

MINING & MINERALS



Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (CDH) is the mining legal partner for your business across Africa. We know that there's nothing simple about the mining industry.

Labour disputes, regulatory uncertainty, changing policies and laws, and stringent environmental regulation all add up to one truth – you need the right legal team working with you. A team with experience and insight not only in all aspects of law, but in the mining industry as a whole. A team like CDH. We have been key to some of the largest, most prominent resource industry matters and transactions in South, East, and Sub-Saharan Africa including BEE deals, regulatory issues, mining M&A, mining sector restructurings and funding transactions. And we can help you too.



Sector overview

Participants in the mining industry face many complex challenges and the legal landscape is intricate and evolving. Our mining team understands the market and has a wealth of industry experience in all facets of this specialist sector, built over many years of in-depth involvement.

Who are we?

Our mining team understands

the market and has a wealth of industry experience in all facets of this specialist sector. Our team is multi-disciplinary and includes a number of leading legal experts across a broad range of areas of speciality in south and eastern Africa. Our immersive and longstanding association with the resources sector means we have sound, practical knowledge and are capable of offering a full range of services in a comprehensive and commercial way.

Our lawyers are highly skilled and have extensive experience. We are a solution driven and dynamic team, and are well placed to offer relevant advice at a strategic level as well as on day-to-day legal issues.

Our experience

We have long-standing relationships with a large number of key players in the South African and Kenyan industry and also act for many mid-tier and junior miners. We have been engaged by a number of foreign companies seeking to invest across Africa's mining industry, including clients from Europe, North America, India, Russia and China.

Our team has been involved in many of the largest and most prominent and complex resource industry transactions and matters in South, East, and sub-Saharan Africa, including recent headline landmark black economic empowerment (BEE) transactions.

Whatever your needs in the sector, we have the technical expertise and provide a cohesive and integrated service based on excellence.

Global capability

Mining is a global business. Commercial and financing transactions and disputes increasingly have an international dimension. As well as providing local and national support, we can support your business needs wherever in the world you do business. "The firm is very commercially experienced in the mining space and the team is happy to help and to negotiate."

"Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr always responds quickly and its turnaround times are always within deadline."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2025

"Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr is a very good law firm and I am very happy with the service. Its is responsive and gets the work done."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

"Excellent subject matter knowledge and ability to apply the law to complex situations."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025

"CDH is client orientated and takes time to collaborate with various industry experts to ensure that a client is supported effectively."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2024

Our full services



Transactional

- Mergers, acquisitions and disposals, including cross-border transactions
- Joint ventures and partnerships
- Private equity
- Foreign direct investment
- Listings, IPOs, capital raises
- Corporate structuring and restructuring
- Due diligence investigations and risk identification
- Share incentive schemes

Commercial

- Exploration and prospecting agreements
- Development agreements
- Royalty agreements
- Contractor agreements
- Off-take and supply agreements
- Services and management agreements

Our full services... continued



Black Economic Empowerment

- Mining Charter
- BEE structuring and transactions
- Broad-based schemes and employee share ownership schemes
- BEE strategies
- Registration of empowerment trusts
- Community projects



Regulatory

- Mining title opinions
- Regulatory applications
- Advice on all aspects of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act and compliance therewith
- Section 11 applications for the transfer of mineral rights and/or shareholdings
- Section 102 applications for the amendment of mineral rights
- Notarial executions and registration of rights



Health & Safety

- Legal compliance reviews
- Reporting safety incidents
- Statutory appointments
- Mine health and safety investigations, inquiries, compliance audits and legal proceedings
- Reviews and appeals in respect of closures
- Staff training and employee education



Employment law

- All employment aspects of restructurings, mergers and acquisitions, redundancies and business transfers
- Litigation and dispute resolution, including private conciliation and arbitration
- Employee relations and strategic planning
- Training and development
- Restraint of trade

Environmental Law

- All aspects of environmental compliance
- Planning issues and environmental impact assessments
- Programme development
- Environmental litigation, appeals and objections
- Land use and heritage law
- Advising on financial provisions for rehabilitation



Corporate Debt, Turnaround & Restructuring

- Care and maintenance
- Financial corporate overexposure and managing restructuring debt
- Business rescue
- Liquidation proceedings and sequestration

"The CDH mining team is an exceptional team of professionals. They are extremely pragmatic and approachable individuals who truly understand their clients, the environment and pressures we operate under."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025

Our full services... continued



Property

- Lease and land use agreements
- Liaising with communities and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform regarding community land



Tax & Exchange Control

- Corporate and mining taxation
- Structuring
- Exchange control
- Customs and excise



Financing

- Acquisition finance
- Preference share funding
- Commodity and leveraged finance
- Listings, IPOs and capital raises



Projects & Energy

- Public Private Partnerships
- Joint ventures, pool and share agreements and PPPs
- Section 53 applications for approval to use the surface of land for projects



Competition Law

- Preparing merger notification documents
- Merger investigation proceedings and representation at merger hearings
- Advice on all aspects of competition law



Insurance

- Policy
- Risk management issues



THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025

MARKET RECOGNITION AND EXPERIENCE

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

Chambers Global 2017–2025 ranked our Mining & Minerals sector in Band 2 for energy & natural resources: mining. *Chambers Global 2012–2016* ranked our Mining & Minerals sector in Band 3 for energy & natural resources: mining. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2012–2025* recommended us in Tier 2 for mining. *IFLR1000 2016–2025* ranked us in Tier 2 for project development: mining.

