WERKSMANS
ATTORNEYS

Chris Moraitis

HEAD OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

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Location: Johannesburg

Chris Moraitis is a Director and Head of the Infrastructure & Energy practice area, extending his expertise to Banking & Finance. Chris is a highly-skilled specialist able to advise across a broad range of regulatory and financing transactions – from debt capital market offerings and the regulatory aspects of banking; to project and limited recourse financing. He also advises on aspects relating to public-private partnerships and infrastructure projects; including the construction and environmental aspects thereof.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Banking & Finance
- Construction & Engineering
- Infrastructure & Energy

EXPERTISE

- Regulatory and financing transactions
- Debt capital market offerings
- Regulatory aspects of banking
- Project and limited recourse financing
- Aspects relating to public private partnerships
- Aspects of infrastructure projects, including the construction and environmental aspects thereof

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Advised / Represented / Acted on behalf of:

- the South African Reserve Bank in the Rand Commission of Inquiry and with regard to the 2003 Taxation and Exchange Control Amnesty; the amendment to the South African Reserve Bank Act in 2010 to address, inter alia, shareholding in the SARB and the functions and powers of the Board of the SARB; the amendment, in 2010, to the Exchange Control Regulations of 1961 to address administrative relief (Regulation 4); and the Voluntary Disclosure Programme regarding regulation of Exchange Control contraventions; and subsequent amendments to financial sector law legislation, including the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017
- the South African Reserve Bank and the Commission of Inquiry appointed under Section 69A of the Banks Act, in the investigation into the affairs of African Bank
- the South African Reserve Bank in the transaction relating to the restructuring of African Bank and the formation of "Good Bank"
- the South African Reserve Bank in relation to the Curatorship and subsequent liquidation of VBS Mutual Bank
- the concessionaire in the N3 Toll Road concession project and in the R 750 million preference share issue concluded in 2008
- the South African National Roads Agency in the N4 Bakwena Toll Road concession project and refinancing concluded in 2009
- the South African National Roads Agency in the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project as well as the procurement of an open road tolling system and a national transaction clearing house
- the South African National Roads Agency in relation to the establishment of an unsecured ZAR15 billion Domestic Medium Term Note Programme and a guaranteed ZAR32 billion Domestic Medium Term Note Programme
- the Overberg Consortium in respect of their bid for the design, construction, finance, operation and maintenance of national Route 1 (Old Oak interchange to Sandhills) and National Route 2 (Swartklip interchange to Botrivier as a toll highway, including associated facilities and developments under a concession contract
- various consortia and Lenders in 2010 to 2022 in relation to the Department of Energy of the Republic of South Africa's IPP Programme (IPP Programme) relating to new power generation facilities, including the risk mitigation round
- the Lesedi and Letsatsi Power Companies, in 2011 and 2012 (Round 1 Projects), in respect of their two 75MW Solar PV Projects, in relation to the IPP Programme and the achieving of Financial Close in respect of these Projects
- the Jasper Power Company in respect of its 75MW Solar PV Project, in 2012 and 2013 (Round II Project), in relation to the IPP Programme and the achieving of Financial Close in respect of this Project
- a consortia led by WBHO Construction (Pty) Ltd (in 2013 and 2014) in respect of its design, construction, finance, operation and maintenance of an accommodation project for Statistics South Africa
- OMLACSA in respect of its equity investment in two wind and two Solar PV Projects in Round 4 of the IPP Programme
- a consortia of three lenders to the Preferred Bidder in relation to the senior debt and ancillary funding facilities for the design, construction, commissioning and operation of, the 200MW gas and 180MW Solar PV Hybrid Power Plant located in the Coega Special Economic Zone and the 80MW Solar PV Plant, battery energy storage system and diesel generation plant located at De Aar in the Northern Cape, under the Risk Mitigation IPP Procurement Programme
- African Clean Energy Development (ACED) (as Lead Developer) and the Sponsors in respect of the development of circa 250MW of Wind and Solar PV plants for a large mining corporation
- African Clean Energy Development (ACED) (as Lead Developer) and the Sponsors in respect of the development of 60MW of Wind facility for a large corporate Offtaker
- Sponsors in 2022/2023 in relation to the development of an 89MW wind farm, supplying renewable energy to a mining house to support its mining operations via a wheeling arrangement
- Lenders' legal advisors in 2023 in relation to the provision of financing in respect of a 150MW solar PV project wheeling energy across South Africa to multiple offtakers, being the first and largest privately developed n-type utility-scale project
- Sponsors in 2022/2024 in relation to its development of 3 wind power generation facilities of 140MW each, to supply energy on wheeled basis to various offtakers including mining houses and traders

CAREER

- 1992: BA (University of the Witwatersrand)
- 1994: LLB (University of the Witwatersrand)
- 2014: Director, Werksmans

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranked by Chambers Global | Band 3 | Projects & Energy | 2025, 2026
- Ranked as a recommended lawyer by Legal 500 | Projects and Infrastructure | 2024
- Ranked by Chambers Global | Band 4 | Projects & Energy | 2015 – 2022, 2024
- Ranked as a leading practitioner by Legal 500 | Projects & Infrastructure | 2015, 2016 and 2018
- Ranked as a highly regarded practitioner by IFLR 1000 | Energy & Infrastructure | Project Development | Project Finance | 2018 – 2022, 2024 and 2025
- Ranked as a recommended lawyer by Who's Who Legal | Government Contracts | 2018 – 2022
- Ranked as a recommended lawyer by Best Lawyers