



Bulelwa Mabasa

HEAD OF LAND REFORM

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Bulelwa Mabasa is the Head of the Land Reform Practice Area and a Director. Her expertise is spread across a number of key practice areas which includes the following: Dispute Resolution; which includes land reform, restitution and tenure law, administrative and constitutional law; tenders and procurement; due diligence investigations; expropriation litigation; mining regulatory and mining litigation and banking litigation. She is an elected member of the firm's Executive Committee (Exco) and has served as Head of Team since 2010.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Land Reform

EXPERTISE

Litigation & Dispute Resolution

- Land Reform, Redistribution, Restitution and Land Claims litigation
- Dispute Resolution
- Administrative Constitutional Law
- Mining
- Customary and Communal Land Rights Law

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Advised / Represented / Acted on behalf of:

- high-profile clients in disputes pertaining to land reform, restitution, administrative law, such as tenders and procurement , eviction law and mining litigation in the High Court, and Supreme Court of Appeal and Constitutional Courts.

CAREER

- 2019: Head of Land Reform Restitution & Tenure Practice.
- 2013: Postgraduate Certificate in Land and Water Law, University of the Witwatersrand – Nelson Mandela Institute
- 2011: Postgraduate Certificate in Prospecting and Mining, University of the Witwatersrand – Nelson Mandela Institute
- 2008: Director, Werksmans
- 2004: Admitted as an Attorney
- 2002: University of the Witwatersrand
- 2000: BA, University of the Witwatersrand

HIGHLIGHTS

- Shortlisted as Partner of the Year by the African Legal Awards (2025)
- Her memoir *My Land Obsession* won for Alan Paton, now Sunday Times Literary Award, for Best Non-Fiction book for 2023.
- Bulelwa was awarded Best in Land Rights (First Runner Up) and Best in Thought Leadership, Innovation and Academia (Second Runner Up), at the Women in Law (WOZA) awards ceremony, that was hosted in July 2022.
- Bulelwa was awarded Best Woman Lawyer in Land Rights at the Women in Law (WOZA) awards ceremony during August 2019, based on her contribution not only to Werksmans in this sector but also, the key role Bulelwa plays in Land Reform policy in South Africa having been appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa to his Land Advisory Panel.
- Bulelwa was appointed in 2018 as one of the panel members on the Expert Advisory Panel to the President on Land Reform. She is the only attorney on the panel.
- Author of *Land in South Africa: Contested Meanings and Nation-Formation*.