



Verushca Pillay

Director

Verushca Pillay is a Director in our Corporate & Commercial practice. She has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, black economic empowerment (BEE), and general corporate and commercial matters. Verushca has been in practice for many years and has been a director with the firm since 2007.


Practice areas


Corporate & Commercial


Sectors


Private Equity
Black Economic Empowerment (BEE)
Mergers & Acquisitions
The Companies Act
Mining & Minerals
Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing
Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade

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Career

Verushca began her career as a candidate attorney at Hofmeyr Herbstein and Gihwala in 2000 and was appointed as a senior associate in the corporate and commercial practice at that firm in 2005. In 2006, she joined Anglo American Zimele Limited as their legal advisor, and subsequently joined Cliffe Dekker as a senior associate. In 2007, Verushca became a director. Cliffe Dekker and Hofmeyr Herbstein and Gihwala merged to form Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr in 2008.

Experience

- Advising on merger and acquisition transactions, drafting and negotiating transaction agreements.
- Advising on BEE legislation, including the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Codes of Good Practice, Sector Codes, and the Mining Charter.
- Drafting and negotiating agreements relating to the implementation of BEE ownership transactions.
- Registration of BEE transactions with BEE Commission.
- Advising on BEE complaint matters referred to the BEE Commission



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M&A and other Transactional Work

- Advising Denham Capital and BioTherm Energy on the disposal of its Round 4 REIPPP investments and its African renewable energy platform to Actis.
- Advising Denham Capital and BioTherm Energy on the disposal of its Round 1 REIPPP investments to Sun Edison / Terraform Global
- Advising Denham Capital and BioTherm Energy on the equity agreements necessary to achieve Round 4 financial close in respect of all their Round 4 projects.
- Advised ADvTECH Group Limited on the acquisition of Monash South Africa.
- Advising ADvTECH Group Limited on the acquisition of the Centurus Group of schools with an estimated value of R1 billion.
- Advising ADvTECH Group Limited on the acquisition of the Maragon group of schools with an estimated value of R450 million.
- Advised ADvTECH Group Limited on the establishment of its Mauritius-based investment company for housing its education investments in African countries outside South Africa, and on the establishment of a Mauritius-based joint venture.
- Advised ADvTECH Group Limited regarding its acquisition of a 51% stake in the University of Africa in Zambia.
- Advising ADvTECH Group Limited on the subscription by IFC for shares in ADvTECH;
- Advising ADvTECH Group Limited on the acquisition of Glenwood House.
- Advising PAPE Fund Managers on the acquisition of a controlling interest in Angelo Kater Motor Trimmer.
- Advising PAPE Fund Managers on the acquisition of a controlling interest in DDS.
- Advising PAPE Fund Managers on the acquisition of shares in Singular Systems.
- Advising Malani Padayachee & Associates on its acquisition of Mott MacDonald Africa.
- Advising The Coca-Cola Company on the creation of an African bottling company with SABMiller and Gutsche Family Investments with an estimated value of \$3 billion, and on the subsequent exit of SABMiller as controlling shareholder of the newly formed bottling company.
- Advising BioTherm Energy on the acquisition of Perdekraal West renewable energy project.
- Advising Petmin Limited on the scheme of arrangement and general offer by Capitalworks to acquire Petmin;
- Advising Goldrush Group on the restructuring and consolidation of its various gaming assets under a single holding company.
- Advising Independent Newspapers plc on the disposal of Independent Newspapers South Africa.
- Advising FedEx Corporation on the acquisition of the FedEx business in Africa.



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- Advising Pfizer Laboratories on the disposal of its nutritional business to Nestle South Africa.
- Advising Pfizer Laboratories on the restructuring of its South African animal health business.
- Advising BEE Holdco, the BEE partner of Richards Bay Minerals (majority owned by Rio Tinto) on the acquisition of a 26% stake in Richards Bay Minerals, and the subsequent restructuring of thereof (in 2009 and 2015)
- Advising Acciona Energia Internacional SA on the acquisition of a majority stake in 2 solar and 2 wind energy projects from Aveng Africa.
- Advising General Electric on the disposal of certain wind energy projects to Biotherm Energy.
- Advising The Coca-Cola Company on the acquisition by its subsidiary, Waveside, of the Valpre bottling plant from South African Breweries Limited, acting through ABI, its soft drinks division.

BEE work

- Advising on BEE-related matters and the establishment of a new Vodacom employee share scheme in relation to Vodacom Group Limited's 2018 US\$1.2 billion Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) deal, in terms of which the shareholders in Vodacom's 2008 BEE deal reinvested their equity in Vodacom (Proprietary) Limited into Vodacom Group Limited for a further 10-year BEE deal.
- Advising Seche South Africa and its subsidiary, Interwaste, on various BEE transactions.
- Advising Libstar regarding a BEE transaction.
- Advising Black & Veatch, a US multinational, on the creation of a BEE ownership structure for its South African operations.
- Advising Hitachi Construction Machinery South Africa on the creation of a BEE ownership structure.
- Advising Bombardier Transportation on the creation of a BEE ownership structure for its South African operations.
- Advising Avanade Inc, an ICT sector multinational, on the creation of a BEE ownership structure for its South African operations.
- Advising RMB Ventures on the establishment of BEE private equity funds.
- Advising Accenture South Africa on amendments to its BEE ownership structure.
- Advising Columbus McKinnon, a US multinational, on the creation of a suitable BEE ownership structure.
- Advising HCL Axon, an ICT sector multinational, on the creation of a BEE ownership structure.
- Advising Wipro, an ICT sector multinational, on the creation of a BEE ownership structure.
- Advising Pan-African Private Equity Fund, a BEE private equity fund, and its fund manager, on the establishment of three private equity funds and the making of BEE investments.
- Advising Goldrush Group on the creation of an employee and broad-based ownership scheme and the acquisition by that scheme of a stake in Goldrush Group.



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- Advising KBR, a US multinational, on the creation of a BEE ownership structure for its subsidiary, Kellogg Brown and Root South Africa.

Market Recognition

- Legal 500 EMEA 2018 recommended Verushca in Commercial, Corporate/M&A.
- The IFLR1000 2019 and 2020 recommended Verushca as a notable practitioner in M&A.

Education

- Registered with the Legal Practice Council
- BA (Honours), University of KwaZulu-Natal
- LLB, University of KwaZulu-Natal
- LLM (Corporate Law), University of Johannesburg
- LLM (Tax), University of the Witwatersrand
- Year of admission as an attorney: 2002

Languages

English