WERKSMANS
ATTORNEYS



Paul Coetser

HEAD OF COMPETITION

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Paul Coetser is Director and Head of Competition, advising in the Business Crimes & Investigations and Telecommunications, Media & Technology practice areas. He advises on appearances before Competition Commission; the Competition Tribunal; the Competition Appeal Court; and ICASA. Paul also provides expert advice on obtaining approval for mergers and takeovers from the competition authorities; and laying and defending of complaints of alleged anti-competitive conduct (e.g. cartels, abuse of dominant position and price discrimination). His expertise includes advising on applications for leniency and for exemption from the Competition Act.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Competition
- Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions
- Digital Media & Electronic Communications
- Technology & Innovation

EXPERTISE

- Being a Competition lawyer providing an exceptional range of legal services for the Competition law practice area

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Appearances before Competition Commission, Competition Tribunal, Competition Appeal Court and ICASA
- Obtaining of approval for mergers and takeovers from the competition authorities
- Laying and defending of complaints of alleged anti-competitive conduct e.g. cartels, abuse of dominant position and price discrimination
- Applications for leniency and for exemption from the Competition Act
- Conducting compliance audits and developing compliance programs
- Responding to summonses from the Competition authorities and search and seizure operations (dawn raids)
- Defending individuals against allegations of participation in cartels

Paul has advised in a number of industries and sectors including Information Technology, Media and Financial Services

CAREER

- B Juris LLB LLM (University of South Africa)
- LLM (Virginia University)
- H Dip Tax Law
- 2009: Director, Werksmans

- Head of the Competition Law Practice Area

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranked in Hall of Fame by Legal 500 | Competition | 2026
- Ranked Leading Lawyer by Chambers Global | Band 3 | Competition/Antitrust | 2026
- Ranked Leading Lawyer by Chambers Global | Band 3 | Competition/Antitrust | 2025
- Ranked in Hall of Fame by Legal 500 | Competition | 2024 – 2025
- Founding chairperson of the Competition Law Committee of the Law Society of the Northern Provinces
- Chairman of the Standing Committee on Competition Law of the Law Society of South Africa
- Africa Regional liaison of the International Bar Association's Antitrust Committee (2009 – 2010)
- Convenor, speaker and participant at local and international conferences and seminars on competition law
- Appeared before Parliament's Committee on Trade and Industry, proposing amendments to the Competition Act (2002 and 2008)
- Participated in several Focus Groups Workshops assisting the Competition Commission in developing new legislation, rules and regulations
- One of South Africa's delegates to International Competition Network annual conferences (2006 – 2008)
- Comments regularly on Competition Law developments in the media
- Legal Media Group's Guide to the World's Leading Competition and Antitrust Lawyers (2008)
- Ranked Leading Lawyer by *Chambers Global* | **Band 2** | Competition/Antitrust | 2007, 2019 – 2022, 2024
- Ranked practitioner by *Chambers Global* | Corporate/M&A | 2009
- Ranked as a **recommended** practitioner by *Who's Who Legal* | Competition | 2022
- Ranked as a **highly regarded** practitioner by *IFLR 1000* | Competition | 2011 – 2019
- Ranked as a **highly regarded** practitioner by *IFLR 1000* | Technology, Media and Telecommunications | 2022
- Ranked as a **recommended lawyer** by *Legal 500* | Competition | 2011 – 2018
- Ranked as a **leading lawyer** by *Legal 500* | Competition | 2019 – 2022

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