



From vision to fruition

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr

Partner with the firm whose absolute focus is on the job at hand. From our expansion into Africa to our ventures that have cemented our position as leaders in corporate and commercial law, we have done all of this for one reason, for one purpose: our clients. To give them the best legal advice for every aspect of their business.

"The firm has the in-depth knowledge, skills and expertise to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

"Cliffe Dekker's turnaround time was great. They maintained open communication and the quality of output was high."

"All the team members are able to negotiate through complex transactions and regulatory frameworks and provide sound legal support."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2025

"CDH has a wide variety of expertise and is a one stop shop for all your legal needs."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025



An overview of our law firm

At Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (CDH) we believe the right partnership can lead to great things.

The partnerships we cherish and value most are those we have forged through time and experience with our clients and, of course, our people. We are a full service corporate and commercial law firm and provide experienced support wherever in the world you conduct business.

We offer an authentic knowledge-based and cost-effective service for clients looking to do business in Africa. Our Africa practice brings together the resources and expertise of leading business law firms across the continent. With first hand, in-depth experience, our Africa lawyers offer sector-specific insights and knowledge of regulatory nuances to provide an exceptional integrated service.

Whatever the scope of your transaction, we offer a depth of skills and experience to support your day-to-day business needs and long-term strategies.

Our structure suits many clients that operate on a national, African, and global basis. We are able to project manage complex cross-border activity and offer a seamless experience through a single point of contact with a trusted CDH adviser who understands your business and strategic objectives.

Why us?

CDH is strongly positioned to serve your legal needs. Our team, together with our partner law firms on the continent have direct experience acting for governments, state agencies and multinational private organisations across the continent.

With first hand, in-depth experience, CDH is able to offer sector-specific expertise and knowledge of regulatory nuances to provide an exceptional integrated service across Africa.

This includes:

- A proven track record and deal experience across multiple jurisdictions in Africa
- A practical and commercial approach
- A multi-disciplinary team of lawyers managed from a single point
- Extensive sector experience
- Substantial and established alliances with African firms
- A dedicated, partner-led team and a cost-effective service at locally competitive billing rates



Our Nairobi office, Kieti Law LLP,

is a leading Kenyan law firm that provides personalised legal services of the highest quality in key specialist areas of practice.



Our Namibian office, Barendse Inc

with specialised expertise, provides high-quality legal services to clients, based on a resolute commitment to excellence and client centricity.

Our lawyers have been involved in market leading transactions including advising on banking, finance and projects matters, corporate and commercial transactions, employment law, capital markets, project finance, environmental law and energy and intellectual property in a wide range for sectors.

Our overarching goal is to provide seamless legal services in East and Southern Africa through these offices so as to enable our worldwide clients to harness the vast opportunities for sustainable investment that lie within that region of the continent and beyond.



Our African reach

Overview

Doing business in Africa offers unique opportunities and challenges, and with this comes a need to understand the cultural, economic and political nuances that exist across the vast continent. CDH provides experienced legal support and an authentic knowledge-based and cost-effective legal services for clients looking to do business in key markets across Africa.

Professional resources and extensive African experience

Our market leading teams comprise of highly trained resources with the experience of managing matters in collaboration with leading African law firms. This approach ensures we can operate at a local level, in local languages, while offering a seamless service across multiple jurisdictions.

Our team operates on a geographical and sector approach, the latter ensuring clients receive not only local, regional and international best practice but also advice that is saturated in a deep understanding of the sector issues.

Our firm's methodology

Our unique practice approach and established relationships with firms in various jurisdictions gives you an instant network of law firms across the African continent. This ensures that the reality of the Global Village is brought closer home.

Whether you need delivery in a single location or seamless coordination across a number of jurisdictions, you can rely on receiving the right service for a particular matter or a range of matters – quickly, efficiently, cost effectively and with authentic knowledge of local and international considerations.

We are able to assist clients in the following countries:



Algeria



Angola



Benin



Botswana



Burkina
Faso



Burundi



Cameroon



Cape Verde



Central African
Republic



Democratic
Republic of
Congo



Djibouti



Egypt



Equatorial
Guinea



Ethiopia



Ghana



Gabon



Gambia



Guinea



Kenya



Lesotho



Liberia



Madagascar



Malawi



Mali



Mauritius



Morocco



Mozambique



Namibia



Niger



Nigeria



Rwanda



Senegal



Seychelles



Sierra
Leone



Sudan



Swaziland



Tanzania



Togo



Tunisia



Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe



Our clients

We support our clients' strategic and operational needs by offering innovative, integrated and high quality legal advice across our full range of legal services, tailored to their requirements.