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

Vivien Chaplin is Head of our Mining & Minerals sector, and a director in our Corporate & Commercial practice. Chambers Global 2025 ranked Vivien in Band 4 for energy & natural resources: mining. Chambers Global 2024–2025 ranked her in Band 5 for corporate/M&A. The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025 recommended her for commercial, corporate/M&A. The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025 also recommended her for mining. IFLR1000 2021–2024 ranked Vivien as highly regarded in M&A.

Ian Hayes is the Practice Head of our Corporate & Commercial team. *Chambers Global 2021–2025* ranked him in Band 1 for corporate/M&A. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025* included him in the 'Hall of Fame' for commercial, corporate/M&A. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2025* also recommended Ian in the 'Hall of Fame' for mining. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022* recommended Ian for banking & finance. *IFLR1000 2021–2024* ranked Ian as highly regarded in capital markets: debt, capital markets: equity, private equity and M&A, and also in capital markets: energy and infrastructure from *2021–2023*.

Emil Brincker is the Practice Head of our Tax & Exchange Control team. *Chambers Global 2003–2025* has consistently ranked him in Band 1 for tax. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2017–2025* recommended Emil as a 'Leading Individual' for tax and named him Lawyer of the Year for tax in *2021. The 2025 ITR World Tax release* ranked Emil as 'Highly Regarded' in tax controversy in South Africa.. Emil has managed precedent-setting tax disputes and rulings which define legal practice in the field of taxation for South Africa across a wide range of industry sectors, including mining and minerals.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025 recommended Anli Bezuidenhout for employment.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended Claudette Dutilleux as a 'Next Generation' lawyer for dispute resolution.

Jackwell Feris is Head of our Industrials, Trade & Manufacturing sector, and a director in our Dispute Resolution practice. *Chambers Global 2023–2025* ranked him as an 'Up & Coming' dispute resolution lawyer. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2025* recommended Jackwell for dispute resolution. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2025* recommended him for projects & infrastructure. The *Association of Young Arbitrators* recognised Jackwell as an expert arbitration practicioner. Jackwell is a Director in our Dispute Resolution practice focused on the mining, energy and natural resources sector, including the Africa and international factors. Jackwell's is focused on the entire value chain within such sectors to provide client with holistic advice and assistance.

Chambers Global 2025 ranked Willem Jacobs in Band 3 for corporate/M&A and in Band 2 from 2014–2024. Chambers Global 2022–2025 ranked him in Band 3 for private equity. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2024–2025* recommended him in the 'Hall of Fame' for commercial, corporate/M&A. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2024–2025* recommended him in the 'Hall of Fame' for commercial, corporate/M&A. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2016–2023* recommended him as a 'Leading Individual' for commercial, corporate/M&A. Willem was also recommended in 2012–2016 for mining. *IFLR1000 2018–2024* recommended Willem as a highly regarded lawyer for M&A, and private equity.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2023–2025 recommended Rachel Kelly for mining. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2022* also recommended her for corporate, commercial/M&A.

Chambers Global 2018–2025 ranked Fiona Leppan in Band 2 for employment. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2025* recommended Fiona in the 'Hall of Fame' for employment. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2025* recommend Fiona for mining. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2019–2024* recommended her as a 'Leading Individual' and from 2012–2018 recommended her for employment.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended Burton Meyer for dispute resolution.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2024–2025 recommended Jaco Meyer for commercial, corporate/M&A.

MARKET RECOGNITION AND EXPERIENCE...continued

Rishaban Moodley is the Practice Head of our Dispute Resolution team and Head of our Gambling & Regulatory Compliance sector. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2016–2025* recommended Rishaban for dispute resolution. Rishaban has extensive experience in open cast mining acting for and advising mining houses both in South Africa and other parts of Africa for over six years. The service and advice provided includes the application for prospecting permits, mining licenses, employment agreement, union negotiations, transport agreements, various sale agreements, including the sale of material and ferro alloy and commercial litigation.

Aadil Patel is the Practice Head of our Employment Law team, and the Head of our Government & State-Owned Entities sector. *Chambers Global 2024–2025* ranked Aadil in Band 1 for employment. *Chambers Global 2015–2023* ranked him in Band 2 for employment. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025* recommended Aadil as a 'Leading Individual' for employment and recommended him from 2012–2020. Aadil is particularly highly skilled in advising clients in highly-regulated industries on ground-breaking areas of employment law, helping them comply with fast-changing legislation in this space. A key focus for Aadil is energy & natural resources.

Chambers Global 2017–2025 ranked Allan Reid in Band 2 for energy & natural resources: mining. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2025* recommended Allan in the 'Hall of Fame'. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2020–2024* recommended him as a 'Leading Individual' for mining. From 2011–2019, it recommended him for mining. Allan is one of the leading advisers to the South African mining sector, bringing almost three decades of experience of mining and the mining industry for clients. He has also advised major clients with regard to compliance and mineral issues on mines in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Niger, Mozambique, Chad and the DRC. Allan has led work for South African platinum and gold majors on a diverse range of mining & mineral law interests, property, securities exchange and funding matters.

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

Chambers Global 2025 ranked **Deon Wilken** in Band 4 for banking & finance and from *2021–2024* in Band 3. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2013–2023* recommended him for banking & finance. *IFLR1000 2018–2023* recommended Deon as a highly regarded lawyer for capital markets: debt, energy and infrastructure, and for project finance.



OUR TEAM

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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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