Our Firm

We help our clients manage legal complexity and unlock opportunity in Africa.

We have an enviable track record of providing legal services to the highest professional standards in Africa. We work for clients across numerous African jurisdictions on corporate, finance, competition, taxation, employment, technology and dispute resolution matters.

With eight offices in six African countries and over 400 specialist lawyers, we draw on our unique knowledge of the business and socio-political environment to advise clients on a wide range of legal issues.

Everywhere we work, we offer clients a service that uniquely blends expertise in the law, knowledge of the local market, and an understanding of their businesses. Our aim is to assist clients to achieve their objectives as smoothly and efficiently as possible while minimising the legal and regulatory risks.

Our clients include domestic and foreign corporates, multinationals, funds and financial institutions, across almost all sectors of the economy, as well as state-owned enterprises and governments.

Our expertise is frequently recognised by independent research organisations. Most recently, our Kenyan practice won the 2022 Chambers Africa Award for Law Firm of the Year in Kenya. In 2022, Bowmans won six IFLR Africa Awards including overall M&A Team of The Year; Jurisdictional Firm of the Year: South Africa; Loans Firm of the Year: South Africa; M&A Firm of the Year: South Africa; and Project Finance Firm of the Year: South Africa. We also advised on the deal named M&A Deal of the Year. At the 2022 Africa Legal Awards, we won four practice awards including Banking and Finance Team of the Year; Capital Markets Team of the Year; Tax Team of the Year and Transportation and Infrastructure Team of the Year.

In the 2021 DealMakers Africa Awards we ranked first in East Africa for both deal value and deal flow and also advised on the deals named East Africa Deal of the Year and East Africa Private Equity Deal of the Year. In the 2021 DealMakers Awards we placed first by deal flow and second by deal value in the Unlisted M&A Transactions category; first by deal flow and third by deal value in the BEE Deals category; third and fourth by value and flow respectively, in the Listed Company M&A Transactions category; and fourth by deal value and deal flow in the General Corporate Finance category.

On the global front, Bowmans has long-standing and excellent relationships with a range of international law firms with whom we often work on Africa-focused client mandates. We are also a member firm of Lex Mundi, a global association of more than 160 independent law firms in all the major centres across the globe. Lex Mundi gives us the ability to connect our clients with the best law firms in each of the countries represented.

Our Presence in Africa

Recognising the size and enormous diversity of Africa, our approach to providing legal services across the continent is intended to offer on-the-ground advice in the countries that matter for our clients. Our presence in Africa is always evolving to meet the changes that are shaping the future of this vast continent.

Currently, we have our own offices in six African countries: Kenya (Nairobi), Mauritius (Moka), South Africa (Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Uganda (Kampala) and Zambia (Lusaka).

We work closely with our Bowmans Alliance firms in Ethiopia (Aman & Partners LLP) and Nigeria (Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie). These are two of the leading corporate and commercial law firms in their jurisdictions.

We have a special relationship with a competent practitioner in Mozambique. We also have a non-exclusive co-operation agreement with French international law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel that provides our clients access to assistance in francophone west and north Africa. The arrangement provides complementary access for Gide’s clients and lawyers to markets in central, southern and eastern Africa.

We ensure that, whenever our clients need legal advice in other parts of Africa, we can assist them by tapping into our comprehensive database of contacts of the best firms and practitioners across the continent.
Our Mining Sector

As the long-term demand for Africa’s resources grows, we anticipate a growing demand for related legal services.

We have established ourselves as a leading legal adviser within the mining industry in Africa and offer a full complement of legal services in this sector.

We have a strong record of acting on the most significant mining-related mergers and acquisitions across the African continent. We support our clients through every aspect of mining and resource related transactions from the initial due diligence through regulatory compliance to negotiating and closing the deals. We have also advised on some of the largest and most innovative debt and equity capital market transactions on the continent.

We are able to co-ordinate our service through a single point of contact offering a seamless service and making the execution of cross-border transactions less cumbersome, time-consuming and costly.

Whether clients are negotiating offtakes, supply side contracts or require day-to-day commercial agreement support, we have the necessary depth of expertise and skills to assist.

We regularly advise clients on all matters relating to local mining legislation, including but not limited to compliance, mining title and other legal opinions, applications and acquisitions of rights, review applications, appeals and due diligences.

We have assisted numerous clients on the interaction of environmental and mining legislation, including licensing, appeals and court reviews of licensing decisions.

We have experience in successfully objecting to the grant of prospecting or mining right applications and pursuing appeals against decisions regarding the grant or refusal of mining and prospecting applications.

Our experience extends to mine incident and accident enquiries, dealing with notifications and assisting with legal compliance associated with health and safety.

Our clients include global mining and resources companies, investors, banks and financial institutions, state-owned enterprises and various government departments within the mining and resources sector.