We have the depth of skills to respond to our clients' business operations locally, across Africa or anywhere else in the world.

Our range of clients includes national and international enterprises, listed and unlisted companies, major brands and multinationals across a wide range of sectors, and emerging businesses with industry-leading technologies.

We have a strong public sector client base, which includes government departments at all levels, and state-owned enterprises.

"The team's strength lies in the quality of its advice, and the continuous support offered to clients."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025

"They listen to your problems and make various suggestions to reach the correct conclusion or corrective actions."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2024

"Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr is able to provide timely, commercial advice, guidance and support."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

"The firm has an excellent team that adopts a pragmatic approach."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2025

Our service capability

As a full service commercial law firm we provide a complete range of legal services through our core practice areas:



Banking, Finance & Projects

CDH has one of the top banking, finance and projects teams in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia. Our excellent technical understanding is coupled with practical expertise and a strong commercial focus.

Our banking, finance and projects services and advice cover debt capital markets, project finance, public-private partnerships (PPPs), commodity trade finance, acquisition finance, general banking and investment structures, and pension and employee benefits.



Competition Law

Our Competition Law practice has a proven track record of providing strategic advice and practical solutions to competition law issues for clients with business interests in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia.

Our competition law services and advice cover aspects of the Competition Act, ensuring compliance through tailored audits, best practice and training, preparing merger notification documents, guiding clients through opposed merger investigation proceedings and hearings, advising in cartel enforcement proceedings, and all aspects of the competition law.



Corporate & Commercial Law

We offer in-depth experience across a range of commercial sectors, combining legal expertise and market knowledge with a thorough understanding of our clients' businesses to deliver advice that is both pragmatic and cost effective.

Our corporate and commercial services and advice cover coordination of complex transactions, dealings with regulatory requirements, advising on tax matters, managing due diligence investigations and preparing all required documentation.



Dispute Resolution

Our Dispute Resolution team offers a complete dispute resolution service. Our lawyers work together with clients to identify and execute the most advantageous business-oriented solutions, either by pursuing or defending arbitration or litigation proceedings, or through alternative methods, such as mediation.

Our dispute resolution law services and advice cover dispute resolution and opinion work across a range of specialisations, some of which include contentious banking and finance matters, class or group actions, commercial disputes of all kinds, liability and risk issues, business rescue, restructuring and insolvency, corporate fraud forensic investigations, a wide range of insurance disputes, cross-border disputes and product liability.



Employment Law

Employment law has become increasingly complex with greater legislative intervention. We help our clients keep abreast of changes and avoid the costly financial and relational consequences of non-compliance.

Our employment law services and advice cover dispute resolution, consulting. Industry expertise, training, drafting, alternative dispute resolution and collective bargaining, public law, auditing, occupational health & safety, due diligence, corporate immigration, employee benefits, companies act and immigration law.



Environmental Law

Our practice has extensive experience in all aspects of environmental legislation and we advise clients from a myriad of industries and across both the private and public sector.

Our environmental law services cover the permitting, compliance, enforcement, due diligence investigation, deal advice, administrative appeals and review proceedings in relation to: mining and mineral reprocessing, energy project developments, including nuclear, renewable, thermal, coal and LPG, climate change and carbon regulation, biodiversity and conservation, including bioprospecting, biodiversity offsets and protected areas, pollution and contamination, and all aspects of environmental law.



Our service capability...continued



Pro Bono & Human Rights

Our Pro Bono & Human Rights team contributes to solving South Africa's developmental challenges by promoting constitutional values and facilitating access to justice for the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Our pro bono and human rights services cover a range of free legal services to individuals, non-profit organisations and other entities engaged in human rights or public interest work. These services include advice and litigation services for vulnerable individuals, public interest litigation, education on the South African legal system, constitutional law and refugee law.



Real Estate Law

Real Estate has been a mainstay of Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's practice for more than 150 years. Our Real Estate team is known for consistently offering our corporate and private clients incisive and practical legal expertise.

Our real estate services cover bonds, transfers, township planning, sectional titles, property developments, property financing, subdivisions and consolidations as well as green energy development initiatives. We act for businesses and private individuals, and our comprehensive real estate services include commercial property agreements, commercial and property structuring, due diligence investigations, land use rights, leases, mortgaged bonds, notarial work, and all aspects of real estate law.



Trusts & Estates

CDH offers a proactive approach to trust and estate administration. First and foremost, we listen to our clients and work closely with them to develop their long-term personal and family financial goals.

Our trusts & estates services cover estate planning, antenuptial contracts, formation and registration of inter vivos trusts, wills, testamentary trusts, estate administration, trust governance and administration, contentious estates and curatorship applications and administration.



