

DealMakers[®]

WOMEN 2025



Women of SA's M&A and Financial Markets Industry



Marylou Greig
Editor

Each year on Women's Day, we pause to honour the courage, strength and resilience of women, both past and present, who have broken barriers and paved the way for future generations. In South Africa, this day holds deep historical significance, rooted in the 1956 march of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in protest against unjust laws. It serves as both a tribute and a call to action; a reminder of how far we've come, and how much further we must go.

Within the South African M&A and financial markets industry, women continue to make strides, often quietly, often against the odds. This sector, long dominated by men, is slowly but surely beginning to recognise the immense value women bring to the table: not only through skill and insight, but through leadership, empathy, resilience and collaboration.

This collection of profiles and personal reflections is a celebration of those women. Each voice is unique, and each journey distinct, but common threads emerge; work hard, believe in yourself, and embrace the guidance and support of others. These stories are rich with lessons: from overcoming doubt to navigating complex deals, from building credibility to mentoring others in the quest to advance the visibility and influence of women in this industry.

It is our hope that these pages serve as more than just a showcase; that they be a source

FOREWORD

DealMakers WOMEN 2025

Women of SA's M&A and Financial Markets Industry

of inspiration to young women considering careers in finance, law or dealmaking. We hope that they offer encouragement to those who are navigating their own path, and serve as a reminder that they are not alone. Others have walked this road and thrived.

Let this be both a recognition of remarkable women and a beacon for the next generation.

This fifth edition of the feature will be released at the third DealMakers Women's Day networking event, which builds on the previous two years' success and will once again include a panel discussion. This year's panel members are Jo Mitchell-Marias, a Partner in Restructuring, Turnaround & Performance Improvement at Deloitte Africa; Amalia Lui, a Partner at Clyde & Co Tanzania; Shireen Motara, Founder and CEO of The Next Chapter Studio; Soria Hay, Founder and Head of Corporate Finance at Bravura; and Titi Sekhukhune, co-Founder and Partner at Infinite Partners.

My grateful thanks go to this dynamic industry for the continued support and participation in this feature and the networking event. And to my own team, who themselves are women juggling many roles, for their dedication and excellence in compiling this discourse – a collaboration and testament to the talented and resilient women in this space. 🙌

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VIDEOS

CDH South Africa
Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer
Investec Bank
Webber Wentzel

www.dealmakerssouthafrica.com/dm-q2-2025-womens-feature

SNAPSHOT



Guinevere Blignaut
Executive
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Guinevere Blignaut is an Executive at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice. She specialises in general corporate matters, corporate restructures and M&A.

She has acted for clients in a variety of industries, including the automotive, transport and logistics, mining, fuels and energy, retailers of fast-moving consumer products, healthcare, and property development industries.

Guinevere's experience includes drafting and reviewing a variety of commercial documents, including shareholders, sale of shares, sale of business, lease, supply, and distribution agreements, as well as providing legal opinions and advice on South African legislation such as the Companies Act, 2008; the Consumer Protection Act, 2008; and the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003.

She has also conducted and managed a number of due diligence investigations.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

BCom LLB (Stellenbosch University)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 



Shafeeka Hartley
Executive
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Shafeeka Hartley is an Executive at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice and her practice spans all aspects of commercial and transactional work.

Shafeeka has acted for clients in various sectors including mining, natural resources and energy, private equity, education, food and beverage, automotive, media/entertainment and real estate.

Shafeeka has particular expertise in mergers and acquisitions (M&A), equity capital markets (ECM), corporate restructures and broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) advisory, regulatory and compliance. Shafeeka has advised on cross-border and multi-jurisdictional M&A and ECM transactions in the mining sector, including takeovers, amalgamations, schemes of arrangement, IPOs, rights offerings, private placements, accelerated book builds and general, specific and convertible securities issues. Her experience also includes listings and delistings of companies on the JSE and general corporate finance work.

Shafeeka has set up share incentive schemes, advised on renewable energy projects, the structuring and establishment of new business entities in South Africa and the restructuring of existing corporates. She has advised SOEs and has experience in administrative law including public finance management and procurement. Shafeeka has assisted clients with the establishment of non-profit organisations and has led numerous due diligence investigations and is skilled in the drafting of commercial contracts and legal opinions.

Shafeeka regularly advises clients on corporate governance and regulatory compliance, most notably with the South African Companies Act and the Takeover Regulations, the King IV Report and the JSE Listings Requirements.