Our Specialist Services

We regularly advise clients on all matters relating to local mining and resources and related legislation across the African continent, including but not limited to:

- senior and strategic local government and local regulator engagements in Africa;
- mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and joint operating agreements;
- capital markets transactions;
- advising borrowers in the mining and resources industry and financiers on mining finance transactions;
- drafting of commercial mining and resources contracts, such as contract mining, offtake and supply agreements;
- environmental, occupational health-and-safety and mining regulation issues in Africa;
- indigenisation and black economic empowerment in the mining and resources industry in Africa;
- various regulatory applications in Africa, including applications for the grant of mineral rights, applications for the Minister’s consent to transfer mineral rights and applications to amend mineral rights;
- appeal or review proceedings;
- collective bargaining and union reorganisation and retrenchment and general labour law procedures, processes and appearances; and
- drafting of mining title and transferability opinions and conducting due diligence investigations on mining titles.

“Bowmans has continued its emergence and now has a hugely impressive client base”.
- Legal 500, 2018
Some of our notable experience in the mining and resources sector includes advising:

- **Africa Barrick Gold (now Acacia plc) with respect to numerous regulatory, compliance, environmental and employment law matters affecting Acacia’s group of mines in Tanzania (including Bulyankulu Mine, Buzwagi Mine and North Mara Gold Mining Ltd);**

- **African Rainbow Minerals Ltd (ARM) on the proposed restructuring of the ARM Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Trust. This involved a specific repurchase by a wholly owned subsidiary of ARM of 12,717,328 million shares in ARM from the ARM Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Trust and the refinancing of the ARM Broad-Based Economic Empowerment Trust. This transaction was valued at ZAR 1.9 billion;**

- **AngloGold Ashanti Ltd in respect of its joint venture with Vale for mining assets in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia;**

- **Bayside casthouse in the Richard’s Bay smelting plant in the Republic of South Africa to Gold Fields Ltd;**

- **Bank of China Ltd, FirstRand Bank Ltd, Nedbank Ltd, ABSA Bank Ltd, Investec Bank Ltd, JP Morgan Chase Bank and Standard Bank of South Africa in the negotiation and conclusion of a ZAR 4.5 billion secured term and revolving facility comprising a ZAR 2.5 billion revolving credit facility and a ZAR 2 billion term loan facility provided to Sibanye Gold Ltd, a company listed on the JSE Ltd;**

- **Barrick Gold Corporation (Canada) in the disposal of three of its mines in Western Australia to Gold Fields Ltd where the consideration received was part cash and part shares in Gold Fields Ltd;**

- **BMG Nestlè Burns Inc, CIBC World Markets Inc, Macquarie Capital Markets Canada Ltd, RBC Dominion Securities Inc, Merrill Lynch Canada Inc, GMP Securities LP, Raymond James Ltd in respect of a public offering of 95,834,100 units for an aggregate amount CAD 143,751,150 by Canadian mining company, Ivanhoe Mines Ltd;**

- **A major Canadian fund on its investment into mining assets in Burkina Faso and Mali. We conducted a full due diligence on both the BurkinaFaso and Malian assets and provided detailed opinions;**

- **Credit Suisse AG and Standard Chartered Bank (jointly), as South African and English lead counsel, in the debt and equity restructuring of a South African mining company, Southgold, and its Canadian parent company;**

- **Dodsal Resources FZCO with respect to numerous regulatory, compliance, environmental and employment law matters affecting their two mining companies in Tanzania - Dodsal Resources Mining Itilima and Dodsal Resources Mining Itingi;**

- **ENRC NV in the sale of S1 732,782 ordinary shares held in Northam Platinum Ltd (constituting approximately 13.01% of Northam’s issued share capital), followed by a bookbuild in respect of such shares which resulted in the placement of all of the shares held by ENRC NV (deal value approximately ZAR 2.5 billion);**

- **South African counsel to the joint bookrunners in relation to Gold Fields Ltd’s recent accelerated bookbuild share placement valued at ZAR 2.3 billion;**

- **The Government of Guinea (together with international counsel) on the USD 18 billion Simandou iron ore Project. We reviewed all aspects of the project, from corporate to environmental to employment law;**

- **Hulamin in respect of the establishment of the black economic empowerment entity, Izindla Aluminium (Pty) Ltd, and the subsequent acquisition of BHP Billiton’s Bayside casthouse in the Richard’s Bay industrial development zone;**

- **Competition counsel to Komatsu Ltd in its acquisition of indirect sole control of Joy Global, Inc. We attended to the merger filing in relation to this transaction. The deal is Komatsu’s largest deal ever and once it is completed, Komatsu and its closest competitor will account for at least a quarter of the world’s sales of mining equipment. The global transaction is valued at USD 2.9 billion;**

- **Mimetals on the Zambian and South African aspects of its approximately USD 1.3 billion offer for Anvil Mining;**

- **Northam Platinum in relation to the establishment of a broad based consortium of Historically Disadvantaged South Africans (HDSA), which will hold 31.4% of Northam’s issued shares, bringing Northam’s total effective HDSA ownership level to approximately 35.4% (deal value ZAR 6.6 billion);**

