



Firm Overview

Poised to Deliver

Advocaat was launched in 2005 and is internationally recognized as a successful commercial and energy law firm. Our vision is to be the premier full service integrated law firm in Sub-Saharan Africa delivering world-class legal services and providing cutting-edge solutions to our clients.

Ethically Sound

At Advocaat we pride ourselves on providing professional services of the highest standards by combining an awareness of the client's needs with a practical and constructive approach to legal issues. Our team of partners, associates and support staff consistently proffer the best legal solutions in order to secure our clients' success. Furthermore, the ease of access to our staff and the need for accountability ensures that the firm is more client-focused, placing quality of service as our core objective.

Main Practice Areas

Energy & Natural Resources:

The firm's comprehensive services in this sector include reviewing and drafting agreements related to oil, gas, electricity and solid minerals transactions, as well as providing general advice in line with prevailing laws and regulations. Advocaat has periodically assisted companies in their bids for the acquisition of oil prospecting licenses and marginal fields, during national licensing rounds, and has also advised clients on any subsequent acquisition and disposal of interests related thereto.

Banking & Finance:

An ever evolving sector, the banking and financial sector has a direct impact on all other areas of the economy. The firm provides sound advice to commercial and investment banks, institutional investors, mortgage institutions, fund managers, leasing and insurance companies with regards to their acquisitions and related corporate finance matters.

Our energetic and results-oriented approach quickly earned the firm a ranking for Energy and Natural Resources Law in Chambers Global Guide to the World Leading Lawyers 2008 where we were described as a firm that "is definitely going places"

Client Care

At Advocaat we strive at all times to build and maintain our clients' trust and confidence in our services, by upholding certain standards with regards to client care.

Standardised client care systems include the proper maintenance of client records, effective billing systems and the provision of periodical updates to clients. We also appreciate that time is usually of the essence in most business transactions and therefore provide prompt replies to telephones calls, faxes and electronic mail, whilst ensuring that appointments are scheduled and clients attended to without undue delay.

Our commitment to client care and confidentiality is at the forefront of our work ethic at all times and our associates are invariably trained to handle clients matters with the utmost professionalism, under the proper supervision of practice heads and partners within the firm, and ably supported by our administrative staff.





"Through the centuries, men of law have been persistently concerned with the resolution of disputes in ways that enable society to achieve its goals with a minimum of force and maximum of reason."

-Archibald Cox

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Corporate & Commercial:

Advocaat provides a wide range of legal services to both local and multinational companies from various business sectors, in respect of their commercial transactions in West Africa. Specifically, Advocaat advises clients on varying issues such as company formations, corporate restructuring, joint ventures, mergers, acquisitions, and sales, as well as providing general advice on regulatory compliance and corporate governance issues, through its company secretarial services.

Construction & Infrastructure:

The influx of international investors into West Africa has resulted in an increased demand for expertise in this area, in relation to both the public and private sectors. The firm's Construction & Infrastructure Group's experience includes advising on road construction, real estate, engineering and infrastructural projects, as well as various Public-Private-Participation (PPP) projects.

Immigration & Nationality:

As a result of the firm's recognized expertise in corporate immigration, it periodically advises high net-worth individuals and multinational companies on all aspects of immigration law and practice. The firm regularly procures on behalf its clients, entry clearance visas, work permits, business permits, Subject to Regularization (STR) visas, and Combined Expatriate Quota Approvals (CERPAC), as well as any other legally required immigration documents that would facilitate the smooth running of any business with foreign participation and engagement of expatriates.

Taxation:

Advocaat recognizes that its clients require a seamless tax advisory service as an integral part of the full services it offers to them. The firm therefore provides prompt legal advice on general taxation issues such as direct taxation and value added tax, as well as offering tax-related solutions in respect of oil and gas transactions, property and title perfection matters, and joint venture projects. Furthermore, the team possesses the requisite experience in securing pioneer status for various projects, in order to attract tax exemptions from the federal and state governments.

Transportation:

Advocaat has advised on a variety of transportation related legal issues ranging from transactions concerning aircraft leasing and financing, to railway concessions and insurance claims. The firm continues to proffer advice to various participants in the industry, including leading haulage companies, and airlines.

Dispute Resolution:

The firm's Dispute Resolution Group has lawyers with advocacy experience, as well as the capacity to proffer advice on matters concerning alternative forms of dispute resolution, such as mediation and arbitration. Lawyers in this group periodically provide support services to other practice groups in the firm, offering advice and representation in respect of various matters, ranging from banking and insurance, to labour and immigration, and the enforcement of local and foreign judgments.