Tax & Exchange Control

In the complex and highly regulated tax environment, our specialist tax lawyers and practitioners provide clear and practical business solutions.

Our tax and exchange services and advice cover tax advice on all business activities. Our services include tax training, advance tax rulings, voluntary disclosure programmes, tax management, tax dispute resolution, independent tax reviews and tax due diligence, international tax advisory, exchange control, indirect tax consulting, customs and excise and value-added tax.



Sector Specialisms

The large scale of the firm allows our lawyers to specialise in their particular fields of law. When a client matter requires broad-based legal services, we draw on the skills of lawyers from across different practice areas who work as a team to provide a fully integrated and seamless service. We have dedicated practice and sector teams consisting of partners and lawyers with a wealth of experience in a wide range of industries.

Our sector specialism includes:



Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing

Our lawyers in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia understand the commercial drivers and shifting regulatory landscape and concerns around sustainable food security, and we provide practical and commercial advice to help our clients achieve their business objectives.

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Sector Head:

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Commercial Real Estate

Our lawyers are skilled and experienced in commercial real estate, and incorporate the expertise of other practice areas such as the Tax & Exchange Control practice; as well as Competition Law; Banking, Finance & Projects; Corporate & Commercial and Real Estate Law practices.

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Construction & Engineering

Our lawyers are dedicated and experienced in construction and engineering, and provide legal and commercial solutions that add value to any project from the concept phase and throughout construction. In the event that disputes arise, our team will ensure that your rights are properly protected.

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Sector Specialisms...continued



Consumer Goods, Services & Retail

Our lawyers have extensive experience in the consumer goods, services and retail sector. We understand how the industry is being regulated and provide expert advice that is supported by a keen understanding of developing trends.

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Consumer Goods, Services & Retail

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Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring

Our lawyers in the Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring sector have deep experience in supporting companies, wherever they may find themselves along the distress and recovery curve. We also act for and support the stakeholders (particularly shareholders, investors, creditors, employees and regulators) of these companies.

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Government and State-Owned Entities

Our lawyers draw on the wealth of experience from across our firm to advise our clients on public law matters and we provide clear, concise and actionable solutions. We have the experience and practical capability to deliver the required legal services on time and on budget and understand the issues and can assist in your decision making.

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"Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr handles the biggest matters with ease."

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Sector Specialisms...continued



Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

Our lawyers have in-depth knowledge of the policy and legal issues that impact the Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals sector. Our extensive track record allows us to deliver quality advice to help our clients realise their strategic aims.

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Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade

Our lawyers in the industrials, manufacturing and trade sector are strategically positioned to provide clients with support to navigate international, regional and domestic policy and legal nuances to tap into the African market.

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Mining & Minerals

Our lawyers in the mining and minerals sector are solution-driven, dynamic and able to offer a full range of legal services to support clients that work in this sector. Mining and minerals laws in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia are both legally and administratively complex.

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Sector Specialisms...continued



Oil & Gas

Our lawyers have substantial legal expertise in the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors. We advise major independent oil companies, national oil companies, service providers and regulatory authorities across the oil and gas value chain and in multiple jurisdictions.

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Projects & Energy

Our lawyers have experience across a broad spectrum of project related matters. We have been extensively involved in infrastructure and project finance, public private partnerships and energy projects in Southern Africa and across the African continent. Our expertise has grown in tandem with the need for infrastructure improvements in Africa and the heightened global focus on the continent as an investment destination.

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"The lawyers immerse themselves in understanding the business; over time they become a partner to the business, so it is more like a partnership relationship."

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Sector Specialisms...continued



Technology & Communications

Our lawyers can offer you advice on a wide range of functions and sector-related issues including: ICT infrastructure; software licensing, distribution, integration and development; services integration and aggregation; contract management; off-shoring; procurement; business processing; technology turnkey solutions; e-commerce; software and technology-related intellectual property issues; data privacy; cloud service solutions; and information security.

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Private Equity

Our lawyers work seamlessly, as an integrated unit, with skilled corporate, finance and tax lawyers and chartered accountants from the firm's various practice areas. With one of the largest private equity teams, we have a full-service offering in South Africa and the sub-Saharan region, with a depth of skill and extensive experience in all prominent sectors attractive to private equity investors in Africa.

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Value added services

We offer

- A partner-led approach, ensuring a high-level experience
- Pragmatic and commercially-focused solutions for each matter
- Efficient and quality delivery
- Seminars, newsletters and regular email alerts

We emphasise

- Sharing, applying and managing knowledge assets
- Empowering our clients through continuous skills training
- Keeping clients informed about proposed legislation and regulation developments

Diversity

We value diversity, respect for the individual and equal opportunity. Transformation is considered the shared responsibility of everyone in our firm. We take pride in the ongoing initiatives and measures that are in progress to ensure we achieve our greater transformation aspirations.

