

PROFILE

Rita Spalding
Corporate, Commercial and M&A



WEBBER WENTZEL

in alliance with > **Linklaters**

What is your expertise/specialist knowledge?

I specialise in M&A, general corporate, regulatory and commercial law, particularly in mining and natural resources.

Some of my recent deals include advising:

- > *Naspers on the unbundling of 438 837 468 ordinary shares in MultiChoice Group (being 100% of the issued MultiChoice Group shares and all of the MultiChoice Group shares held by*

Naspers) to Naspers shareholders through a pro rata distribution in specie; and

- > *Old Mutual on its managed separation, which included advising on the unbundling of Old Mutual Group's shareholding in Nedbank Group Limited, the demerger of Quilter plc from the Old Mutual Plc Group, and the listing of Old Mutual Ltd on the JSE, the Malawi Stock Exchange, the Namibian Stock Exchange and the Zimbabwean Stock Exchange.*

A brief example of a deal you worked on that stands out for you:

I was part of the core team that advised Sasol Mining on a potential project in the Waterberg. Although the initial instruction was to assist with the conclusion

of a transaction with the BEE partner to establish a new mine, the bigger picture was that Sasol wished to construct a new coal-to-liquids plant in the region. Ultimately the transaction did not proceed but it taught me the importance of understanding your client, its needs as well as the relevant industry.

Your advice to women in the corporate world

Time spent building, developing and maintaining relationships (be it with clients, colleagues, friends or family) is time well spent as it is this network of people who will have the biggest impact and influence on your career.

Everyone has something to teach you - ask questions, listen, learn and don't be afraid to venture into the unknown. You will make mistakes - we all do, acknowledge them, learn the lesson and then move on. Another given is hard work - never shy away from putting in the time and effort, there are no shortcuts!

Most importantly, life is short find a career that makes you happy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Named by Legal 500 2018 - 2021 as a legal expert
- > Named by Chambers Global 2013 - 2021 as a ranked lawyer
- > Named by IFLR1000 2013 - 2021 as a leading lawyer
- > Named by Best Lawyers 2018 - 2021 as a leading individual
- > Named by Who's Who Legal 2016 as a listed lawyer (Mining)

AN INTERESTING PERSONAL FACT ABOUT YOU:

I love being outdoors, whether travelling, hiking, cycling, wakeboarding, scuba diving or simply spending time in my organic veggie garden.