

Riyesh Daya - Knowledge and experience in terms of section 7(2)(e) of the Legal Practice Act, 2014

I am the head of the Dispute Resolution practice at Webber Wentzel, and am an expert in all aspects of dispute resolution. I have a specific interest in construction, corporate and commercial litigation.

I was involved in the drafting of the New Companies Act, No 71 of 2008 and the Third King Code on Corporate Governance. I have also conducted workshops, seminars and presentations on construction-related dispute resolution; the Companies Act, and the Third King Code on Corporate Governance. I was a speaker at the 2nd Annual Southern Africa International Arbitration Conference which took place in Johannesburg.

I have been part of the profession for 20 years, and over the past decade have served the legal fraternity in the following capacities:

- past Chairperson of the National Association of Democratic lawyers (NADEL), Johannesburg branch;
- Councillor of the Gauteng Law council and Treasurer since 2010;
- Vice Chairperson of the Law Society of South Africa Company Law Committee;
- member of the International Association of Defense Counsel; and
- Chairman of the Board of Control of the Practical Legal Training School in Johannesburg.

As head of our Dispute Resolution practice I am responsible for ensuring the delivery of consistently high quality services by the department. These standards of excellence also extend to recruiting and constant training of the best talent. These principles have been embodied in our own Client Service Excellence Protocol and I am a proud advocate of these in my team.

One of the practices which fall under the Dispute Resolution Business Unit is the firm's pro bono practice which focuses on:

- upholding the Constitution and the rule of law;
- the protection of human rights,
- socio-economic rights including land reform and housing.

My clients include public and private corporations, and parastatal and NGO entities. Some of my experience includes being part of the team that advised/acted for:

- On a pro bono basis, Corruption Watch in December 2017, who was admitted as *amicus curiae* in the application that was brought by the Economic Freedom Fighters and others against the Speaker of the National Assembly and President Jacob Zuma. The court ruled that the National Assembly is obligated to make rules regulating the removal of a president in terms of Section 89 of the Constitution, and that it should fulfil its obligations without delay.
- On a pro bono basis, the Institute for Security Studies who was the third *amicus* in the Constitutional Court matter which reviewed and set aside the speaker's decision to refuse a vote by secret ballot in motions of no confidence in the president.
- A renewable energy company in providing legal advice pertaining to the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Program of the Department of Energy.
- A company in the oil and gas industry, on its obligation with the Department of Trade and Industry in terms of the national industrial participation programme.
- Various telecommunications service providers in relation to various litigious disputes.
- A major listed logistics company in a damages claim involving defamation, unlawful competition and breach of restraint of trade.
- A leading financial institution on contractual aspects of a ZAR 30 billion merger and the subsequent unbundling of its shareholding.

I am passionate about the transformation of the legal profession and have always used my various roles to promote legal education, access to justice and enhancing the rule of law. I believe I can add further value to the profession by being part of the new council.