



# ALERT

**Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr**

2 October 2025

CDH has deployed the two industry-leading GenAI legal platforms: Harvey and Legora



## Client value through innovation



**Retha Beerman**  
Director and Head:  
Knowledge Management

As one of Africa's leading law firms, Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (CDH) is committed to understanding our clients' business needs and delivering exceptional value in an efficient and competitive manner. To achieve this, we combine the expertise of our legal practitioners with technological advancements in Generative Artificial Intelligence ("GenAI") in order to achieve time and cost efficiencies for the benefit of our clients, whilst maintaining the quality of service and precision that our clients have become accustomed to.

**Retha Beerman, Director and Head of our Knowledge Management practice, says, "After extensive pilot tests, CDH has deployed the two industry-leading GenAI legal platforms: Harvey and Legora."**

### **CDH's approach to testing Harvey and Legora**

More than 186 CDHers from legal and operational teams participated in the firm's Harvey and Legora pilots, which spanned several months and included workshops, hands-on training, and real-world testing. Feedback was gathered through structured surveys, informal input, and targeted outreach to frequent users. *"The goal of the pilots," says CEO Brent Williams, "was simple - to identify how these tools can add the most value to our clients in an effective and productive manner, whilst also developing protocols to mitigate the risks associated with these technologies evolving. This was not a trial run. This was an intensive and rigorous, data-driven process."*

### **Results that benefit our clients**

The results of the pilots were remarkable. Both platforms demonstrated substantial operational benefits. Whilst each platform has its strengths (and of course, limitations), the distinctions were often marginal, and continuous development of both platforms tended to remove differentiators really quickly. Both technologies are undergoing continuous improvement as we roll out the current versions thereof. That said, for now, Harvey was the preferred choice of the majority of testers, based largely on ease of use for their specific needs and use cases.

# Client value through innovation

CONTINUED

We found that matter type, use case, and user preference were important indicators of preferential outcomes in the test scenarios. With our clients' diverse needs as our north star, and in recognition of these identified success indicators, we decided to secure licences to both platforms. Retha reveals that *"In securing licences for both, CDH is strategically and competitively positioned to draw on the unique strengths of each platform, ensuring that our valued clients benefit from the most effective solution for their specific needs. In so doing, our clients will enjoy the advantages of both innovation and choice. This enables us to remain flexible and highly responsive while delivering maximum value to our clients in a fast-changing business and regulatory environment"*.

## Balancing opportunity with responsibility

CDH remains committed to upholding the professional standards required of us, as regulated legal professionals and will, accordingly, continue to do so in our ongoing quest of; testing, adopting and adapting to the use of these technological tools in serving our clients and continuing to do so with the requisite confidentiality, attribution, professional accountability including, human review and traditional legal research, where appropriate. While we are excited about the

potential of these GenAI tools, we are also aware of the risks and challenges associated with their use. To mitigate the risks, CDH has implemented oversight and quality control measures, including mandatory training programs focused on ethics and responsible GenAI usage.

Our approach will also include ongoing user and supervision protocols, which will be regularly updated, and the requirement for a personal commitment to ethical and safe usage from all users. *"The safeguards we have in place,"* says Retha, *"ensure that while we harness the benefits of GenAI, we continue to protect our clients' interests, data, and, of course, their trust."*

## Looking ahead

*"At CDH, innovation is never for innovation's sake but rather to always deliver deeper value for our clients. The dual-adoption of Harvey and Legora enables us to offer our clients sharper insights, greater efficiency, and tailored solutions,"* says Brent. *"We can now expertly and efficiently match the right tool to the right challenge. However, while these platforms accelerate routine processes, every output remains subject to rigorous review and oversight by our legal professionals. Accountability remains very much with our bench of leading lawyers who operate across the continent"*.

