

CLIFFE DEKKER HOFMEYR

From vision to fruition.

PARTNERSHIP IS PART OF OUR DNA, THE
FOUNDATION OF HOW WE DO BUSINESS.





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

"The firm had a strong grasp of both the law and the practical pitfalls related to the implementation of our transaction."

"The lawyers understand the complexity of issues very well and take the time to understand what our questions are."

"The team offered excellent responsiveness, pragmatism and business judgement."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

"The team is absolutely professional and thorough. They are well versed with construction-related legislation and litigation pros and cons and will guide you with excellent insight through both so that you are able to make an informed decision."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2023

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 pan-African practice, with offices in Nairobi and South Africa, brings together the resources and expertise of leading business law firms across the continent. With first hand, in-depth experience, our 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 and international 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?

Doing business across Africa offers unique opportunities and challenges, and with these come a need to understand the cultural, economic and political nuances that exist across the vast continent.

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

With first hand, in-depth experience, we can offer sector-specific expertise and knowledge of regulatory nuances to provide an exceptional integrated service across the continent.

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

The team of lawyers in Kenya have been involved in market leading transactions including advising on banking and finance matters, corporate and commercial transactions, employment law, capital markets, project finance,

environmental law and energy, tax & exchange control, and intellectual property in a wide range for sectors.

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



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.

