

Deon Wilken

Director



Deon Wilken is a Director in our Banking, Finance & Projects practice. He is a finance and banking law specialist with several years of banking and finance law experience. Deon has assisted numerous financiers and borrowers in debt raising transactions in the project, export and acquisition finance fields. Deon's other areas of expertise are Financial Markets & Securities Law and Banking Law and Credit Law.

About Deon

Deon began his career at Adams & Adams as a Candidate Attorney in 1998 in the Commercial and Tax department. In 1999, Deon moved to Cliffe Dekker Fuller Moore. He was made an Associate in 2000. Deon was promoted to Senior Associate in 2001. In 2003, Deon was made a Director at Cliffe Dekker Inc, now Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr in 2008.

Credentials

Education

- BA (Law) LLB LLM (Commercial and Tax), University of Stellenbosch
- Year of admission as an attorney: 2000
- Registered with the Legal Practice Council

Experience

• Refinancing

Represented the BEE Shareholder in refinancing its DFI facilities with inflation linked debt in the R150 million Kalkbult Solar Project. Advising the BEE Shareholder on the sale of its interests in 2 other REIPPP round 1 solar parks.

• Lender

Advised the Lender to a R100 million water pipe production facility project financed, in Rustenburg.

• Project financings

Represented a broad range of sponsors and banks in syndicated project financings for several of the renewable energy projects in South Africa's independent power producers programme.

Contact Deon

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[Deon on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Banking, Finance & Projects](#)

[Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring](#)

[Debt Capital Markets](#)

[Financial Services](#)

[Private Equity](#)

[Mining & Minerals](#)

[Technology & Communications](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- **Solar park**

Deon also worked on a refinancing of a REIPPP round 1 concentrated PV solar park in the Western Cape (bond refinancing).

- **5MW solar PV plant**

Advised Senior Lender to 5MW solar PV plant under the Namibian feed in tariff scheme.

- **Construction of a 38MW gas fired power plant**

Deon advised the Lenders to a project financing for the construction of a 38MW gas fired power plant in Mozambique and the ZAR 200 million upgrade of the gas pressure reduction station.

- **Advised Lenders**

Deon advised Lenders on R105 million project financed Energy Recovery Plant utilising process water from mining activities passed through an Organic Rankine Cycle Plant to generate electrical power.

- **Lonmin**

Advised Lonmin on its USD800 million equity recapitalisation and full debt refinancing and restructuring in 2012 and 2015

- **Atlatsa Resources**

Advised Atlatsa Resources on ZAR2,3 billion debt restructuring with Anglo Platinum

- **Sephaku Cement**

Advised Sephaku Cement, the first domestic entrant into South Africa's cement market in more than 70 years, in its ZAR1.95bn debt funding for its R3.4bn project financed cement plant and grinding facility project near Delmas, South Africa

News

[In duplum and restructurings](#)

The in duplum rule is a longstanding principle in South African law that limits the amount of interest a lender can recover from a borrower in default. Its impact is significant, especially in the context of loan restructurings and amendments where a borrower is in default of scheduled capital and interest payments.

[Sustainable finances vs green loans: Key differences to look out for](#)

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) is not a new concept in South Africa but has of late become something of a buzzword, with funders and governments alike making a shift towards a more environmentally sustainable way of investing.

[Chambers Global Practice Guides - Fintech - Trends and Developments - South Africa 2018](#)

Deon Wilken authored the South Africa FinTech chapter for Chambers Global 2018.

[Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr rankings in Chambers Global 2014](#)

[Finance and Banking Matters](#)

[All news by Deon Wilken →](#)

Recognition

- Chambers Global

- Chambers Global 2021–2024 ranked Deon Wilken in Band 3 for banking & finance.
- Chambers Global 2025 ranked Deon Wilken in Band 4 for banking & finance.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2013–2023 recommended him for banking & finance.
- IFLR1000 2024 regarded Deon as a leading lawyer Project Development, and Capital markets: Debt.
- IFLR1000 2018–2023 recommended Deon as a highly regarded lawyer for capital markets: debt, energy and infrastructure, and for project finance.