RECOGNISED AS A LEADING/RECOMMENDED LAWYER BY:

IFLR1000 Financial and Corporate Guide; M&A – 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 – Notable Practitioner (South Africa)
Best Lawyers® 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 – Corporate Law (South Africa)
Who's Who Legal 2021, 2019 – Mining (South Africa)

AREA OF EXPERTISE

B-BBEE | Corporate Commercial | Equity Capital Markets

QUALIFICATIONS

BA (University of Cape Town)
LLB (University of Cape Town)
BCom (Taxation) (Honours) (University of Cape Town)
Admitted as an attorney and conveyancer of the High Court of South Africa 





SNAPSHOT

Wilmari Strachan

Executive
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Wilmari Strachan is an Executive at ENS in the Technology, Media and Telecommunications ("TMT") practice. She specialises in information and communications technology ("ICT") law, including the related technical, commercial, compliance, business, customer and performance management aspects. She has a special interest in technology, telecommunications, consumer protection laws, data privacy, software and application ("app") development, mergers and acquisitions ("M&A") structures and cross-Africa and cross-continental services.

Wilmari was previously the head of legal services at a major South African telecommunications company, where she was in charge of the legal, regulatory and compliance division. This experience provided Wilmari with an excellent understanding and deep knowledge of the technology, internet and telecommunications legislative and regulatory environment. This includes an in-depth knowledge of industry-specific legislation and codes, as well as legislation with a more operational impact on businesses, enabling her to provide clients with holistic, practical advice.

Wilmari has acted for various large listed companies in the IT industry and retail sector, and has significant experience in negotiating and drafting complex information and communications technology agreements, including sub-marine cable landing and partnering agreements, international capacity agreements, roaming and managed network agreements, facilities leasing agreements, peering agreements, cloud computing agreements and outsourcing agreements. Wilmari had also acted in various telecommunication disputes, including complex disputes relating to call termination and transit charges, number porting and facilities leasing.

In addition, Wilmari has advised on the structuring of various merger and acquisition (M&A) and funding transactions in the ICT industry, providing advice on the expeditious transfer of business while considering relevant regulatory and licensing conditions. Notable contributions include providing guidance on major restructuring and M&A transactions in the telecoms industry, including regulatory due diligence and risk reporting.

She has assisted leading banks, corporates, and parastatals in embracing technology, encompassing services such as AI, fintech products, becoming MVNOs, structuring as wholesale resellers of tech products and services and obtaining appropriate licenses.

Wilmari has assisted various corporates and multination entities to take their business on-line, has published various articles on e-commerce and created a compliance toolkit for e-commerce platforms.

She has been involved in ground-breaking innovation and technology advancements in the South African internet market, and has served on the management committee of the Internet Service Providers Association of South Africa.

Wilmari has presented various seminars, workshop and training on data privacy, access and security. Wilmari has implemented numerous data privacy compliance programmes and conducted compliance audits for clients. She has drafted various agreements and policies in respect of data privacy, access and security. Wilmari has also written and published articles on data privacy, access and security.

RECOGNISED AS A LEADING/RECOMMENDED LAWYER BY:

Corporate Commercial | Data Privacy and Protection | Technology, Media and Telecommunications

AREA OF EXPERTISE

B-BBEE | Corporate Commercial | Equity Capital Markets

QUALIFICATIONS

BProc (LLB) (University of South Africa)

Certificate in Finance for Non-financial Managers (University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business)

Admitted as an attorney and conveyancer of the High Court of South Africa

Qualified mediator (Family Mediators' Association of the Cape) 



SNAPSHOT

Amrisha Raniga

Senior Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Amrisha Raniga is a Corporate M&A Lawyer at ENS in the Mergers and Acquisitions team, bringing over 13 years of top tier law firm experience in South Africa, as well as global exposure through an international secondment with a Magic Circle law firm headquartered in London.

She specialises in domestic and cross-border private mergers, acquisitions, disposals, restructurings, empowerment transactions, and corporate-commercial matters. She is a sector-agnostic advisor. She has successfully represented both domestic and multinational clients across diverse industries, including financial services, mining, healthcare, ICT and food retail. Her ability to navigate legal challenges across these varied sectors underscores her versatility.

Amrisha plays a central role in structuring, negotiating, and drafting bespoke agreements, and she has a proven track record in managing multi-disciplinary deal teams, ensuring the seamless execution of complex transactions.

Amrisha is known for her adeptness in navigating complex transactions. She is committed to optimising value and managing risk for her clients, combining a deep understanding of both legal and strategic nuances to ensure that each deal not only meets legal objectives but also maximises long-term value.

In the formative stages of her tenure at ENS, Amrisha built a broad and versatile foundation as a generalist, acquiring significant experience across corporate-commercial law, M&A, technology, media and telecommunications, healthcare, pharmaceutical law, data privacy, advertising, consumer law, and regulatory compliance. This diverse expertise has enabled her to provide holistic, strategic advice on a wide array of transactions. Over time, she made a deliberate shift to specialize in M&A, leveraging her comprehensive skill set to tackle high-value transactions, adding substantial value to clients in both domestic and cross-border contexts.