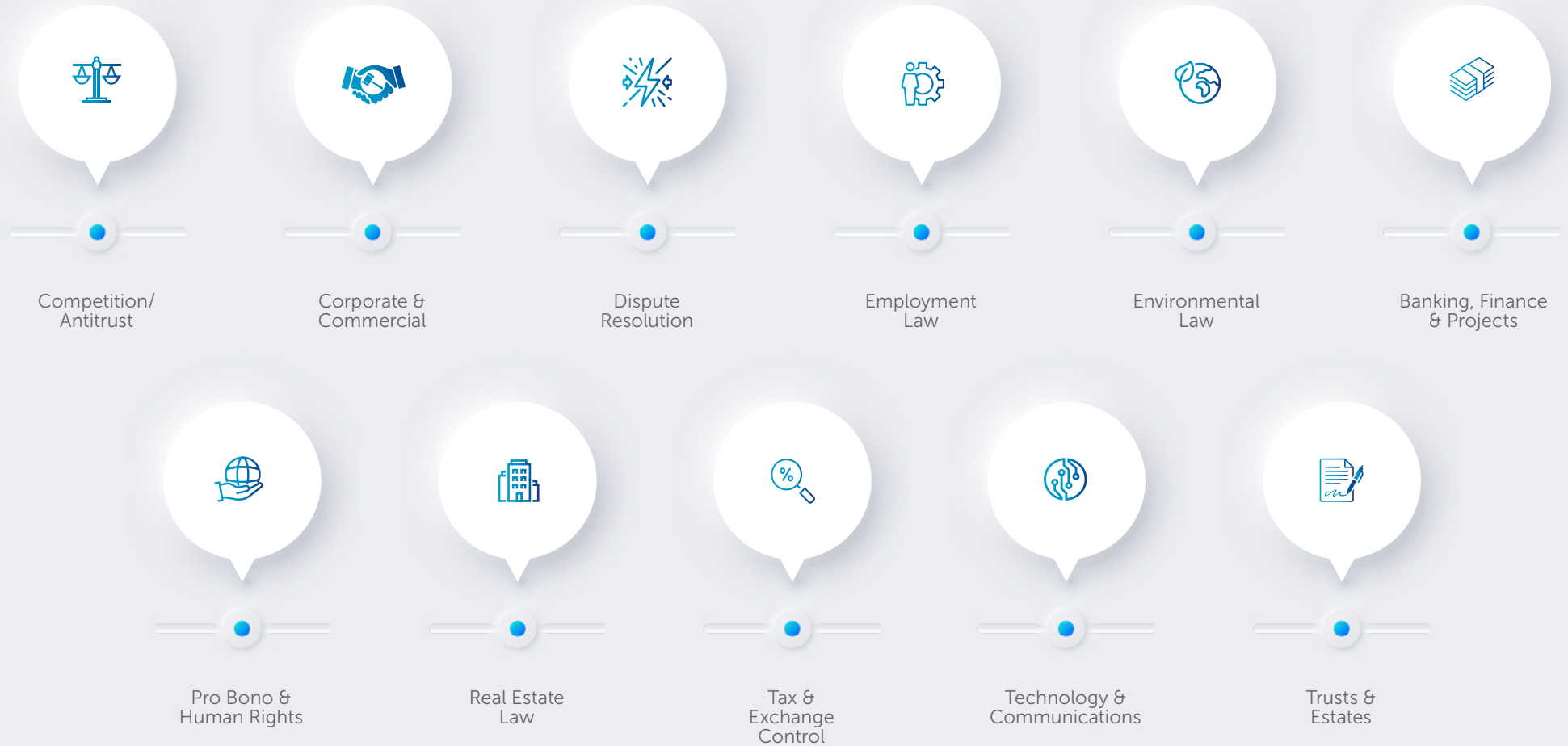


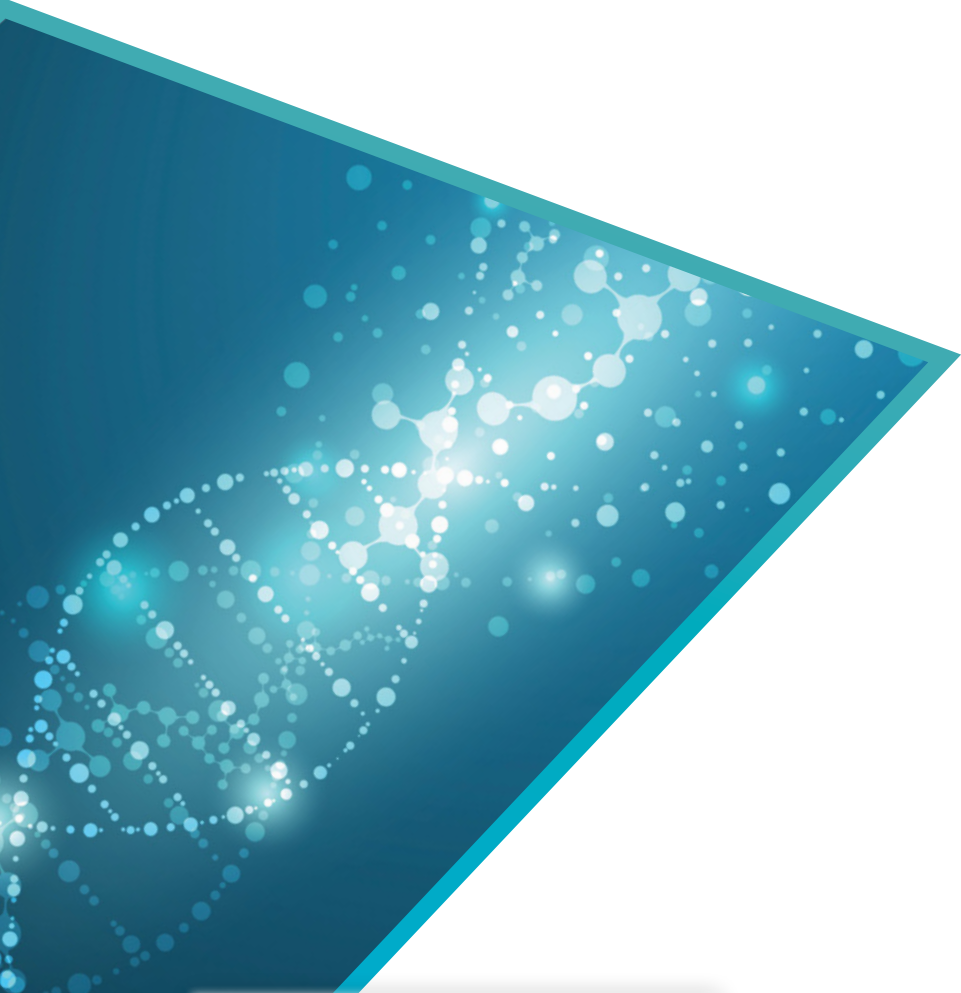
"They are well placed to handle cross-border matters. Outside of Africa, they have a good footprint."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

OUR SERVICE CAPABILITY

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





Our firm encourages 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 experts with a wealth of experience in a wide range of industries.

