

John Webber

Director



John Webber is a Director of our Real Estate practice. He specialises in transactions related to commercial property, development of land and land use conversion, specifically from mining / agricultural to residential or industrial use, and all commercial transactions related thereto. Additionally, John has a long and established commitment to the low cost and affordable housing sector.

About John

John began his career in Bloemfontein before moving to Johannesburg to join EFK Tucker as head of their Conveyancing department. In November 2000 John joined Hofmeyr Herbststein and Gihwala (now Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr) as an Associate, was promoted to Senior Associate in 2001 and became a Director in 2003. John was the National Practice Head for Real Estate during 2017-2020.

Credentials

Education

- Registered with the Legal Practice Council
- BCom, University of the Free State
- LLB, University of South Africa (UNISA)
- Dip (Corporate Law), University of Johannesburg
- Year of admission as an attorney and conveyancer: 1999
- Admission as a notary public: 2007

Experience

- **Establishment of new townships and registration of long term leases**

Involved from the outset of the Waterfall mixed use development, where John attends to the establishment of new townships and all matters relating to the registration of long term leases of both commercial and residential property (in excess of 7000 properties).

- **Establishment of new townships**

Attended to the establishment of in excess of 75 new townships which includes more than 34,000 erven. New township includes all of the townships created in the Waterfall mixed use development in Midrand.

Contact John

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[John on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Real Estate Law](#)

[Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- **City of Johannesburg**

Involved in the transfer of 4,000 residential units from the City of Johannesburg to the current occupants of such rental housing stock in terms of the Regularisation and Transfer of Ownership Programme (RETRO) being run by the City of Johannesburg and the Gauteng Provincial Government: Department of Housing. Involved in the transfer of 2,500 erven in Cosmo City on behalf of the City of Johannesburg and the Cosmo City Joint Venture.

- **Provincial Government**

Acted on behalf of both the Provincial Government: Gauteng and private developers in the delivery of RDP houses and has attended to more than 12,500 transfers to beneficiaries of new houses in terms of the RDP housing subsidy scheme.

- **Energy sector**

Acted for Lephalale Solar (RF) (Pty) Limited in relation to the land issues for its Solar Facility for Exxaro Coal; SolarAfrica Sun Central Holdings (Pty) Limited in relation to its development of a 300MVA solar facility ((over three 100MVA phases); AMEA Power Limited in relation to the land issues for its Doornhoek Solar Facility; and Arcelor Mittal SA Limited in relation to the land issues for its Vanderbijlpark Solar Facility.

- **Developments**

Niche and specialised development and redevelopment of properties across all sectors.

- **Major clients include:**

The Waterfall City Management Company (Pty) Limited, Attacq Limited, Hyprop investments Limited, Investec Property (Pty) Limited, Balwin Properties Limited, TUHF Limited, Context Property Solutions (Pty) Limited, Nedbank CPF (Affordable Housing Division), Rand Leases Properties (Pty) Limited, Equites Property Fund Limited, Century Property Developments (Pty) Limited, Atterbury Property Developments (Pty) Limited, Johannesburg Financial Securities (Pty) Limited group and its subsidiaries, the Cosmo City Joint Venture, the Gauteng Provincial Government: Department of Human Settlements and the Gauteng Partnership Fund.

News

[How Waterfall City offers a glimpse into the future of long-term leases in South Africa](#)

Long-term leases play a crucial role in providing an alternative, secure land tenure option in the real estate landscape; offering stability and a sense of security for both landlords and tenants. In South Africa, the concept of long-term leases has evolved, with innovative models such as reinstating long-term leases gaining prominence.

[Where do we stand on sale of immovable property agreements signed electronically?](#)

Electronic signatures have become a topic of broad and current interest. The legal stance on the validity of the use of electronic signatures in the context of sale of property agreements was clear in the past. The recent case of *Borchers and Another v Duxbury and Others* (1522/2020) ZACPEHC 37 (22 September 2020) heard by the Eastern Cape High Court has created a degree of uncertainty regarding the use of electronic signatures in the context of sale of immovable property agreements.

[Registrations during lockdown – the practical implications](#)

The government has implemented a phased risk-adjusted strategy aimed at easing the current lockdown restrictions in the form of Alert Levels, a term defined in the regulations (the Regulations) issued in terms of section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002. Chapter 3 of the Regulations states that as of 1 May 2020, Alert Level 4 is applicable in South Africa and will remain in force up to the declaration of different Alert Levels for the duration of the National State of Disaster. At Alert Level 4, the operation of the office of the Registrar of Deeds (the Deeds Office) is classified as a "permitted service", which is defined as a service listed in Table 1 of the Regulations.

[Domestic staff residing in Sectional Title Complexes and “working from home” during lockdown](#)

On 14 April 2020, CDH published an alert on the Use of common property during lockdown. As a follow-on discussion from the aforementioned publication, this article deals with the permissibility of a “work from home” arrangement for domestic staff who ordinarily reside in staff living quarters which could either form part of a sectional title unit or be allocated to a sectional title unit as an exclusive use area for purposes of staff living quarters. We will accordingly address this from both a property and employment perspective and express a view that will be applicable until further amendments are made to the current lockdown regulations.

[Use of common property during lockdown](#)

Residents of sectional title schemes have been left with a degree of uncertainty as to whether they are to remain confined to their sections or whether the use of common property and/or exclusive use areas are permissible during the lockdown period. In order to answer, what may seem like a simple question, it is necessary to understand the context that we find ourselves in.

Podcasts

[The long term lease](#)

Kirsty de Sousa conducts an insightful conversation with Real Estate Law expert, John Webber where he answers a few questions and helps explain what a long-term lease is, how it is created, the ability to finance such acquisition and the general expectation of lessees in such a property developments.

[All news by John Webber →](#)

Recognition

- Legal 500 EMEA
 - Chambers Global 2024 ranked John Webber in Band 1 for real estate.
 - Chambers Global 2021–2023 ranked John in Band 2 for real estate and in Band 3 in 2019–2020.
 - The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2024 recommended him as a leading individual for real estate.