After nearly six years as a generalist at ENS between 2013 and 2018, Amrisha made the strategic decision to step away from the cusp of partnership to deepen her expertise as an M&A lawyer and strengthen her M&A deal sheet. This bold pivot led to a formative 6.5-year chapter at a competitor, where she gained hands-on experience in complex, high-value transactions and evolved into a true M&A specialist. Her career also includes an eight-month international secondment in the Munich, Germany office of a magic circle firm, where she collaborated with colleagues across New York, Amsterdam, and other global offices, further broadening her perspective on cross-border transactions.

Despite her nearly 13 years of top-tier private practice experience and the capability to assume a more senior role, Amrisha has recently intentionally chosen to return to ENS as a Senior Associate. This deliberate and uncommon decision underscores her unwavering commitment to building enduring value and trust within the firm. By consciously prioritising substance over status, she is able to re-establish herself as a dedicated M&A specialist, having previously served as a generalist at the firm, now focused on cultivating meaningful, long-term professional relationships and fostering deep client engagement. Her approach exemplifies leadership through expertise and consistent delivery, demonstrating that true influence is earned through capability and integrity rather than formal titles. This principled stance reflects both strategic clarity and a genuine investment in the firm's future, setting her apart as a values-driven professional dedicated to excellence and lasting impact.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Mergers and Acquisitions | Corporate Law

QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (University of the Witwatersrand)

LLM in Corporate Law (cum laude) (University of the Witwatersrand)

Certificate Course in Advanced Company Law II (University of the Witwatersrand)

Foundation Programme in Private Equity (Gordon Institute of Business Science)

Certificate Course in Negotiation Mastery (Harvard Business School)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 

SNAPSHOT



Chanté Cockrill
Senior Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Chanté Cockrill is a Senior Associate at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice.

Chanté specialises in corporate and commercial law.

She has experience in corporate work, including M&A (in relation to both listed and unlisted companies), both the listing and delisting of companies, the appointment and removal of directors, advising on corporate governance and compliance in relation to the Companies Act, JSE listings requirements and King IV and drafting constitutional documentation for companies (namely memoranda of incorporation and shareholders' agreements) and trusts.

Chanté also has experience in advising on and drafting various transactional and commercial agreements, including share sale agreements, transportation & logistics agreements and poultry-related agreements (including in relation to the disposal of by-product and the supply of day-old chicks, broilers, hatching eggs and feed concentrate).

Chanté's thesis for her Masters in Law (LLM) explores the scope of section 218(2) and investigates many related questions surrounding section 218(2), in light of directors' personal liability and shareholder protection.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (Summa Cum Laude) (University of the Western Cape)

LLM (Cum Laude) (University of the Western Cape)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 



Marzia Gertse
Senior Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Marzia Gertse is a Senior Associate at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice.

Marzia specialises in mergers and acquisitions in the listed and unlisted space (including cross-border), corporate restructurings and providing advice on commercial issues, company law and regulatory considerations.

Her experience includes forming part of multi-national legal teams on cross-border transactions; working with investment banks, financial institutions and JSE sponsors; and advising on the implementation of schemes of arrangements and general offers; the delisting of issuers on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange; and the internalisation of a company's management function.

In addition, Marzia is also experienced in providing corporate governance advice, as well as advice in the listed space with reference to the Takeover Regulations, JSE Listings Requirements and Financial Markets Act in respect of dealings, related party transactions, categorizable transactions, insider trading and dissemination of price sensitive information, and has advised clients in the retail, financial, property and fuels and energy sectors and/or industries.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

BSocSci (University of Cape Town)

LLB (University of Cape Town)

Admitted as an attorney and notary of the High Court of South Africa 



SNAPSHOT



Parusha Desai Valodia
Senior Associate
ENS



Alexandra Baldwin
Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Parusha Desai Valodia is a Senior Associate at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice. She specialises in mergers and acquisitions, equity capital markets (ECM), corporate restructures, cross-border and corporate transactional matters.

She advises a diverse range of listed and unlisted companies in local and international markets and is currently a member of the firm's ECM practice group and broad-based black economic empowerment (B-BBEE) practice group.

Parusha has deep expertise in all aspects of B-BBEE, including structuring, advisory, regulatory and compliance. Her experience also includes advising a diverse range of listed and unlisted companies on cross-border/multi-jurisdictional M&A transactions, securities dealings and B-BBEE structuring, advisory and compliance.