Retha agrees, concluding, *"As a firm, we are excited about what these advancements mean for our clients as we remain committed to deploying them responsibly and effectively."*

## Thank you

Thank you for your continued trust in and partnership with CDH. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the outcomes of the pilots further, please contact [CDHKnowledgeManagement@cdhlegal.com](mailto:CDHKnowledgeManagement@cdhlegal.com)

Retha Beerman, Crystal Yang  
and Safee-Naaz Siddiqi



**Tim Fletcher**  
Chairperson



**Brent Williams**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Sammy Ndolo**  
Kenya Managing Partner



**Patrick Kauta**  
Namibia Managing Partner

## OUR PRACTICE AREA TEAM

For more information about our practice areas and services in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia, please contact:

**Tim Fletcher**

Chairperson  
Director: Dispute Resolution  
T +27 (0)11 562 1061  
E tim.fletcher@cdhlegal.com

**Brent Williams**

Chief Executive Officer  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1167  
E brent.williams@cdhlegal.com

**Sammy Ndolo**

Managing Partner | Kenya  
T +254 731 086 649  
+254 204 409 918  
+254 710 560 114  
E sammy.ndolo@cdhlegal.com

**Patrick Kauta**

Managing Partner | Namibia  
T +264 833 730 100  
M +264 811 447 777  
E patrick.kauta@cdhlegal.com

**Gretchen Barkhuizen-Barbosa**

Practice Head & Director:  
Trusts & Estates  
T +27 (0)11 562 1250  
E gretchen.barkhuizenbarbosa@cdhlegal.com

**Retha Beerman**

Practice Head & Director:  
Knowledge Management  
T +27 (0)11 562 1185  
E retha.beerman@cdhlegal.com

**Emil Brincker**

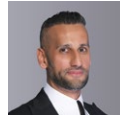
Practice Head & Director:  
Tax & Exchange Control  
T +27 (0)11 562 1063  
E emil.brincker@cdhlegal.com

**Jacquie Cassette**

Practice Head & Director:  
Pro Bono & Human Rights  
T +27 (0)11 562 1036  
E jacquie.cassette@cdhlegal.com

**Chris Charter**

Practice Head & Director:  
Competition Law  
T +27 (0)11 562 1053  
E chris.charter@cdhlegal.com

**Muhammad Gattoo**

Practice Head & Director:  
Real Estate Law  
T +27 (0)11 562 1174  
E muhammad.gattoo@cdhlegal.com

**Ian Hayes**

Practice Head & Director:  
Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1593  
E ian.hayes@cdhlegal.com

**Rishaban Moodley**

Practice Head & Director:  
Dispute Resolution  
Sector Head:  
Gambling & Regulatory Compliance  
T +27 (0)11 562 1666  
E rishaban.moodley@cdhlegal.com

**Mashudu Mphafudi**

Practice Head & Director:  
Banking, Finance & Projects  
T +27 (0)11 562 1093  
E mashudu.mphafudi@cdhlegal.com

**Aadil Patel**

Practice Head & Director:  
Employment Law  
Sector Head:  
Government & State-Owned Entities  
T +27 (0)11 562 1107  
E aadil.patel@cdhlegal.com



## OUR SECTOR TEAM

For more information about our sector and services in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia, please contact:



### **Tessa Brewis**

Joint Sector Head: Projects & Energy  
Director: Banking, Finance & Projects  
T +27 (0)21 481 6324  
E tessa.brewis@cdhlegal.com



### **Vivien Chaplin**

Sector Head: Mining & Minerals  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1556  
E vivien.chaplin@cdhlegal.com



### **Patrick Kauta**

Managing Partner | Namibia  
T +264 833 730 100  
M +264 811 447 777  
E patrick.kauta@cdhlegal.com



### **André de Lange**

Sector Head:  
Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)21 405 6165  
E andre.delange@cdhlegal.com



### **Jackwell Feris**

Sector Head:  
Industrials, Manufacturing & Trade  
Director: Dispute Resolution  
T +27 (0)11 562 1825  
E jackwell.feris@cdhlegal.com



### **Muhammad Gattoo**

Practice Head & Director: Real Estate Law  
Joint Sector Head: Commercial Real Estate  
T +27 (0)11 562 1174  
E muhammad.gattoo@cdhlegal.com



### **John Gillmer**

Joint Sector Head: Private Equity  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)21 405 6004  
E john.gillmer@cdhlegal.com



### **Nastascha Harduth**

Sector Head:  
Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring  
Director: Dispute Resolution  
T +27 (0)11 562 1453  
E nastascha.harduth@cdhlegal.com



