

# Our Africa Experience

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We're here to support your international ambitions in an increasingly globalised world. We can help you navigate the challenges of doing business and managing complex matters across borders.

We combine our excellence in business services and legal advice in our key sectors, with our focus on international private wealth and investment. In Africa we have significant experience in assisting “private” and “discrete” equity through advising funds, corporates and family businesses (including family offices) investing on the continent.

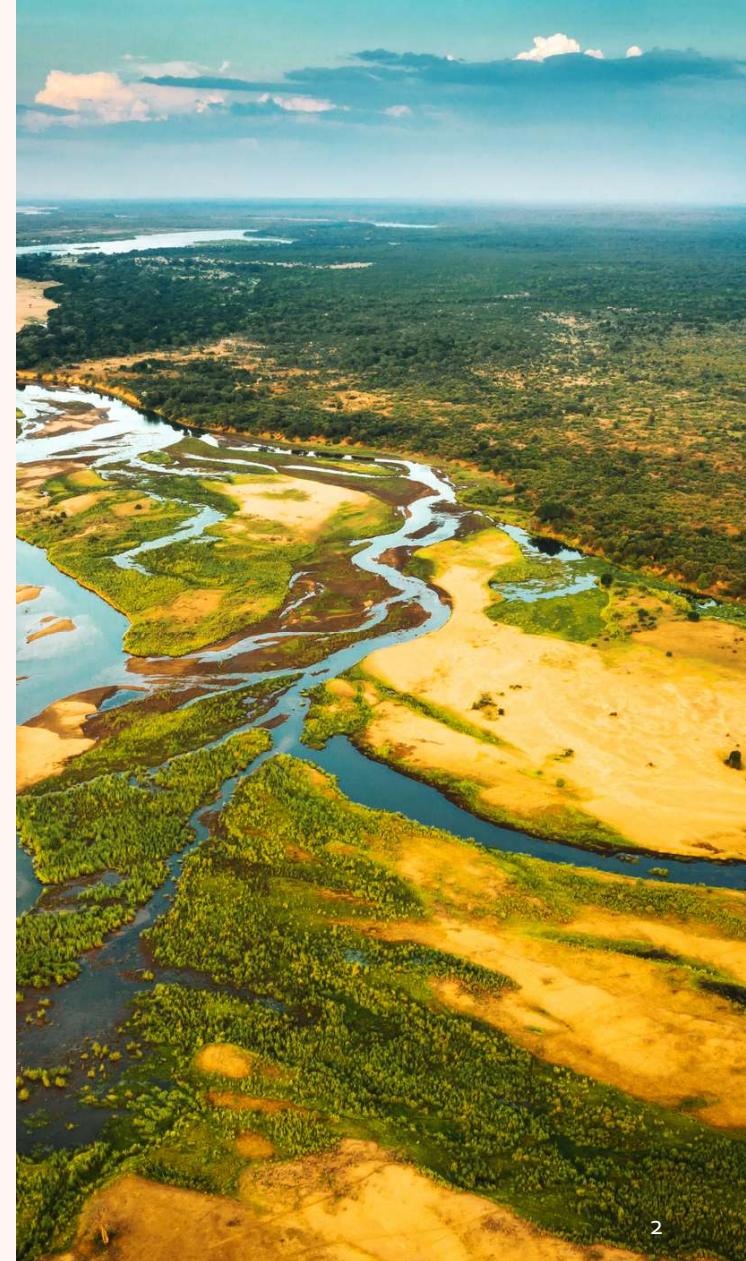
We will put together the right legal team for you, drawing upon the firm's different disciplines, sector expertise and geographies, and working with the best law firms in the markets in which you operate or invest.

Where we do not have offices, our regional teams work with leading local law firms to support clients from or doing business in Africa, as well as Latin America, North America, the Caribbean, India, China and various countries in Europe.

Geographically, we have a depth of experience in West Africa, focusing primarily on Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire; and in East and Southern Africa, on Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique. However, we have recently been involved in many other countries, including Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Angola, South Africa and some North African countries, specifically Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco.

Our key sectors include:

- Agriculture
- Real Estate and Construction
- Infrastructure
- TMT
- Financial Services
- Education
- Healthcare
- Sport
- Retail & Leisure
- Renewables and Energy & Natural Resources





# We understand investment into Africa

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Increasing urbanisation in Africa, a growing middle class and more disposable income is creating new hotspots and market opportunities.

We're here to help you navigate the opportunities and challenges of some of the world's fastest growing and most dynamic economies.

Our clients include local and international corporates, institutions, investors and individuals. We advise on their business interests across Africa, including corporate and M&A, real estate and construction, litigation and dispute resolution, and private client services.

The team includes lawyers in our London, European and Middle Eastern offices, many of whom have lived and worked in Africa. We provide a multi-disciplinary approach backed by a deep understanding of the key growth sectors on the continent.

## Awards and accolades

- Member of, and partner with, Invest Africa
- Best Legal Services: Private Equity – Pan-Africa - AGF Africa Service Providers Awards 2023
- Deals Legal Advisor of the Year - Private Equity Africa Awards 2022
- Highly recommended by Leaders League: Africa Desk - Law firm - 2022
- Media commentators and authors on Africa legal matters with recent coverage in the Law Society Gazette and LRC Bulletin



# What we do

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## Corporate

The current climate has required businesses to show adaptability and resilience in the midst of uncertainty. With expert guidance from our market-leading team of corporate lawyers we can help you to successfully achieve your business goals.

With our extensive experience in Africa, we provide clarity on the priorities for each individual transaction or project - where law and business are complex, we aim to be clear. We deliver a high level of partner involvement which, we believe together with our sector and geographical experience in Africa, differentiates us from other firms. Our approach is to provide a highly professional but not over-lawyered service, complemented by sound commercial advice and a keen eye on costs.

