



EZRA DAVIDS

Chairman of Corporate/M&A
Johannesburg, South Africa

T: +27 11 669 9320

E: ezra.davids@bowmanslaw.com

BA, LLB, H Dip Tax, Certificate in Leadership in Law Firms

Overview

Ezra Davids is Chairman of Corporate/M&A at Bowmans specialising in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and securities law.

Ezra is currently one of the donor representatives on the council of the University of Cape Town and a member of the audit and risk committee. He is the former chairman of the Faculty Advisory Board of the Law School of the University of Cape Town; a member of the board of trustees of the Legal Resources Trust (a non-profit human rights organisation using the law as an instrument of justice) and the Social Justice Initiative; a director of Freedom Under Law (a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of the rule of law in Southern Africa), and a patron of the Student Sponsorship Programme (a non-profit organisation that places and enables academically talented, low income students to excel in South Africa's best high schools).

He is the former chairman of the recent developments in the M&A subcommittee of the Corporate and M&A Committee of the International Bar Association and is a current member of the Corporate and M&A Committee of the International Bar Association.

He is also a regular contributor to international M&A and equity capital markets publications and is co-contributor on the mergers' chapter of the Modern Company Law text book. Ezra was the first practising African lawyer to be featured on the front page of the American Lawyer.

Relevant experience

Ezra was the lead partner in the following matters:

- acting as South African counsel to SAB Miller in its proposed combination with AB InBev (ZAR 1.5 trillion/ USD 107 billion), the 3rd largest M&A transaction ever in the world and the largest in South African M&A history;
- advising PepsiCo Inc. in its recently completed \$1.7 acquisition of one of the largest food companies in South Africa and Africa, Pioneer Foods Limited (this was one of PepsiCo's largest investment outside the US over the last 10 years);
- acting for Tokyo Stock Exchange listed Kansai Paint Co. Limited in its successful hostile bid for JSE Listed Freeworld Coatings Limited (ZAR 3.3 billion) – which is still the first and only successful cross border hostile bid in South Africa;
- acting as South African counsel to Bharti in its then proposed merger with MTN (USD 24 billion);
- advising Verizon Communications in its disposal of its subsidiary, Verizon Business (South Africa);
- acting as South African Counsel to M1 and Investcom in the latter's acquisition by MTN (USD 5.5 billion);
- acting as the lawyers to Dis-Chem, a major South African pharmaceuticals retailer on its recent IPO on the JSE (ZAR 20 billion);
- acting as the lawyers to PPC (the largest cement company in South Africa) in successfully defending itself in the most high-profile shareholders activism in South Africa where there was an attempt to replace the entire board, and in its response to an approach by Afrisam for a proposed combination of the largest and second largest cement manufacturers in South Africa;
- advising Barrick Gold Corporation in its disposal of Barrick Gold South Africa (USD 1.55 billion) and acting for Goldman Sachs and Citigroup in the disposal by Polyus (Norilsk) of its entire shareholding in Gold Fields Limited (USD 2.02 billion); and
- for Old Mutual Plc in the aborted negotiations related to the acquisition by HSBC control of Nedbank Limited.

Awards & Citations

- Ranked by Legal 500 in 2020 as a member of the Hall of Fame of Mergers & Acquisitions Law.
- IFLR1000's 2020 Financial and Corporate Guide rated Ezra Davids as a Leading Lawyer - Highly Regarded in South Africa for Capital Markets: Debt, Capital Markets: Equity and M&A.
- Ezra was recognised by Who's Who Legal 2019 edition of Thought Leaders Global Elite for Mergers and Acquisitions and Corporate Governance.
- Chambers and Partners 2019 ranked Ezra in Band 1 for Capital Markets: Equity and in Band 1 for Corporate/M&A: South Africa.
- IFLR1000's 2019 Financial and Corporate Guide rated Ezra as a Highly Regarded Lawyer for Energy and Infrastructure, Debt Capital Markets, Equity Capital Markets and M&A.
- Chambers and Partners 2019 ranked Ezra in Band 1 for Capital Markets: Equity; in Band 1 for Corporate/M&A: South Africa; and in Band 2 for Corporate/M&A: Africa-wide.

Ms Dianna Marilynne Yach BA LLB LLM



Dianna Yach is currently chairperson of the Mauerberger Foundation Fund (MFF), privately established in 1936, which supports community-based and academic institutions in South Africa (Western Province), Israel and Ramallah. The MFF seeks to advance human rights and social justice by supporting ethical leaders in health, welfare, education, arts & culture, and sustainable environment matters. She is also Chairperson of the UCT Alumni Advisory Board and serves as a member of Council for the Universities of Cape Town and of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She serves on the UCT Finance Committee, Human Resources Committee, Institutional Forum and Naming of Buildings Committee and chairs the Irma Stern Museum Committee Board and also serves on the boards of local NGOs including: Habonim, ORT Cape SA, Cape Jewish Welfare Trust and Mensch.

Yach is a proud UCT alumnus, passionately committed to equality, diversity, and human rights. After graduating from UCT with a BA and LLB she obtained an LLM from the University of London, subsequently lecturing in law at Queen Mary College, University of London. She is also an accredited mediator and fellow of the Chartered Institute of People Development (UK).

She founded and was managing director of the niche London-based consultancy Ionann Management Consultants Ltd, focussed on enabling clients in the public, private and community sectors with respect to transformation, change management and translation of equality, diversity and human rights into practice. Yach was active in community-based work too serving as a trustee of the Camden Citizens Advice Bureau, chair of the Camden Race Equality Council and founder member of Scotland Yard's Racial and Violent Crime Taskforce.

During South Africa's first democratic elections, she served as a member of the Commonwealth Observer's Group and chaired a multinational panel on peacekeeping and a multinational panel on transformation of the South African Police Service. She also participated in an international team of policing specialists that reviewed the policies and practices of 11 sub-Saharan African countries and made recommendations to the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation on enhancing democratic policing in the region.