### **Peter Hesseling**

Joint Sector Head: Commercial Real Estate  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)21 405 6009  
E peter.hesseling@cdhlegal.com



### **Susan Meyer**

Joint Sector Head: Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals  
Director: Competition Law  
T +27 (0)21 481 6469  
E susan.meyer@cdhlegal.com



### **Rishaban Moodley**

Practice Head & Director: Dispute Resolution  
Sector Head: Gambling & Regulatory Compliance  
T +27 (0)11 562 1666  
E rishaban.moodley@cdhlegal.com



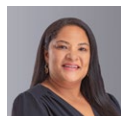
### **Aadil Patel**

Practice Head & Director: Employment Law  
Sector Head:  
Government & State-Owned Entities  
T +27 (0)11 562 1107  
E aadil.patel@cdhlegal.com



### **David Pinnock**

Joint Sector Head: Private Equity  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1400  
E david.pinnock@cdhlegal.com



### **Megan Rodgers**

Sector Head: Oil & Gas  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)21 481 6429  
E megan.rodgers@cdhlegal.com



### **Clive Rumsey**

Sector Head: Construction & Engineering  
Director: Dispute Resolution  
T +27 (0)11 562 1924  
E clive.rumsey@cdhlegal.com



### **Tim Smit**

Sector Head:  
Consumer Goods, Services & Retail  
Director: Dispute Resolution  
T +27 (0)11 562 1085  
E tim.smit@cdhlegal.com



### **Ludwig Smith**

Sector Head:  
Financial Institutions, Services & Fintech  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1500  
E ludwig.smith@cdhlegal.com



### **Tayyibah Suliman**

Sector Head:  
Technology & Communications  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1667  
E tayyibah.suliman@cdhlegal.com



### **Roxanna Valayathum**

Joint Sector Head: Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals  
Director: Corporate & Commercial  
T +27 (0)11 562 1122  
E roxanna.valayathum@cdhlegal.com



### **Andrew van Niekerk**

Joint Sector Head: Projects & Energy  
Director: Banking, Finance & Projects  
T +27 (0)21 481 6491  
E andrew.vanniekerk@cdhlegal.com

**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.

**JOHANNESBURG**

1 Protea Place, Sandton, Johannesburg, 2196. Private Bag X40, Benmore, 2010, South Africa.

Dx 154 Randburg and Dx 42 Johannesburg.

T +27 (0)11 562 1000 F +27 (0)11 562 1111 E [jhb@cdhlegal.com](mailto:jhb@cdhlegal.com)

**CAPE TOWN**

11 Buitengracht Street, Cape Town, 8001. PO Box 695, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa. Dx 5 Cape Town.

T +27 (0)21 481 6300 F +27 (0)21 481 6388 E [ctn@cdhlegal.com](mailto:ctn@cdhlegal.com)

**NAIROBI**

Merchant Square, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Block D, Riverside Drive, Nairobi, Kenya. P.O. Box 22602-00505, Nairobi, Kenya.

T +254 731 086 649 | +254 204 409 918 | +254 710 560 114

E [cdhkenya@cdhlegal.com](mailto:cdhkenya@cdhlegal.com)

**ONGWEDIVA**

Shop No A7, Oshana Regional Mall, Ongwediva, Namibia.

T +264 (0) 81 287 8330 E [cdhnamibia@cdhlegal.com](mailto:cdhnamibia@cdhlegal.com)

**STELLENBOSCH**

14 Louw Street, Stellenbosch Central, Stellenbosch, 7600.

T +27 (0)21 481 6400 E [cdh Stellenbosch@cdhlegal.com](mailto:cdh Stellenbosch@cdhlegal.com)

**WINDHOEK**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Maerua Office Tower, Cnr Robert Mugabe Avenue and Jan Jonker Street, Windhoek 10005, Namibia.

PO Box 97115, Maerua Mall, Windhoek, Namibia, 10020

T +264 833 730 100 E [cdhnamibia@cdhlegal.com](mailto:cdhnamibia@cdhlegal.com)

©2025 15037/SEPT

