



Lydia Shadrach-Razzino

Partner and Head | Corporate M&A Practice

Baker McKenzie Johannesburg



Lydia is continuously recognised for her legal proficiency and was most recently included in the Legal 500 Private Practice Powerlist 2024: M&A | Africa - a meticulously researched guide that showcases Africa's very best.

She was a shortlisted finalist for DealMaker of the Year in 2020 and again in 2021 and received the award in 2021, making her the first woman in the history of the award to have won.

In 2022, Lydia was also awarded the Client Choice M&A Lawyer of the Year Award. In 2014, she was awarded the ABSIP Corporate Finance Lawyer of the Year award. She is also recognised by Chambers (for M&A and Private Equity), Legal 500 and Best Lawyers, and is featured in Who's Who Legal.

Lydia has advised on several award-winning transactions including Vodacom on its acquisition of an interest in Vodafone Egypt, which was awarded Deal of the Year 2021 at the DealMakers Gala Awards. She advised Ascendis on its disposal of its Animal Health business to Acorn Private Equity, which was awarded Catalyst Private Equity Deal of the Year 2021.

Practice Focus

Lydia focuses on public and private M&A and private equity transactions across various industries, and also advises on empowerment transactions, corporate governance, equity

capital market transactions and general corporate finance. Her experience expands beyond South Africa, having advised on numerous cross-border transactions.

Representative Legal Matters

- Advised Capitalworks on the disposal of Much Asphalt (sell side managed sales process). This transaction was awarded Catalyst Private Equity Deal of the Year 2017.*
- Advised Grindrod Ltd regarding a spin-off of the shipping business of the Grindrod Group and listed it on the Nasdaq (primary) and JSE (secondary).*
- Advised Massmart on the disposal of its Cambridge, Rhino and Massfresh businesses.*
- Advised Norfund on equity investments.*
- Advised a consortium led by RMB and Investec on their acquisition of c.76.9% of Kamoso Distribution, a Botswana-based retailer and consumer goods company.*
- Advised RMB and Investec in the disposal of a percentage of their interest in Kamoso to the Botswana Development Corporation.*
- Advised RMB Corvest in the acquisition of the Adcorp Support Services from Adcorp.*
- Advised RMB Ventures in the acquisition of the Bluff Meat Supply Group, which was awarded Catalyst Private Equity Deal of the Year 2013.*
- Advised RMB Ventures on the disposal of Tessara, the global market leader in the supply of sulphur dioxide generating sheets.*
- Advised SAB Zenzele in the Anheuser-Busch InBev BEE transaction (scheme of arrangement).*
- Advised The Foschini Group in its acquisition of the JET business from Edcon.*
- Advised The Foschini Group in its R3,9bn rights issue with both a local and international offering element.*
- Advised International Finance Corporation on numerous equity investments.*
- Advised Vodacom on an acquisition of a 34.94% indirect interest in Safaricom from Vodafone International by acquiring 87.5% of the issued share capital of Vodafone Kenya and a subscription by Vodafone for ordinary shares in Vodacom.*
- Advised Vodacom on its acquisition of (i) 51% interest in 10T by way of a sale (by the existing shareholders of 10T) and subscription, and (ii) 51% interest in IoT.nxt by way of a subscription. Jurisdictions involved: Netherlands, US and South Africa.*
- Advised Vodacom on its acquisition of a stake in Vodafone Egypt (R41bn).*

* Experience obtained prior to joining Baker McKenzie 

Professional Honours

- Included in the Legal 500 Private Practice Powerlist 2024: M&A | Africa
- Winner, Client Choice Award for M&A Lawyer of the Year, 2022
- Ranked, Chambers Global, Corporate/M&A: Private Equity, South Africa, 2018-2023
- Ranked, Chambers Global, Corporate/M&A, South Africa, 2016-2017, 2019-2023
- Named, Best Lawyers Corporate, South Africa, 2016-2024

- Recommended/Key Lawyer, Legal 500, Commercial, Corporate and M&A, South Africa, 2018-2019, 2021-2022
- Winner of the Ince Individual DealMaker of the Year by DealMakers in 2021, the first female in history to win this award
- Shortlisted for the Ince Individual DealMaker of the Year by DealMakers in 2020
- Winner, Corporate Finance Lawyer of the Year Award by the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals, 2014 and 2015

- Finalist, Corporate Finance Lawyer of the Year Award by the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals

Professional Associations and Memberships

- Law Society of South Africa

Admissions

- South Africa

Education

- University of KwaZulu-Natal (BProc)
- University of KwaZulu-Natal (LLB)