

## Lara Granville

Director



**L**ara is a Director in the Competition Law practice. She has extensive experience in both the transactional and litigious aspects of competition law. She has advised on all aspects of competition law, including complex merger notifications; compliance training; negotiating consent orders; defending clients against prohibited practice allegations; and merger notifications to, and engagement with, various African competition law authorities. She has also advised clients in relation to other economic regulatory processes before the South African telecommunications and energy regulators.

Lara started her career at the Constitutional Court of South Africa before completing her articles at Deneys Reitz Attorneys in 2009. In 2009 she was appointed as an Associate at Norton Rose South Africa. In 2011, she spent a year on secondment at Norton Rose LLP in London and was promoted to Director in Competition Law in the Norton Rose Johannesburg office in 2014. She joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Director in 2016.

**Q** What led you to pursue a career in law?

**A** I was majoring in philosophy, and my parents suggested that I pursue a more lucrative career than one in navel-gazing. They pointed out that I was quite argumentative and contrary, so perhaps law would suit me. I also knew people who were doing cool things like working at the Constitutional Court and getting scholarships to study law in New York. So basically, it was because my friends were doing it.

**Q** What was the toughest deal | listing | issue etc you ever worked on and why?

**A** The toughest matters are those where pragmatism wins over justice.

**Q** What is your favourite sector to do a deal in and why?

**A** The joy of competition law is being able to dive deep into every sector, and to understand the unique dynamics in each space. One gets to appreciate the peculiarities of each different industry and how those characteristics make every market function differently. It's fun to know just enough about every industry that you can pretend to be interested in the jobs of every person at a dinner party.

**Q** If you could change one thing on your career path to date, what would it be and why?

**A** I imagined a career in academia, not in practice. I love being in practice, but I would have liked to spend a little time in academia, smoking cigarettes on the Great Hall steps, before joining a law firm.

**Q** What piece of advice would you give a young woman working on her first deal | transaction?

**A** I would tell her to work hard, speak up and not tolerate interruptions.

**Q** What do you do to celebrate the closing of a big deal?

**A** Drink a glass of wine and fall asleep.

**Q** What do you do to unwind | get away from the stress of work?

**A** Drink a glass of wine and fall asleep.

## FUN FACTS

**Favourite Colour:** The deep dark black you see when you finally close your eyes for the day.

**Current book on your nightstand:** *Demon Copperhead*, Barbara Kingsolver, *Finding Endurance*, Darrel Bristow-Bovey, and doomscrolling Twitter.

**Dog or cat person:** I'm a 'My Dog' person. My Dog acts like a cat; looks like Cleopatra; regards us with mild disinterest; moults over the covers; and turns her nose up at dinner in a dog bowl.

**Unusual hobbies:** Grumbling about slow drivers.

**Preferred holiday destination:** A place with quiet, wide open beaches and mountains to hike; a place where you do not have to encounter any slow drivers.

**Three words that your colleagues would use to describe you:** Argumentative, contrary and better suited to a career in philosophy. 🐶