

KENYA



Dispute Resolution





Our Dispute Resolution lawyers have a reputation for succeeding in the most sensitive and complex of cases. Our approach is to provide pragmatic, commercially-focused legal solutions for our clients' most complex problems.

Practice overview

Our Dispute Resolution practice is one of the strongest in Kenya. We have experienced specialists in all dispute resolution methods, in Nairobi, including litigation, arbitration and mediation.

Our primary aim is to help you avoid formal litigation or arbitration wherever possible. When a formal process is unavoidable, we take into account your commercial objectives and prospects of success while assessing your legal, commercial and reputational risk.

Disputes can be costly and divert valuable resources from a company's core business. Although legal costs can be high, the costs of focusing senior management on a dispute rather than the core business objectives of your company can be astronomical. Our team of approachable lawyers is skilled at identifying the correct approach to disputes, providing the highest level of client service and reducing uncertainty relative

to outcome and cost. Our aim is to devise the optimum procedural strategies to ensure the best outcome while managing risk successfully using the most cost-effective approach.

Our lawyers will work as business partners with you to identify and execute the most advantageous solutions, either by pursuing or defending arbitration or litigation proceedings, or through alternative methods, such as mediation.

We use advanced technology to manage disputes both economically and effectively. Our sophisticated document management systems and processes ensure immediate access to global best practice in terms of functionality, convenience and ease of use.



Our Dispute Resolution Practice is one of the strongest in Kenya.

"Very knowledgeable and informed of the laws of Kenya."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2026

"CDH legal have been a legal partner for several years now and the reason we keep going back to them for services is because of their professional approach to our matters. The team assigned to my company is knowledgeable in matters construction and their disputes."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2026

"The team is knowledgeable conscientious and thorough in its advice. They leave no stone unturned."

"Cliffe Dekker demonstrates attention to detail and good communication at every stage of the case."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2026

About Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Incorporating Kieti Law LLP

Who we are

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (incorporating Kieti Law LLP) is a leading law firm in Nairobi, Kenya, anchored on the tenets of personal service, integrity and excellence. It was formed following the merger of Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, a top-tier full service South African law firm and Kieti Law LLP, a leading boutique Kenyan law firm.

What we do

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.

What sets us apart

Our team comprises well regarded lawyers with exceptional credentials, who embrace the opportunity to push the law forward in creative and ingenious ways. Our lawyers have been ranked in global legal directories such as Chambers Global, and Legal 500 and have been involved in market leading transactions over the past few years in Kenya's telecommunications, health, education, retail, real estate, energy and natural resources sectors.

Our Pro bono work

We support NGOs and social enterprises actively involved in social change with free legal advice, and are members of Trustlaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation pro bono referral organisation, and the Pro bono Institute of Kenya.





Our Africa practice

Our Africa service offering brings together the resources and expertise of leading law firms across the continent. This experience and geographic spread produce an extensive African capability. We offer our clients a genuine knowledge-based service at locally competitive rates.

Full service business solutions

Our legal advice covers the complete spectrum of business legal needs, which we provide through our core practice areas and dedicated teams of specialist lawyers with a wealth of experience in a wide range of industries.

Our value-creating approach

Our partner-led approach ensures clients receive the right level of experience and efficiency and we deliver pragmatic and commercially-focused solutions. Our team structure provides both depth and the ability to have the work done at the appropriate level to ensure the most cost-effective solution. We have an innovative approach to fee structures and are prepared to propose or consider a range of alternatives to best suit the particular client and the particular matter.

We prioritise efficiency

We manage, apply and share our considerable knowledge assets for the benefit of our clients through continuous skills training. We keep clients informed on regulatory developments through seminars and regular alerts.

"The strength of its dispute resolution team is the excellent client support that it provides"

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2025

Our clients

We act for clients in a broad range of industries, particularly in key business sectors such as liquidations and business rescue, banking, broadcasting and publishing, construction, education, energy, engineering, financial institutions, hotels and leisure, insurance, mining and minerals, petroleum and oil, private equity, real estate, tobacco, and telecommunications.



Our clients range from blue chip national and multinational companies to state-owned enterprises. We have a large public sector client base and have professional relationships with a number of government and regulatory bodies.

Our services

Our expertise includes dispute resolution and opinion work in a range of specialisations, including in the following areas:



Banking Litigation

We advise many financial sector groups, from regional and local financial institutions to multinational organisations and global banking giants. Our banking litigation team has considerable experience in contentious banking and finance matters. Successfully managing disputes in the financial services sector requires a broad range of skills and experience.



Commercial Litigation

We act for corporates in commercial-related disputes such as disputes between shareholders, disputes concerning the interpretation of agreements, and breach of contract and damages claims resulting from the breach of terms of agreements. Contractual disputes arise on a daily basis and assisting our clients in successfully resolving these disputes is one of our key skills.



Class and Group Actions

Class actions have recently come to the fore with the Constitutional Court endorsing the availability of class certifications for private parties, where class actions were previously limited to constitutional issues. We acted in that matter and we are also active in other class actions. We are strongly positioned to advise on class or group actions in the Kenyan context.



