



Safiyya Patel
Corporate, Commercial and M&A

WEBBER WENTZEL

in alliance with > **Linklaters**

What is your expertise/specialist knowledge?

I am a general corporate lawyer with expertise in areas such as M&A, B-BBEE, localisation, public-private partnerships, joint ventures and share incentive schemes. I have done work in most sectors.

Some of my recent deals include advising:

- > Grobank Ltd on an investment by Access Bank Plc over two tranches in Grobank;
- > Cashbuild's ZAR 1.07 billion acquisition of The Building Company.

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

I helped with establishing the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls in Meyerton. I was involved in all aspects, including assistance with seeking out and acquiring the land on which the academy was eventually built; sourcing and concluding contracts with architects and quantity surveyors; negotiating partnership agreements with provincial and national Departments of Education; guiding the Academy through the registration process; and formulating policies for the admission of the girls and recruitment of staff to the Academy. This remains a stand-out "deal" for me because of the positive impact the academy continues to have upon the lives of individual girls, who might otherwise not have had the privilege of attending a well-resourced education facility.

AN INTERESTING PERSONAL FACT ABOUT YOU:

I would love to be a stand-up comedian, just like Trevor Noah. Practising law has given me a good grounding for my future career in comedy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Named by IFLR1000's Women Leaders Guide 2018 - 2021 as a leading lawyer
- > Named by Legal 500 2012 - 2021 as a legal expert
- > Named by Chambers Global 2020 - 2021 as a ranked lawyer
- > Named by IFLR1000 2017 - 2021 as a leading lawyer
- > Named by Best Lawyers 2015 - 2021 as a leading individual
- > Named by Who's Who Legal 2012 - 2014 as a listed lawyer (Information Technology) and 2019 (Telecoms & Media)
- > Included in India's Business Law Journal's annual survey of the top international law firms for India-related work, 2012 - 2013

Your advice to women in the corporate world

Live to inspire and you surely will be inspired!