Basanda Maluleka

Senior Associate

Baker McKenzie.



Basanda stands out as an exceptional emerging M&A lawyer, combining technical precision, commercial acumen and strong client relationship skills with resilience and a genuine commitment to developing others. Her ability to manage complex transactions with considerable independence, together with her professional achievements, makes her a worthy inclusion in The Rising 20.

Across private M&A, development finance institution investments and cross-border transactions, Basanda has demonstrated responsibility and composure beyond her years. She manages transaction workstreams from due diligence and agreement negotiation through to conditions precedent, disclosure processes and closing, frequently acting as the effective second-in-command on complex mandates. Her transaction experience also includes several deals nominated for and recognised at the DealMakers Annual Awards across the M&A, private equity and business rescue categories. Most recently, she worked on the acquisition of Langeberg Foods from Tiger Brands by a consortium entity involving Norfund, which received the Business Rescue Transaction of the Year 2025 award.

Her ability to build lasting client relationships has delivered tangible results. Over a three-year transaction, she maintained client confidence through consistent communication and considered advice on material risks, leading to a further referral. The client's subsequent invitation for Basanda to serve as a trustee further underscores the confidence placed in her professional judgement.

Beyond deal execution, Basanda contributes to knowledge development within the profession, overseeing the annual update of South Africa's chapter of the Baker McKenzie Global Private M&A Guide. She also trains first-year candidate legal practitioners in contract drafting and mentors junior colleagues, sharing her expertise and supporting their professional growth.