Our sector specialism includes:

- Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing
- Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring
- Commercial Real Estate
- Consumer Goods, Services & Retail
- Energy & Power
- Financial Institutions, Services & Fintech
- Gambling & Regulatory Compliance
- Government & State-owned Entities
- Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
- Hospitality & Leisure
- Industrials, Manufacturing & Trading
- Infrastructure, Transport & Logistics
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Mining & Minerals
- Oil & Gas
- Private Equity
- Technology & Communications

The team at CDH is noted as *"always being mindful of the commercial outcomes that are our priority in any given transaction."*

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2023

The team at CDH is noted as *"top-tier in terms of quality of attorneys and service."*

Other sources note the group's *"grasp of commercial issues"* and *"anticipation of legal issues and risks,"* saying: *"They are very practical and provide astute legal advice."*

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2022

VALUE ADDED SERVICES

WE OFFER

- A partner-led approach, ensuring a high-level of 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.

"While the firm is big and the practice supports a number of clients, they manage to make you feel like you are getting their individual and undivided attention. This generates trust in the advice provided and fosters an enabling working environment."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2022



Sammy Ndolo

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Sammy Ndolo is the Kenya Managing Partner, and a Partner in our Corporate & Commercial and Banking, Finance & Projects practice areas.

He has expertise in mergers & acquisitions, corporate law and finance. Sammy has been involved in market leading transactions for more than 12 years. His experience extends to public and private M&A, as well as cross border transactions.

He is recommended as a top lawyer by international legal directories such as Legal 500 and Chambers Global where he is ranked in the corporate/commercial and banking and finance categories. IFLR1000 2021 recognised Sammy as a notable practitioner.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- International Bar Association

Practice areas

- Competition Law
- Corporate & Commercial
- Banking, Finance & Projects
- Real Estate Law
- Tax & Exchange control

Sectors

- Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring
- Energy
- Government and State-Owned Entities
- Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
- Infrastructure, Transport & Logistics
- Private Equity



Clarice Wambua

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Clarice Wambua is a Consultant in Environmental Law, and Pro Bono & Human Rights practice areas. In addition, she is also Partner in CDH's Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing, Energy, and Mining & Minerals sectors.

She has acquired extensive knowledge and experience in climate change, energy and natural resources, and human rights. She frequently carries out assignments for both private and public sector entities, including government institutions and international development agencies. Clarice holds a Master of Law (LLM) (with distinction) in Climate Change Law and Policy from the University of Strathclyde; a Master of Science (MSc) (with distinction) in Africa and International Development from the University of Edinburgh; and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Nairobi. She has more than 12 years' experience at various top-tier firms.

Clarice is recognised as a Green Ambassador within the Green Guide EMEA 2024 Edition.

The 2022 Legal 500 Green Guide for the EMEA region recognised Clarice for her climate change and sustainability law work in Kenya. In 2019 she was a recipient of the Top 40 Under 40 Women award, from the Business Daily, Kenya.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- Council of Women in Energy and Environmental Leadership (CWEEL) – Kenya
- Association of Women in Energy and Extractives – Kenya (AWEIK)

Practice areas

- Environmental Law
- Pro Bono & Human Rights

Sectors

- Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing
- Energy
- Mining & Minerals



Desmond Odhiambo

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Desmond Odhiambo is a Partner in our **Dispute Resolution and Employment Law practice areas**, as well as in our **Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring sector**.

He has over 12 years' experience in providing dispute resolution, risk advisory, and Construction & Engineering sectors and regulatory services to clients in Kenya, and various other African jurisdictions. He has represented clients in various complex arbitrations (whether ad hoc or institutional) and complex litigation. Industry experience includes banking, telecommunications, engineering and construction sectors. He is an active contributor to the Lexology publication on Dispute Resolution – the Kenya Chapter. He is a qualified mediator and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb).

