

Chris Charter

Practice Head, Director



Chris Charter is a Director and National Head of our Competition practice. Chris' practice covers all aspects of the discipline from merger control to prohibited practices. On the prohibited practices side, bringing and defending complaints, writing opinions, corporate leniency and compliance work are all covered.

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 PriceWaterhouseCoopers London, Chris began his legal career as a Candidate Attorney at Cliffe Dekker (now Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr) in 2001. He became an Associate in 2003 and was promoted to Senior Associate in 2005. In 2007 Chris became a Director.

Credentials

Education

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

Memberships

- Member of the Competition Law Committee of the Council of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces
- Co-Chair of the IBA Working Group on Unilateral Conduct

Experience

Contact Chris

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[Chris on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Competition Law](#)

[Consumer Goods, Services & Retail](#)

[Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring](#)

[Gambling & Regulatory Compliance](#)

[Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade](#)

[Private Equity](#)

[Transport & Logistics](#)

[Corporate & White Collar Investigations](#)

[Financial Institutions, Services and Fintech](#)

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

[Technology & Communications](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- Chris' competition work spans a vast variety of industries, including private equity, telecommunications, construction, banking, mining, airlines, healthcare, grocery wholesale and retail, petroleum, fast moving consumer goods and financial services.
- Chris also has experience in general regulatory matters, including those pertaining to telecommunications and consumer law. Although now specialising in competition law, Chris has a strong background in corporate and commercial law which greatly assists clients in marrying competition law with commercial reality.
- Successfully acting for Massmart Holdings in general compliance matters and in relation to a number of horizontal mergers, including the acquisition of Finro Cash & Carry, which was opposed by the Commission.
- Advising Harmony Gold Mining Company in its hostile takeover bid for Gold Fields.
- Successfully defending Independent News and Media against allegations of abuse of dominance.
- Acting for Pioneer Foods in investigations into alleged collusion in the bread, maize and wheat industries.
- Acting for Aveng Limited and GrinakerLTA in regard to Commission investigations into collusion.
- Advising The Coca-Cola Company on compliance and in regard to various major acquisitions and restructures to its bottling system in South Africa and Africa
- 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.
- Advising Sinopec in regard to its proposed acquisition of Chevron South Africa.
- **Lonmin Plc and Sibanye-Stillwater**
Advising Remgro in regard to its acquisition of Unilever's spreads business in South Africa and neighbouring countries.
- Advising ANZ Bank in regard to proceedings brought by the Commission against numerous banks alleged to have engaged in foreign exchange collusion.
- **MiXTelematics**
Advising Lonmin Plc in various matters including a proposed merger with Sibanye Stillwater.
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Advising a major pharmaceutical company in an excessive pricing investigation.
- 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.

News

[The Competition Commission's New Groove: A Business-Friendly Shift](#)

Practice Head Chris Charter and Directors Albert Aukema and Reece May were recently featured in Ghost Mail, where they discussed: "The Competition Commission's New Groove: A Business-Friendly Shift?"

[Is South African merger control raining on private equity's Dezemba](#)

Chris Charter, Director and Practice Head in the Competition Law practice was recently featured in DealMakersSA - Catalyst Q3 2024 to discuss "Is South African merger control raining on private equity's Dezemba?"

[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.

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

[A balancing act or dangerous imbalance? Discussing the Evolution and Import of the Public Interest Assessment in the Competition Act](#)

The public interest assessment element of merger control has undergone significant transformation since the Competition Act's inception.

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

[All news by Chris Charter →](#)

Recognition

- Chambers Global 2019 - 2025 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 - 2025 recommended Chris as a leading individual for competition.
- FLR1000 2024 has ranked Chris as highly regarded as a leading lawyer in Aviation.
- FLR1000 2019–2023 recommended Chris 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.