## Private equity & venture capital

The private equity, venture and impact capital world is fast paced, with ever-evolving structures and trends. It remains an exciting arena of business growth and development with rewarding investment opportunities for owners, managers and investors alike. Our experienced team will support your business and team no matter the size.

A unique aspect of our offering is our capacity to provide legal advice for our clients' business and personal needs, advising family offices, high and ultra-high net worth individuals as well as business owners.

## Capital markets

As global disruption caused by COVID-19 continues to impact the global capital markets publicly listed companies and their advisers and sponsors must remain agile to sustain successful growth.

We will advise you on the full range of listed company transactions, including takeovers (whether by way of public takeover offer), scheme of arrangement or reverse takeover and helping clients put in place innovative equity and debt financing arrangements. As well as advising on complex cross-border transactions involving dual-listed businesses around the world and across a wide range of sectors, we have a particular focus in equity capital market fundraising for AIM-listed, mid-cap and smaller quoted companies and their sponsors.

As your company grows, we support and value our ongoing relationship with you, offering ongoing strategic and practical advice. Our corporate advisory work covers all the day-to-day issues affecting quoted companies, including advising on AGM and annual report related matters. Our corporate governance team handles a broad range of governance and compliance issues and a broad range of equity and debt capital markets transactions.

“Charles Russell Speechlys LLP is 'capable of managing matters across multiple jurisdictions in a professional and user-friendly manner with great respect to time and realistic approach to time required for fulfilment’”

Legal 500, Emerging Markets

# What we do

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## Banking & finance

Global banking and finance markets are becoming increasingly complex.

We can provide you with clear, jargon-free advice. Our team will advise you on the whole range of domestic and cross-border financing transactions including leveraged, real estate, structured, Islamic and receivables as well as restructuring existing facilities.

We work with both lenders and borrowers, including the major clearing banks, commercial and private banks, non-bank lenders, investment funds, institutional investors, corporate borrowers, hedge funds and family offices.

## Financial services regulation and funds

The pace of regulatory change in financial services and investment funds is unprecedented. At the same time, new technology, markets and customers offer innovative companies great opportunities for growth.

Financial service businesses need to constantly review and revise their practices and procedures to meet the challenges of this evolving landscape. We assist throughout the lifecycle of a fund from structuring, establishment and distribution to ongoing operational and compliance issues (both for the fund and its manager and other advisers), secondary transactions and restructurings.

## Dispute resolution

At this time, more than ever, being able to resolve disputes and regulatory issues as efficiently and effectively as possible is paramount. All types of organisations across Africa, as well as across the globe, are facing major challenges to their business as a result of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has had on economic development and international trade. Our Dispute Resolution practice covers a uniquely broad range of services from resolving family and property disputes to litigating on behalf of governments and major global companies.

## Intellectual property & technology

Virtually every business worldwide has intellectual property that may be of vital importance to its continued success.

Our role is to enable you to make the most of your intellectual property assets through protection, enforcement, commercialisation and audits. We will work with you to establish your needs and objectives for IP protection, and will identify the most suitable form, geographical extent, and availability of protection and manage the relevant process.

“A very decent choice for competent, effective representation in corporate and commercial including private equity and real estate, under Adrian Mayer, and disputes matters with a well-established emerging markets track record and extensive expertise. Charles Russell Speechlys excels in various legal areas, including corporate, commercial, real estate, and dispute resolution. Their team of skilled lawyers exhibits a client-focused approach, ensuring tailored solutions to complex challenges.”

Legal 500, Emerging Markets



# What we do

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## Real estate & construction

The vibrant real estate & construction market is dynamic and so are the needs of individuals and businesses who operate in this space in Africa.

Whether we are representing your personal or your business interests, we aim to build a long-term partnership with you. We will get to know you thoroughly so that we can offer strategic advice on how to achieve your objectives.

With experience of some of the most challenging and complex assignments, our multi-disciplinary team has 'seen it all before' and can apply this understanding to each transaction. Careful management of our resources enables us to progress matters efficiently and effectively, while our informed and skillful team works across business boundaries to ensure clients' objectives are met.

## Energy and natural resources

As demand for energy and natural resources rises around the world the companies and investors that seek to meet this demand face ever-changing regulations on their operations.

Changes in consumer sentiment, capital markets appetite for new projects and the cyclical nature of the sector all pose challenges for companies engaged in energy production and resource extraction.

We will focus on prioritising and understanding your needs, seeking to make simple the complex and highly regulated nature of the sector. Our diverse client base includes exploration companies for the oil, gas and minerals industries, mining companies as well as cleantech and renewable energy businesses, both onshore and offshore.

*"This firm has very high-calibre individuals who are commercially minded and accurate in their work."  
Chambers UK, Real Estate*



# What we do

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## International private client expertise

The world is getting smaller as families become increasingly international, with assets in multiple jurisdictions. Such families and individuals require specialist advice on the structuring of their affairs.

Our private client team specialise in advising internationally mobile high net worth and ultra-high net worth clients, and family offices (including advice on setting up family office structures). We have particular expertise in advising clients who have connections to Africa, the US, Middle East and Far East.

We are here to help families across the continent prioritise the steps they wish to take, and to deal with the complex questions around citizenship, residence, and domicile, and related tax and other legal issues across numerous jurisdictions.

### Key facts:

- One of the largest and best regarded international private client teams
- 11 international offices in Europe, the Middle East and Asia
- Full service firm with experts in corporate, commercial, family, litigation and real estate work
- A leader in the world of international private capital legal advice



# The Team



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