various acquisitions impacting South Africa and Africa.

- **Market Inquiries**

Advising various respondents in market inquiries, including the Banking Inquiry, Automotive Parts and Servicing Market Inquiry, Grocery Retail Market Inquiry, Online Intermediary Platform Market Inquiry, Fresh Produce Market Inquiry

News

[Final revised Public Interest Guidelines: Commission doubles down on ownership requirements for mergers](#)

On 20 March 2024, the Competition Commission (Commission) gazetted its final Revised Public Interest Guidelines relating to merger control (PI Guidelines). This followed an initial draft published for comment in October 2023 (see our previous alert on the draft revised PI Guidelines [here](#)).

[Many hands make 'light' work: Draft block exemptions for energy suppliers and users published](#)

With (another) national state of disaster in place since 9 February 2023, on 8 March 2023 the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) published for public comment draft block exemption regulations for energy suppliers and energy users (exemptions). "Suppliers" are any person or firm that supplies energy and related products and services. These include all forms of energy supply, related products (such as inverters or generators), inputs (such as coal) or services (such as storage or installation) in the supply of energy to users. "Users" are any person or firm that uses any form of energy supply.

[Robust intervention recommended in the Commission's preliminary report on the online platform inquiry](#)

On 13 July 2022, the Competition Commission of South Africa (Commission) released for public comment its provisional report (Report) following a 14-month inquiry into the online platforms market (the Inquiry). The document is comprehensive and ambitious in equal measure and reveals the regulator's fervent intention to take meaningful steps to regulate business practice in the digital space.

[Practical considerations when enforcing pledges and cessions of shares](#)

When providing funding to a borrower, lenders will typically require some form of collateral or security as credit support for the funding to be provided. One form that the security can take, is a pledge and cession by the borrower (or by a related party) of the shares that it holds in underlying subsidiaries or investee companies.

[Where there's smoke, there's fire: The Competition Appeal Court clarifies when you have exited bid-rigging cartel](#)

On 10 February 2022, the Competition Appeal Court (CAC) in the case of Cross Fire Management (Pty) Ltd v The Competition Commission of South Africa Cross Fire Management (Pty) CAC Case Nr. 192/CACFeb21 provided some clarity on when a party should be judged to have extricated itself from a bid-rigging cartel.

Videos

[WEBINAR | Competition and Compromise in a Time of Crisis](#)

Our panel of experts discussed Competition and Compromise in a Time of Crisis: COVID-19 and Competition Law Enforcement. Watch the webinar below.

[Chris Charter discusses the implications of the Competition Amendment Act](#)

Director and National Practice Head of Competition, Chris Charter was on eNCA to discuss the implications of the Competition Amendment Act which was signed into law on 13 February 2019, by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

[South Africans paying too much for private healthcare.](#)

Chris Charter, Head of our Competition Practice features on CNBC Africa discussing the topic of South Africans paying too much for private healthcare

[Chris Charter comments on the Massmart complaint](#)

Massmart has launched a complaint with the Competition Commission targeting Pick n Pay, Spar and Shoprite in a bid to end lease exclusivity clauses. Chris Charter, Head of our Competition practice comments.

[Chris Charter on new Competition Commission action against price collusion](#)

Massmart has launched a complaint with the Competition Commission targeting Pick n Pay, Spar and Shoprite in a bid to end lease exclusivity clauses. Chris Charter, Head of our Competition practice comments.

Podcasts

[Competition Commission sets sights on digital and social media platforms](#)

Head of our Competition Law practice, recently joined Gugulethu Mfuphi on KAYA FM to discuss the Competition Commission's focus on digital and social media platforms and their impact on quality news media.

[Chris Charter joins Bruce Whitfield on The Money Show](#)

Head of our Competition Law practice, joined The Money Show with Bruce Whitfield to talk about The Competition Commission sets sights on digital and social media platforms and their effect on quality news media

[Competition Commission inquiry into how digital content consumption is impacted by online platforms](#)

On 17 March, the Competition Commission published the draft Terms of Reference for a market inquiry into the distribution of traditional media content on digital platforms. Chris Charter discusses this with SABC Newsbreak.

[Competition Commissions guidelines the procurement and supply of school uniforms](#)

Chris Charter, Director and Head of the Competition Law practice joined Smile FM to discuss the Competition Commission's guidelines on the markets for the procurement and supply of school uniforms. He explains how the guidelines are expected to foster greater choice for parents and guardians. Schools are encouraged to appoint more than one stockist and to include more generic uniform items

[Chris Charter discusses the Competition Amendment Act](#)

Chris Charter, National Practice Head and Director in the Competition Practice joined Smile 90.4FM to speak about President Cyril Ramaphosa having published a notice in the Government Gazette to immediately bring into force certain of the provisions of the Competition Amendment Act.

[All news by Chris Charter →](#)

Recognition

- **Market recognition**
 - Chambers Global 2019 - 2024 ranks Chris Band 1 in Competition/Antitrust. Between 2015 - 2017 Chris was rated Chris Band 2 and has been ranked since 2012 after being recognized in 2009 and rated as "Up and Coming" in 2011. Chambers Global notes Chris Charter stands out to many commentators for the quality of his practice, his excellent service level and his fast turnaround times . One source added: "I'm always impressed by him."
 - The Legal 500 EMEA 2017 - 2024 recommended Chris as a leading individual for competition.
 - FLR1000 2019–2023 recommended him as a highly regarded lawyer.
 - IFLR1000 2011–2018 recommended Chris as a leading lawyer.
 - Guide to the World's Leading Financial Law Firms 2017 to 2020 named Chris as a highly regarded leading lawyer for Competition.
 - Who's Who Legal - The International Who's Who of Competition Lawyers and Economists 2012 to 2017 lists Chris among the leading Competition lawyers in South Africa. Who's Who Legal listed Chris among Competition Future Leaders 2017.