Desmond is recommended for dispute resolution by international directory Legal 500.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb)

Practice areas

- Dispute Resolution
- Employment Law

Sectors

- Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring
- Construction & Engineering



Shem Otanga

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Shem Otanga is a Partner in our Technology & Communications and Corporate & Commercial practice areas. Shem is also a partner in our Consumer Goods, Services & Retail, Gambling & Regulatory Compliance, and Technology & Communications sectors.

He specialises in Intellectual Property (IP), Data Protection and Technology advisory work. He is considered to be among the most notable Kenyan lawyers in the IP field where he has wide experience in contentious and non-contentious trademark matters. He has had the privilege to practice both locally and overseas having worked with top tier law firms in Kenya for a total of 12 years, from 2008. He also worked with Mayer Brown International LLP (UK) and Brick Court Chambers in 2018 as part of the International Lawyers for Africa (ILFA)'s secondment program. In 2020, Shem joined Kieti Law LLP as a partner.

Chambers Global 2024 ranked Shem in Band 2: intellectual property. The World Trademark Review 1000 ranked Shem as a recommended individual for Kenya from 2018-2020. He was also ranked in WTR 1000 2024; Bronze category.

Shem provided insights on IP and Data Protection in various international publications such as the Law Reviews, the World Trade Mark Review, Data Guidance, and Mondaq.

Memberships

- Co-chair of the International Trademark Association's Global Advisory Council for Africa (AGAC)
- International Trademark Association's Data Protection Committee
- International Association of Privacy Practitioners (IAPP)
- Law Society of Kenya (LSK) (May 2012 - January 2014)

Practice areas

- Technology & Communications

Sectors

- Consumer Goods, Services & Retail
- Gambling & Regulatory Compliance
- Technology & Communications



Njeri Wagacha

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Njeri Wagacha is a Partner in our Corporate & Commercial practice and specialises in Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity. She is also a Partner in our Competition Law, Employment Law, and Technology & Communications practices. In addition, Njeri also runs the podcast *Njeri Talks Law*.

Njeri has a distinct specialisation as a bilingual lawyer, practising in both Anglo and Francophone transactions. She is a qualified solicitor and started off as a Trainee Solicitor at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (Europe) LLP. Njeri has more than 12 years of experience, having practiced in various parts of Africa, the UAE and Europe. In 2020, she joined Kieti Advocates LLP as a Partner.

Chambers Global 2024 ranked Njeri in Band 3 for FinTech. The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2023 recommended Njeri for employment. The Legal 500 EMEA 2023 recommends her for corporate, commercial/M&A.

Njeri was also nominated in the 2021 and 2022 Lawyer of the Year category in the Nairobi Legal Awards.

Memberships

- Law Society of England and Wales
- Law Society of Kenya

Practice areas

- Competition Law
- Corporate & Commercial
- Employment Law
- Technology & Communications

Sectors

- Consumer Goods, Services & Retail
- Gambling & Regulatory Compliance
- Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals
- Oil & Gas
- Private Equity
- Technology & Communications



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Alex Kanyi is a Partner in our Tax & Exchange Control, Dispute Resolution, and Corporate & Commercial practice areas.

He has worked in Kenya and Ireland for clients with operations in Europe, Asia and Africa. He has extensive experience in tax structuring, tax dispute resolution, international tax advisory, risk management, restructuring, legal audits, legal due diligence, company secretarial, acquisitions, corporate governance and regulatory compliance.

Alex was an instrumental figure at KPMG East Africa, in various capacities and was its Regulatory Services Business Lead in East Africa for six years up to 2022. He also worked in KPMG Ireland between 2019 and 2020 as a manager in the legal services team. He also won Commercial Practitioner of the Year, 6th Annual Nairobi Legal Awards, 2023.