Parusha currently serves as an independent trustee and chairperson of an educational trust in South Africa.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

B-BBEE | Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

BCom (Finance and Law) (University of the Western Cape)

LLB (Summa Cum Laude) (University of the Western Cape)

Advanced Company Law I (University of Witwatersrand)

Advanced Company Law II (University of Witwatersrand)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Alexandra Baldwin is an Associate at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice.

Alexandra specialises in company law, general corporate commercial law and mergers and acquisitions and has also had the benefit of working in the Shipping and Logistics department at ENS.

Her experience includes drafting and negotiating a range of commercial documentation including shareholders' agreements, sale of shares agreements, share subscription agreements, memoranda of incorporation, preparing due diligence reports, as well as general shipping and commercial litigation. She also has experience in opinion work and legal research.

In addition, Alexandra has advised leading clients, both international and local, across various industries, including transport and logistics, shipping, ports and terminals, rail, private equity, retail, and financial services.

Alexandra is a member of the Maritime Law Association of South Africa and the International Bar Association.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (Stellenbosch University)

Certificate Course-Understanding Shipping
(Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 



SNAPSHOT



Andréa Pekeur
Associate
ENS



Lisa Vezasie
Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Andréa is an Associate in the Corporate Commercial practice at ENS. She specialises in mergers and acquisitions, inbound investment, and all aspects of general commercial law and corporate governance.

Andréa's experience includes advising listed and unlisted clients on various corporate and commercial matters, such as the incorporation of companies in South Africa, beneficial ownership filings, private equity matters, cross border transactions and franchising.

She has acted for a variety of clients including family offices, private equity funds, local, multinational and international clients in various industries, including private equity, gaming, property, fast moving goods, financial services, hospitality, agriculture and mining, aircraft, and telecommunications.

She has drafted and negotiated a variety of commercial documents including, *inter alia*, constitutional documents, sale agreements (shares, business, assets, immovable property), franchise agreements, distribution and supply agreements, trust deeds, joint venture agreements, standard terms and conditions, service level agreements, confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements, settlement agreements as well as lease agreements.

In addition, she is experienced in managing and conducting large scale due diligence investigations, preparing due diligence reports and implementing transactions, ranging from the initial scoping aspects to closing and implementation of the deal (both buy and sell side).

She also has experience in providing legal opinion work and undertaking legal research. She regularly advises on governance issues emanating from the Companies Act, 2008, Consumer Protection Act, 2008, Trust Property Control Act, 1988, and the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (University of Stellenbosch)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Lisa Vezasie is an Associate in the Corporate Commercial practice at ENS.

Lisa specialises in general corporate and commercial law, mergers and acquisitions (both public and private) and private equity. Her experience includes advising clients on corporate matters, conducting due diligence investigations, drafting and negotiating commercial documents, including sale agreements (in respect of shares, businesses and assets), share subscription agreements, shareholders agreements and memoranda of incorporation.

Lisa has acted for both local and international clients in a variety of sectors and industries.

Lisa is a member of the Western Cape Legal Practice Council.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

BCom (Law) (Stellenbosch University)

LLB (Stellenbosch University)

Admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa 



SNAPSHOT



Nomaswazi Nxumalo
Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Nomaswazi Nxumalo is an Associate in ENS' Corporate Commercial practice. She specialises in general corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructures and broad-based black economic empowerment ("B-BBEE").

Her experience includes advising local and international clients on acquisitions and disposals, B-BBEE transactions, general corporate governance and negotiating various commercial documents including sale agreements (shares, businesses and assets), share subscription agreements, shareholders' agreements, memoranda of incorporation, board and shareholders' resolutions as well as the drafting of legal opinions.

In addition, Nomaswazi has been involved in a number of due diligence investigations. She has experience in managing and leading due diligences for large transactions.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

B-BBEE | Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

BCom Law (University of Pretoria)

LLB (University of Pretoria)

Advanced Company Law I and II
(University of the Witwatersrand)

Admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa 



Zamadlomo Matshaya
Associate
ENS

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Zamadlomo Matshaya is an Associate at ENS in the Corporate Commercial practice.

Zamadlomo specialises in private equity, corporate re-organisation and restructures, company law advice, due diligence investigations and general corporate commercial law.

Her experience includes advising clients on private equity transactions, corporate re-organisations and restructures, due diligence investigations and preparing due diligence reports, as well as advising on company law compliance issues pertaining to corporate governance.

In addition, Zamadlomo is also experienced in drafting various commercial documents (including, memoranda of incorporation, shareholders' agreements, sale of business agreements, share purchase agreements and sale and subscription agreements), reviewing, negotiating, and implementing transaction agreements. She also has experience in conducting legal research, and has drafted legal opinions and advised clients in a broad range of industries.

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Corporate Commercial

QUALIFICATIONS

LLB (Cum Laude) (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University)

Admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa 

