

ASSOCIATE (COMMERCIAL LITIGATION)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A driven associate attorney and former Olympic athlete, experienced in working with diverse groups and individuals, in fast-paced, high pressure environments. Equipped with strong analytical skills and a formidable passion for self-development and working with others.

With foundational skills of time-management, commitment and determination after having worked in one of Africa's largest law firms and having competed for South Africa in the Olympic Games in London in 2012 as a professional athlete.

Proficient in public speaking and legal drafting skills, allowing for effective engagement with various stakeholders within the industry and is seen as a reliable, dedicated team member.

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa (May 2020).
Notary Public (Pending Admission).

WORK EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY | May 2020 - Current

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Incorporated, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dispute Resolution – Commercial Litigation:

Associate in CDH's Dispute Resolution practice (Chambers Band 1) and Business Rescue, Restructuring & Insolvency sector, practicing with a focus on general commercial litigation, contractual disputes and business rescue, restructuring and insolvency disputes. To date, assisted in advising corporate clients, creditors/lenders, liquidators, and business rescue practitioners, in both the public and private sector.

Experience includes:

- Advising clients on litigious concepts, court procedure and strategy in commercial disputes, particularly in distressed circumstances.
- Drafting of pleadings, both actions and applications, formal correspondences and conducting in-depth legal research in order to write effective first draft proposals and legal opinions.
- Engaging with other departments for inter-sector collaboration on complex disputes. Notable mentions being that of the employment law practice and the corporate and commercial practice.
- Attending to, and capable of, running with matters largely independently with minimal supervision.
- Presenting in live, topical webinars, training sessions and round table discussions within my CDH representative capacity.

Further responsibilities included attending to high volume banking litigation and disputes and drafting of publishable articles on topical legal issues and landmark cases which further required inter-sector collaboration, particularly in considering the all-encompassing restructuring sector.

CANDIDATE ATTORNEY | January 2019 – May 2020

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Incorporated, Johannesburg, South Africa

Seat 1: Employment Practice (6 months):

Formed part of a team in the employment law practice (The Legal 500 EMEA Tier 1 and Chambers Band 2) that specialized in industrial action, restraints of trade, urgent applications, large scale retrenchments and various employment contractual disputes. Instructions included having to prepare and draft various pleadings and attend court proceedings in the Labour Court of South Africa.

Further experience included:

- Attending to assist high profile, corporate and state-owned enterprise clients with large scale retrenchment processes, employee disciplinary proceedings and combating of industrial action.
- Conducting in-depth research in order to write effective proposals, agreements and legal opinions on various employment and labour related matters.
- Develop constructive client relationships and attend various consultations with clients, counsel, opposing counsel and witnesses (for purposes of witness preparation).
- Maintained thorough record-keeping for accurate, comprehensive reference of various matters which I was entrusted with and ran with little supervision.

Seat 2: Tax and Exchange Control Rotation (6 months):

Formed part of a team in the tax and exchange control department which specialised in cross-border and exchange control tax matters and disputes. The scope of work also included litigious disputes with the National Revenue Service, as well as various commercial and corporate restructuring matters.

Further experience included:

- Attending to research and preparation of advice regarding tax and company laws of various commonwealth jurisdictions for purposes of advising clients in tax and company restructuring matters.

Seat 3: Dispute Resolution (Commercial Litigation) Rotation (5 months):

Experience included same as that as discussed above under Associate with more supervision and training.

**NOTEWORTHY
REPRESENTATIONS**

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

- Lead Associate on high profile, complex, cross border lender dispute involving the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa Limited ("**IDC**") in both the Business Rescue Application and counter lender dispute application brought by Kalagadi Manganese. Responsibilities include attending to advise client on arbitration and court proceedings, drafting of pleadings, attending litigation strategy sessions, drafting of various advice opinions to client and attending to inter-party and judicial correspondence. Matter value approximately R 21 billion. Matter is ongoing (running since April 2020).
- Representation for a consortium of landlords of Edcon Limited in relation to the high-profile acquisition of the ongoing business of Edgars through the business rescue process. Matter value was in the amount of approximately R 8.1 billion. Responsibilities included representation at all statutory meetings of creditors, assisting in the successful negotiation with the business rescue practitioner in relation to various lease agreements in place, assisting in the successful preparation and submission of creditors' claims against Edcon. (Identified as local advisors in DealMakers nominated Business Rescue Transaction of the Year, 2020)
- Lead Associate in assisting a specialised commercial property finance company with the recovery of monies owing to them in the amount of approximately R75 million pursuant to various commercial project loan facilities. Responsibilities included assisting in attending to perfect the lender security and cause of action against the debtors by the conclusion of various initiating demand and security documents. Matter is ongoing.
- Lead Associate in successfully representing Protea Chemicals (Pty) Ltd, a division of Omnia Group (Pty) Ltd in bringing a money judgment application against a debtor, KAC Chemicals and Paints (U) Limited, in the High Court of Uganda. Matter value \$65 000.00
- Junior Associate in successfully assisting the Real Estate Business Owners of South Africa ("**REBOSA**") (on behalf of its members) in obtaining judgment on an urgent basis against Estate Agency Affairs Board ("**EAAB**"), compelling the issue all outstanding Fidelity Fund certificates due to estate agents.
- Lead Associate in successfully representing Food Lovers Market in defending/settling a matter in respect of a contractual termination dispute between our client and Millennium Bodyguards. Matter value approximately R9 million.
- Lead Associate in successfully representing Sasol South Africa Limited against a judgment debtor. Matter included issuing of a sequestration application, an urgent attachment order and various settlement negotiations. Matter value approximately R 1.75 million.

INSOLVENCY AND MONEY JUDGMENTS

- Attending to the execution of various money judgment, sequestration and liquidation actions and applications on behalf of notable banking clients, namely Investec Bank Limited, Absa Bank Limited and the Standard Bank of South Africa in their capacities as creditors.

EDUCATION**LSSA SCHOOL FOR LEGAL PRACTICE | Port Elizabeth, August 2018**

Legal Practice Training: Legal Practice

- Chairperson of Student Board
- Certificate for Trial Advocacy - Black Lawyers Association
- Best Subject Performer in Constitutional Law Practice, Labour Dispute Resolution, Professional Legal Ethics and Attorneys Bookkeeping.

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY | Port Elizabeth, April 2018

Bachelor of Laws (LLB): Law (CUM LAUDE)

- Deans Merit List 2016/2017
- Secretary of International Lawyers Association

NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY | Port Elizabeth, April 2015

Bachelor of Commerce and Law (BCom Law)

- Golden Key International Honour Society Member (2015)

COLLEGIATE HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS' | Port Elizabeth, December 2010

National Senior Certificate (Matric/Grade 12)

- Head Prefect
- First Team Water polo Captain

**NOTABLE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Team member of advisors identified by DealMakers as local advisors in nominated Business Rescue Transaction of the Year, 2020 (Edcon Business Rescue South Africa).
- Awarded Lexology Legal Influencer for Africa and Middle East in the Lexology Content Marketing Awards for the Q3 (Employment Law) category, 2019.
- Nominee for South Africa's Influential Women in Business and Government, 2013.
- Represented South Africa in the London Olympic Games in the 10km marathon swim, 2012.