- **Rio Tinto on the South African aspects of its acquisition of Africa focused Riversdale Mining, listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, and (i) the subsequent sale of its coal assets in Mozambique to International Coal Ventures Pte Ltd and (ii) the disposal of 100% of its shares in Riverside Holdings (Pty) Ltd to Galaxy B.V (a subsidiary of Menar Holding);**

- **Royal Bafokeng Platinum Ltd in relation to a combined offering of its shares (including a primary issue by the company, and a secondary issue by its shareholders);**

- **Shanduka Group (Pty) Ltd and the majority shareholders in relation to the restructuring of Shanduka Group (Pty) Ltd and merger with Pembi Group (Pty) Ltd, to create a new ZAR 13.5 billion black-controlled natural resources and industrial holding group;**

- **The Standard Bank of South Africa Ltd in the disposal of its entire stake in Shanduka Gold (Pty) Ltd to Pan African Resources Ltd in a transaction valued at ZAR 176 million;**

- **Trans Hex Group Ltd, Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed diamond mining company, in relation to a mandatory offer by Cream Magenta 140 (Pty) Ltd, Metcalf 14 (Pty) Ltd, and RAC Resources and Industrial Holdings (Pty) Ltd;**

- **The Tanzanian National Development Corporation with respect to its Mchuchuma Coal Project as well as its joint venture with Sichuan Hongda Group Ltd on the LiGanga Iron Ore Project;**

- **Wogen Pacific Ltd in respect of a pre-finance agreement in the amount of USD 2 million and off-take agreement which is estimated to have a net present value of USD 68.9 million.**
AFRICAN LEGAL AWARDS 2022
Bowmans won four practice awards including Banking and Finance Team of the Year, Capital Markets Team of the Year, Tax Team of the Year and Transportation and Infrastructure Team of the Year.

CHAMBERS AFRICA AWARDS 2022
Bowmans' Kenyan practice was named Kenya Law Firm of the Year and chairman and senior partner, Ezra Davids, was named South Africa Lawyer of the Year.

DEALMAKERS AFRICA AWARDS 2021
Bowmans was DealMakers top dealmaker in East Africa for 2021 by number of M&A transactions worked on. The firm had more than 26% market share and advised on the deal named Deal of the Year.

DEALMAKERS SOUTH AFRICA AWARDS 2021
Bowmans placed first by deal flow and second by deal value in the Unlisted M&A Transactions category; and first by deal flow and third by deal value in the BEE Deals category.

IFLR AFRICA AWARDS 2022
Bowmans received a total of six awards including overall M&A Team of the Year; Jurisdictional Firm of the Year: South Africa; Loans Firm of the Year: South Africa; M&A Firm of the Year: South Africa; and Project Finance Firm of the Year: South Africa. The firm also advised on the deal named M&A Deal of the Year.
Key Contacts

**EZRA DAVIDS**  
Chairman and Senior Partner  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
T: +27 11 669 9320  
E: ezra.davids@bowmanslaw.com

**CHARLES YOUNG**  
Head of Mining  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
T: +27 11 669 9327  
E: charles.young@bowmanslaw.com

**DAVID F.K. MPANGA**  
Deputy Chairman  
Kampala, Uganda  
T: +256 41 425 4540  
E: david.mpanga@bowmanslaw.com

**WILBERT KAPINGA**  
Managing Partner, Tanzania  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
T: +255 76 898 8640  
E: wilbert.kapinga@bowmanslaw.com

**CLAIRE TUCKER**  
Head of Public Law and Regulatory  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
T: +27 11 669 9402  
E: claire.tucker@bowmanslaw.com

**RAINBOW FIELD**  
Director  
Nairobi, Kenya  
T: +254 20 289 9000  
E: rainbow.field@bowmanslaw.com

**WANDISILE MANDLANA**  
Partner  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
T: +27 11 669 9562  
E: wandisile.mandlana@bowmanslaw.com

To view profiles of our lawyers, please visit www.bowmanslaw.com
Cape Town, South Africa
T: +27 21 480 7500
E: info-cpt@bowmanslaw.com

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
T: +255 76 898 8640
E: info-tz@bowmanslaw.com

Durban, South Africa
T: +27 31 109 1150
E: info-dbn@bowmanslaw.com

Johannesburg, South Africa
T: +27 11 669 9000
E: info-jhb@bowmanslaw.com

Kampala, Uganda
T: +256 41 425 4540
E: info-ug@bowmanslaw.com

Lusaka, Zambia
T: +260 211 356 638
E: info-zb@bowmanslaw.com

Moka, Mauritius
T: +230 460 6959
E: info-ma@bowmanslaw.com

Nairobi, Kenya
T: +254 20 289 9000
E: info-ke@bowmanslaw.com

Follow us on Twitter:
Twitter: @Bowmans_Law
LinkedIn: Bowman-Gilfillan

www.bowmanslaw.com

Alliance Firms:

Aman & Partners LLP, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
T: +251 11 470 2868
E: info@aaclo.com

Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie, Lagos, Nigeria
T: +234 1 2774920-2, +234 1 2719811-3
E: uubo@uubo.org