2025 ITR World Tax Rankings ranked Alex as 'Highly Regarded' in general corporate tax and tax controversy in Kenya.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- Institute of Certified Secretaries
- Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya

Practice areas

- Corporate & Commercial
- Dispute Resolution
- Tax & Exchange Control

Sectors

- Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring
- Energy & Power
- Financial Institutions, Services & Fintech
- Industrials, Manufacturing & Trading
- Infrastructure, Transport & Logistics
- Private Equity



Martha Mbugua

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Martha Mbugua is a Partner in our Corporate & Commercial and Competition Law practice areas. Martha has more than 13 years of experience, gained in various globally ranked law firms in Nairobi, including Law3Sixty, a boutique firm she ran, prior to joining CDH. She also worked briefly in South Africa and in the legal departments of Barclays Bank of Kenya (now Absa Bank Kenya Plc) and East Africa Breweries Limited.

Martha's combination of wide-ranging experience in both corporate law firms and as in-house counsel, has provided her with a wealth of experience in Private Equity and Venture Capital structuring and investments, M&A, corporate and debt restructuring, and general corporate and commercial law.

IFLR1000 2021–2022 ranked Martha Mbugua as a highly regarded lawyer in Private Equity, and M&A. IFLR1000 2017–2019 ranked her as a rising star in Private Equity, and M&A. The Legal 500 EMEA also listed Martha as a recommended lawyer in 2018. She was ranked by the Business Daily newspaper as one of the Top 40 under 40 Women for 2017 and noted as one of the youngest female partners specialising in Private Equity, and M&A.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya (13 years post qualification experience)
- Member of The Board Room Africa

Practice areas

- Corporate & Commercial
- Competition Law

Sectors

- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Private Equity
- Consumer Goods, Services & Retail
- Regulatory
- Construction & Engineering
- Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade



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Lydia Owuor is a Partner in our Real Estate Law practice area.

She has had an illustrious career spanning 13 years and has cultivated deep expertise in all facets related to land and real property, and documentation and review of bank securities. She presently serves as a valuable member of the Law Society of Kenya's Land, Environment & Natural Resources Committee mandated to originate proposals on reform of the law and practice in relation to conveyancing, property law, and environmental law.

Lydia takes pride in providing tailored solutions that align with the unique goals of each client.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- East Africa Law Society
- Kenya Property Developers Association (KPDA)
- Kenya Green Building Society (KGBS)

Practice areas

- Real Estate Law
- Banking, Finance & Projects

Sectors

- Commercial Real Estate
- Financial Institutions, Services & Fintech



Stella Situma

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Stella Situma is a Partner in our Banking, Finance & Projects practice with over 13 years legal expertise.

She provides specialised knowledge on security preparation and perfection and has acted for over ten licensed Kenyan commercial banks. Her experience includes issuing capacity, validity and enforceability opinions particularly for cross border transactions.

Stella commenced her career as an associate with the esteemed legal firm of Iseme Kamau & Maema Advocates (DLA Piper). She later joined CMS Daly Inamdar Advocates in 2017 and in 2019 she was promoted to Partner in the Banking and Finance and Real Estate Departments of CMS. In April 2024, Stella joined Kieti Law LLP as a Partner.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- East Africa Law Society

Practice areas

- Banking, Finance & Projects



Alex Muchira

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Alex Muchira is a Partner in our Corporate & Commercial practice.

He is a legal and regulatory affairs expert with 13+ years of progressive career experience in commercial and corporate law practice.

He is highly skilled in corporate law, commercial law, regulatory compliance, corporate governance, company secretarial and board operations. He is also well-versed with organisational operations coupled with a passion for demystifying complex concepts and tailoring policies, and is committed to conceptualising, planning and executing strategies while displaying an understanding of systems, regulations and relevant policy.

He is recognised as a Non-Executive Director – Business Registration Services (BRS) and The Legal 500 (Legalese) - Mergers and Acquisitions key lawyer in Europe Middle East and Africa 2023 and 2024.

Memberships

- Law Society of Kenya
- Institute of Directors Kenya
- East Africa Law Society
- Institute of Certified Secretaries (ICS), Kenya

Practice areas

- Corporate & Commercial

Sectors

- Corporate Governance
- Regulatory Compliance
- Immigration Law
- Company Secretarial

BBBEE STATUS: LEVEL ONE CONTRIBUTOR

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

This information is published for general information purposes and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Specialist legal advice should always be sought in relation to any particular situation. Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr will accept no responsibility for any actions taken or not taken on the basis of this publication.

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