



DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY



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In the ever-evolving digital age, data has become a cornerstone of success. It unlocks insights, fuels innovation, and fosters deeper connections. Yet, within this power lies a fundamental responsibility: protecting the privacy of individuals and the security of this valuable asset. At Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (CDH), we are dedicated to safeguarding your data journey.

DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

PARTNER | INNOVATE | EVOLVE

Why partner with CDH?

Our team of passionate data protection and privacy specialists bear a deep understanding of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the South African Protection of Personal Information Act and the Kenyan Data Protection Act and is both equipped and committed to offering bespoke advice to help you navigate this emerging legal landscape across sub-Saharan Africa.

With a track record spanning more than 170 years, we distinguish ourselves from our competition within the African legal market by forging powerful and longstanding partnerships with our clients. As a trusted advisor and partner, we develop an in-depth understanding of our clients' businesses, enabling us to tailor legal solutions that are both commercial and practical for our clients' regulatory and advisory needs.



Experience

Kenyan experience

Conducting a data protection legal compliance audit for the following clients, preparing a gap analysis report and developing and supporting the implementation of a compliance plan/road map:

- a. the Kenyan subsidiary of one of the world's largest container shipping companies;
 - b. one of Kenya's largest and oldest footwear manufacturing companies; and
 - c. one of Kenya's leading confectionery manufacturing companies.
- Advising the East African subsidiary of a multi-billion-dollar Japanese conglomerate on its compliance with the Kenyan Data Protection Act, including conducting a compliance review of its data privacy manuals and policies.
 - Advising a leading international parcel delivery service provider on data protection in relation to the collection and use of its customers' personal data in Kenya.
 - Advising a leading international fertiliser manufacturer on:
 - the data protection implications under the GDPR.
 - Kenyan and Tanzanian data protection laws in relation to the collection of personal data for its COVID-19 related aid programme for famers in Africa; and
 - the preparation and review of its software platform's terms of use and various privacy policies to ensure compliance with data protection law under the relevant regimes.
 - Advising the tech start-up arm of a listed Kenyan marketing and communications company in relation to the drafting and review of its privacy policies for use in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Ghana.
 - Advising the Sydney-based office of one of the largest international law firms in the world on behalf of its client, a leading multinational financial and payment services provider, on the data protection implications of a new/intended payment services program at the pre-launch stage.
 - Advising one of the world's largest social media and technology companies in relation to the data protection framework in Kenya, including advising on the content of the Constitution, 2010 and the 2018 and 2019 Data Protection Bills.
 - Advising the South African office of one of the largest international law firms in the world on behalf of its client, one of the world's leading online retail service providers, on a comparison between various aspects of the EU GDPR and the Kenyan Data Protection Act.

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- Advising a US-based cyber security technology company in relation to the data protection review of its end user licence agreements, data subject consent forms and data protection agreements.
- Advising an American multinational technology company that specialises in internet-related services and products on the Kenyan data protection compliance concerns relating to the collection and processing of personal data for purposes of its identity verification program for customers of its services.
- Advising the South African office of one of the largest international law firms in the world, on behalf of its client (an international on-demand cloud computing platforms and services provider), on the data localisation and data sovereignty requirements under Kenyan data protection law.
- Advising the foreign trading arm of the Japanese Government on the various aspects of the Kenyan Data Protection Act, including the adequate and appropriate personal data safeguards required under the act, the extra-territorial application on the Kenyan Data Protection Act, obligations of data processors, etc.

South African Experience

- Advising on the employment aspect of a global oil company's audit in terms of South African data protection law.
- Advising on the data retention requirements in South Africa for a multinational banking group.
- Advising on data protection implications for cloud services and other complex IT services.
- Advising numerous local banks and financial institutions about the South African Reserve Bank's directives on cloud services, outsourcing and cyber incidents and, in particular, the related data protection and information security risks.
- Carrying out a number of personal information assessments and privacy-by-design projects for innovative client service offerings, including online aggregator and e-commerce platforms, mobile applications and value-added service offerings.
- Providing advice on data protection laws to a major listed company in relation to its data protection policy documents.
- Advising a number of different South African state-owned enterprises on achieving compliance with the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act.



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- Advising various government entities and private sector clients on the data protection implications of processing COVID-19 related personal information, including health information.
- Providing data protection opinions relating to identity verification systems, database sale and reuse, and big data analysis.
- Advising a multinational outdoor advertising company on its data protection legislation compliance across 14 African jurisdictions.
- Advising an international hospital group on its cross border intra-group data transfers and binding corporate rules (considering data protection legislation in the EU, UAE, and Switzerland).
- Advising on issues relating to the consent to process special personal information in relation to the first national health information exchange platform.
- Advising a large bank in respect of its data protection and information security compliance framework.
- Advising a listed retailer on its data protection compliance framework and assisting with drafting various privacy policies, advising on privacy by design, and carrying out privacy impact assessments on existing and new product offerings.
- Carrying out specialist opinion work for a large insurer/financial services provider on various issues relating to data protection and compliance with the EU GDPR.



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Our Africa reach

We maintain a network of preeminent value-added local law firm relationships throughout the continent and through which we routinely co-ordinate and provide comprehensive cross border advice to various multinational clients. Through this network we provide a one stop shop offering covering the African continent by acting as a singular point of contact for servicing our client's cross border data protection and data governance legal advisory requirements.



Extensive Africa capability



Established relationships with African firms



Contracting resources and experience of leading African law firms



A seamless and integrated solution for transactions that have a multi-disciplinary dimension

WE OFFER SECTOR SPECIFIC EXPERTISE & KNOWLEDGE & COLLABORATIVE SERVICES, INCLUDING:

▼
A practical & commercial approach

▼
A multi-disciplinary team of lawyers managed via single point of contact

▼
Extensive sector experience

▼
A dedicated, partner-led team and a cost-effective service at competitive billing rates

AFRICA REACH
AND EXPERIENCE

MARKET RECOGNITION

Our Technology & Communications team is externally praised for its depth of resources, capabilities and experience.

Chambers Global 2024–2025 ranked our practice in Band 2 for IT & telecoms.

Chambers Global 2011–2023 ranked our practice in Band 1 for IT & telecommunications.

Chambers FinTech 2019–2022 ranked our FinTech sector in Band 1.

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

Chambers Global 2024–2025 ranked [Shem Otanga](#) in Band 2 for intellectual property. *Chambers Global 2021–2023* ranked Shem as 'Up & Coming' intellectual property lawyer. From *2019–2021* he was ranked as 'Lawyer to watch' for intellectual property.

World Trademark Review 1000 2025 (Kenya) ranked Shem in the silver category and in 2024 in the bronze category. *World Trademark Review 1000 2025* (Kenya) ranked Shem in the silver category and in 2024 in the bronze category.

Chambers Global 2025 ranked [Simone Dickson](#) in Band 3 for IT & Telecoms and in 2024 ranked her in Band 4.



OUR TEAM

For more information about our Technology & Communications sector and services in South Africa, Kenya and Namibia, 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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