Corporate responsibility

It is our belief that we have a responsibility to look after the communities in which we operate through pro bono and volunteer work. Our dedicated Pro Bono & Human Rights practice facilitates access to justice for the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

[Click here to read our 2024
"Making an Impact" newsletter](#)



"It is their attention to detail and commitment to getting the job done that I admire most. Nothing is ever too big to attend to."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025

MARKET RECOGNITION



Chambers Global 2025 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr](#) among the leading South African law firms with 38 partners recognised as leaders in their fields of expertise, and 27 areas highly ranked. [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr](#) was also awarded a 'Spotlight Table' for its International & Cross-Border and Private Equity capabilities.

Chambers Fintech 2025 ranked our Fintech sector in Band 2.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr](#) in 14 practice areas across South Africa and Kenya. It ranked 10 partners on the elite 'Leading Individuals' list and mentioned an additional 71 partners. In addition, *Legal 500 EMEA 2025* ranked our Kenyan practice in Tier 2 for banking, finance & capital markets, and in Tier 3 for corporate, commercial/M&A, as well as employment.

IFLR1000 2017–2024 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr South Africa](#) in Tier 1 for M&A.

IFLR1000 2023 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr South Africa](#) in Tier 1 for project development: infrastructure, and in Tier Two in 2022 and 2024.

IFLR1000 2022–2024 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr South Africa](#) in Tier 2 for banking, for project finance, and for capital markets: debt and equity.

IFLR1000 2023 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Kenya](#) in Tier 3 for M&A.

IFLR1000 2023 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Kenya](#) in Tier 4 for banking.

IFLR1000 2022 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Kenya](#) in Tier 3 for banking.

IFLR1000 2021 ranked [Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Kenya](#) as notable in financial and corporate. Our banking, capital markets: equity; project development: energy; project development: finance, and project development: mining were ranked in Tier 2 in 2022–2024. *IFLR1000 2021* ranked CDH in Tier 3 for project development: oil and gas.

MARKET RECOGNITION...continued

Banking, Finance & Projects

The Legal 500 EMEA 2009–2025 recommended us in Tier 2 for banking & finance. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2025* recommended our Kenya Banking, Finance & Projects practice in Tier 2, and Tier 3 for 2022–2024. *IFLR1000 2017–2024* ranked our practice in Tier 2 for banking.

Competition Law

Chambers Global 2011–2025 ranked our Competition Law practice in Band 2 for competition/antitrust. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2011–2025* recommended us in Tier 2 for competition.

Corporate & Commercial

Chambers Global 2015–2025 ranked our practice in Band 1 for corporate/M&A. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2018–2025* recommended us as Tier 1 in commercial, corporate/M&A. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2025* recommended our Kenya commercial, corporate/M&A practice in Tier 3.

Dispute Resolution

Chambers Africa Awards 2025 ranked us 'South African Full-Service Law Firm of the Year' for Dispute Resolution. *Chambers Global 2022–2025* ranked us in Band 2 for dispute resolution. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2017–2025* recommended us in Tier 1 for dispute resolution.

Employment Law

Chambers Global 2025 ranked our Employment Law practice in Band 1 for employment and from 2014–2024 in Band 2. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2020–2024* recommended the South African practice in Tier 1. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2023–2025* recommended the Kenyan practice in Tier 3 for employment.

Environmental Law

Chambers Global 2021–2025 ranked our Environment Law practice in Band 3 for environment.

Pro Bono & Human Rights

Chambers Global 2025 ranked our Administrative & Public Law team in Band 2 and from 2021–2024 in Band 3.

Real Estate Law

Chambers Global 2017–2025 ranked us in Band 1 for real estate. *Legal 500 EMEA 2014–2025* recommended us in Tier 1 for real estate.

Tax & Exchange Control

Chambers Global 2018–2025 ranked our Tax & Exchange Control practice in Band 1 for tax. *Chambers Global 2011–2017* ranked our Tax & Exchange Control practice in Band 2 for tax. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2023–2025* recommended us in Tier 1, and Tier 2 in 2009–2022 for tax.

Trusts & Estates

Chambers Global 2024 ranked our Trusts & Estates practice in Band 1.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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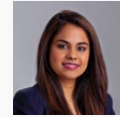
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OUR PRACTICE AREA TEAM

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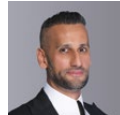
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Our BBBEE verification is one of several components of our transformation strategy and we continue to seek ways of improving it in a meaningful manner.

PLEASE NOTE

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