



Zoë Austen

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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Zoë Austen is a senior associate with a focus in the Infrastructure, Energy & Projects and Banking & Finance practice areas. Zoë advises on a broad range of financing transactions, including project finance transactions, asset acquisitions, limited recourse financing, and public-private partnerships. She is experienced in structuring and negotiating deals within the infrastructure sector, ensuring the successful execution of projects.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Infrastructure & Energy
- Banking & Finance

EXPERTISE

- **Commercial**
 - Infrastructure & Energy
 - Project Finance and Infrastructure
 - Banking & Finance

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Advised / Represented / Acted on behalf of:

- the **South African Reserve Bank** in relation to the Curatorship and subsequent liquidation of **VBS Mutual Bank**
- **Sponsors** in relation to the development of the supply of 69MW of wind powered renewable energy for the production of green hydrogen at Sasol's Sasolburg operations, through a wheeling arrangement under a 20-year power purchase agreement with Sasol South Africa Limited
- **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
- **the Private Party** in respect of the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital Project in relation to the PPP and other Project Documents in respect of the upgrading and refurbishments of the hospital complex
- **Sponsors** in 2023/2024 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 a trader
- **Lenders' Legal Advisors** in 2024 in relation to a cross-border transaction involving foreign regulators and cross border funding for the of financing of the acquisition of two 10MW solar PV projects in Namibia
- **Lenders' Legal Advisors** in 2023 wherein we advised three major South African banks regarding 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 in South Africa
- **Lenders' Legal Advisors** in 2025 in relation to both a re-financing and a separate financing arrangement in respect of a portfolio of Secured Properties under a multi-facility lending arrangement, coupled with the registration of a number of mortgage bonds and other asset acquisition concerns with a current deal value of over ZAR1.3 billion
- **Offtaker** in 2025 in the negotiation of a customer power purchase agreement for the purchase of energy by a licensed energy trader from a 155MW wind facility, with a project value of ~ZAR5 billion, which enabled the offtaker to purchase electricity from multiple generation facilities for onward sale to its customer portfolio
- **Sponsors** in 2026 regarding the development, construction & financing of a 475MW solar PV Project, including a battery storage solution element, to supply energy on wheeled basis to various energy traders within the South African market

CAREER

- **Admitted as an Attorney** in 2024
- **LLB** (*cum laude*), University of Cape Town, 2021
- **Bachelor of Arts** (double distinction), University of Cape Town, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- Listed as a key lawyer by *Legal 500* | Projects and Infrastructure | 2025 and 2026
- Listed as a key lawyer by *Legal 500* | Banking and Finance | 2025
- Graduated 5th in the graduating LLB class of 149 students, University of Cape Town.
- University Provincial Debating Champion, University of Cape Town.