Construction & Engineering

Our clients include a number of major construction and engineering firms in Kenya and East Africa. We are well established as a provider of legal services to the industry and have long-standing relationships with experts in these fields. Our advice covers a wide range of issues, from contracts to employee issues, liability and risk issues, and restructuring and insolvency.

Wherever disputes arise, whatever issues your organisation faces, we are ideally placed to assist you.



Our services

Our expertise includes dispute resolution and opinion work in a range of specialisations, including in the following areas:



From listed entities to small independent schools to public and private universities, we have extensive experience in assisting the clients to navigate the full range of issues that educational institutions face whether it be managing reputational risks or issues with regulators, students and other stakeholders.



Our Corporate and White-Collar Investigations practice brings internationally aligned corporate investigation advisory services to Africa, helping to shape this area of the law. We have deep cross-border experience in this field and a strong working knowledge of corporate investigations legislation and regulations in jurisdictions across the continent and globe. We have experience in conducting high profile and complex investigations and testifying in varying forums. Our team of specialists has experience in digital forensics and eDiscovery, and we use the latest software tools to give our clients automated solutions that incorporate artificial intelligence.



Insolvency and liquidations are an inevitable part of commercial practice. We have developed considerable experience over many years of representing clients in this sphere, particularly as creditors, where our role is to ensure that our clients achieve the best result despite the debtor going into business rescue or liquidation. We are well placed to advise clients in matters relevant to the early stages of financial distress, whether they are the party in distress or the party seeking to secure its position as a creditor or recover a debt. We have experience in guiding clients through the alternatives available when seeking to avoid insolvency. Our focus is on equipping clients with the tools to make the correct decisions at the appropriate time.



We deal with all aspects of the insurance landscape from short-term insurance, to life insurance and pension fund disputes. We act for a number of insurance companies and large brokerages but have become the firm of choice for insureds in relation to contested an/or rejected policy response matters. We manage insurance disputes across the spectrum, from aviation disputes to professional indemnity claims. In this regard we act for plaintiffs, defendants and professional indemnity insurers. These disputes are invariably technical in nature and our lawyers are skilled in finding the most appropriate dispute resolution procedures to manage the process to a successful conclusion.



Our services

our expertise includes dispute resolution and opinion work in a range of specialisations, including in the following areas:



International Arbitration and Litigation

We have experience in litigating cross-border matters, particularly in the US, the UK, Europe and Africa. We are also skilled at providing local and international arbitration services. Commercial arbitration has become a common form of dispute resolution in Kenya. Different cultures, legal frameworks and business practices can make resolving such disputes time consuming and costly, but international arbitration procedures are designed to overcome these difficulties.



Media

We have a strong media dispute resolution practice developed over many years of successfully representing national and international media organisations in actions involving defamation claims, libel, invasion of privacy, breach of contract and media regulation.



Product Liability

Insolvency and liquidations are an inevitable part of commercial practice. We have developed considerable experience over many years of representing clients in this sphere, particularly as creditors, where our role is to ensure that our clients achieve the best result despite the debtor going into business rescue or liquidation. We are well placed to advise clients in matters relevant to the early stages of financial distress, whether they are the party in distress or the party seeking to secure its position as a creditor or recover a debt. We have experience in guiding clients through the alternatives available when seeking to avoid insolvency. Our focus is on equipping clients with the tools to make the correct decisions at the appropriate time.



Our services

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Administrative & Constitutional Law

Judicial review proceedings are part of the process for the enforcement of the constitutional right to fair administrative action. That right comes to the fore when private companies or individuals interact with the state. We have extensive experience in this area of law and have acted on both sides of such disputes. The sector is highly regulated, and our sector specialists have the required knowledge and experience to guide you in these situations. Whether you are an arm of government, a state-owned enterprise, municipality, or private entity dealing with any of those public entities, we can provide you with the knowledge and experienced guidance that you need. We also have extensive experience in constitutional law and have been successful in a number of ground-breaking constitutional cases.



Gaming

Our clients include large betting operators and we have extensive experience both in advising on regulatory issues in this sector and in contesting complex disputes of significant importance to our clients.



Telecommunications

This sector is highly regulated and we have a proud history of acting for industry players, including one of the largest mobile networks, providing them with advice on deeply technical regulatory issues, litigating on those issues, and many other aspects. We are well placed to assist any players in the telecommunications sector with any of the broad range of issues that they face on a daily basis.



MARKET RECOGNITION

Our Dispute Resolution team is externally praised for its depth of resources, capabilities and experience.

Chambers Global 2026 ranked Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Kenya in Band 5 for dispute resolution.

Legal 500 EMEA 2026 ranked our Kenyan practice in Tier 3 for dispute resolution.

Legal 500 EMEA 2026 ranked our Kenyan practice in Tier 3 employment.

Chambers Global 2026 ranked Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Kenya in Band 3 for employment.

The way we support and interact with our clients attracts significant external recognition.

Chambers Global 2026 ranked [Desmond Odhiambo](#) in Band 3 for employment. *Chambers Global 2026* ranked him in Band 4 for dispute resolution.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025–2026 recommended him for employment. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2026* recommended him for dispute resolution.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2026 recommended [Daniel Kiragu](#) for dispute resolution.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2026 recommended [Christine Mugenyu](#) for dispute resolution.



OUR TEAM

For more information about our Dispute Resolution practice and services in Kenya, please contact



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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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