



Johannes Gouws

Director
COUNTRY MANAGING PARTNER

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Johannes has got a vast experience in cross-border and domestic mergers and acquisitions, securities regulation, corporate finance, corporate law and the resolution of financial institutions.

In recent years he has acted in many of the largest corporate transactions in South Africa, across a range of sectors, including, banking and financial services, insurance, agriculture and retail.

Johannes Gouws is the Country Managing Partner of DLA Piper in South Africa.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- English
- Afrikaans

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate and Securities Litigation

English Afrikaans

- Advising FirstRand, South Africa's largest financial services institution, in the GBP1.1 billion acquisition of Aldermore Group PLC, a British specialist lender and savings bank.
- Advising Value Capital Partners (Pty) Ltd (VCP) in the acquisition of approximately 15% of the issued shares in Allied Electronics (Company) and the restructuring of the Company's current control structure.
- Advising Rand Merchant Bank in its capacity as the underwriter of the approximately R10 billion rights issue by Remgro. This deal represented one of the largest rights issues in South Africa in 2016.
- Advising a South African bank in the disposal of its branded credit card business to a newly formed South African bank.
- Advising a financial services holding company and a South African bank in concluding a joint venture agreement in terms of which they will offer expanded financial services solutions to their respective customers.
- Advising a Namibian bank on the acquisition of a Namibian financial services group that provides investment and wealth management services.
- Advising the Curator of African Bank Limited in the resolution of the bank.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Attorney of the High Court of South Africa, 1995

Recognitions

- Chambers Global 2021 – Band 1 in Corporate M&A. He comes highly recommended by sources for his "huge knowledge base and excellent communication," with one hailing him as a "very diligent and prudent adviser." His wealth of experience is utilised by a number of high-profile South African corporates for assistance with both domestic and cross-border transactions.
- Chambers Global 2016-2020 - Band 2 in Corporate M&A. He is a respected practitioner with notable domestic and cross-border M&A experience. Sources value his "excellent depth of knowledge on a range of legal and business topics," and describe him as "an excellent dealmaker and negotiator." Another attested: "His solutions are practical and not overly legalistic."
- Legal500 2018-2021 - ranks Johannes as 'Leading Individual'. Johannes has an outstanding record in big-ticket M&A.'
- IFLR1000 (2018-2021) ranks Johannes as 'Highly Regarded' in M&A, 2016 ranks Johannes as a Leading Lawyer in the M&A sector.
- Recognised as an Acritas Star 2017-2020.
- Who's Who Legal ranks him for his Corporate - M&A experience
- Best Lawyers® 2020 – 2021 (Corporate law; M&A Law)

Education

- LLB, University of Pretoria, 1992
- BLC, University of Pretoria, 1990

INSIGHTS

Publications

South Africa: Horizon Scanning 2022

18 January 2022
Africa Connected

NEWS

DLA Piper advise Real Foods on amalgamation transaction with Virgin Active

21 April 2022

DLA Piper has advised Real Foods, a multi-brand food group based in South Africa on the GBP28.6 million amalgamation of their Kauai and Nü restaurant chains into the Virgin Active Group.

DLA Piper builds its ranking in “Best Lawyers” 2022 South Africa edition

11 November 2021

DLA Piper has built on its standing in the 2022 edition of the "Best Lawyers" South Africa listing by adding another three directors.

DLA Piper South African lawyers recognised by IFLR1000 2021

2 November 2021

DLA Piper has been recognised by the IFLR1000 in the publication's 2021 rankings of the world's leading financial and corporate law firms and lawyers.

DLA Piper advised FirstRand Bank on acquisition of Slow Lounge business from Comair

21 September 2021

DLA Piper has advised FirstRand Bank Limited, the largest financial services group in Africa, on its acquisition of the Slow Lounge business from Comair Limited for R250 million.

DLA Piper appoints two new directors to Johannesburg office

1 September 2021

DLA Piper today announces the appointment of two Directors to its Johannesburg office, Tumisang Mongae, who joins our Litigation & Regulatory practice from today and Sibonelo Mdluli, who joined our Corporate practice on 1 August.

DLA Piper bolsters corporate and commercial capability in South Africa with the appointment of André Visser

15 January 2021

DLA Piper has appointed André Visser as a director of its corporate practice in Johannesburg. André has over 24 years of corporate and commercial experience advising local and international clients across a range of sectors including technology, consumer goods, agriculture, financial services and real estate.

DLA Piper advises on Remgro unbundling

18 June 2020

DLA Piper has advised Remgro Limited on the unbundling of its 28.2% shareholding in RMB Holdings Limited, valued at approximately ZAR28 billion.

DLA Piper advises on South African Loan Guarantee Scheme to distressed businesses

3 June 2020

DLA Piper has advised The Banking Association South Africa and six of South Africa's biggest banks (Absa, First National Bank, Investec, Mercantile Bank, Nedbank and Standard Bank) on the COVID-19 loan guarantee scheme announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa in April 2020.

DLA Piper advises FirstRand Group on acquisition of Ghanaian GHL Bank

21 May 2020

DLA Piper South Africa has advised FirstRand Bank Limited, the largest financial institution group in Africa, on the acquisition by its subsidiary, First National Bank Ghana Limited (FNB Ghana), of GHL Bank Plc (GHL Bank) from Harborough Limited.
