Bowmans exists to help clients overcome legal complexity and to unlock opportunity.

We combine legal expertise other African firms find hard to match, local knowledge that international firms cannot beat and a deep understanding of the needs of clients.

It is this unique combination of strengths that helps our clients succeed.
The value of knowing

There are enormous opportunities for growth and success in Africa.

But building businesses on the continent involves navigating different political and economic landscapes, mastering various legal systems and understanding the vital nuances of local culture.

In this complicated and often daunting environment, we offer a reassuring partnership of knowledge and experience that enables our clients to overcome legal complexity and unlock opportunities.

It’s the value of knowing Africa.

Knowing the key markets

We have the expertise that comes from living in Africa, every day.

We help clients join the dots, avoid the pitfalls and make the most of opportunities.

We share our local knowledge: with each other and with our clients in a truly collaborative approach and deliver consistently high standards of counsel.

Knowing the needs of our clients

We put the needs of our clients at the heart of what we do. We make sure we know their businesses and their commercial priorities.

We understand their preferred ways of working and we ensure that, while the legal challenge may be complex, working with us is not.

It’s why we measure many of our client relationships in decades.

Knowing the law

We combine the finest African legal expertise with deep international experience, systematically built through our people.

We handle some of the most challenging legal work on the continent, spanning multiple practice areas and jurisdictions.

Our ability has been proven in many of the most complex, high-stakes legal matters undertaken.
With more than 80 specialist lawyers and a total staff complement of over 170, we are widely regarded as the leading full-service law firm in Kenya.

We are recognised specialists in offshore structuring, including fund formation and holding company work, and also provide legal advice to clients using Mauritius as a gateway to the rest of Africa.

We are known for delivering boutique legal services in Uganda and have extensive experience advising and acting for clients on complex and large-scale transactions.

We are experienced in significant transactions, regulatory matters and dispute resolution in Tanzania and the wider East Africa region.

The members of our team in Zambia have been involved in precedent-setting domestic cases and pioneering cross-border transactions for nearly 20 years.

With more than 300 specialist lawyers, a total staff complement of over 550 and three offices, we are widely regarded as one of the leading corporate law firms in South Africa.
We use our specialist legal knowledge to help our clients overcome complexity

Services

Banking and Financial Services Regulatory
We are well known for our expertise in banking and financial services regulatory matters and are recognised as market leaders in innovation, documentation standards and best practice.

Commercial Property
We are at the forefront of real estate acquisition, development and finance in Africa. Our specialists successfully safeguard the interests of all industry players from developers to landlords, lenders, property funds and tenants.

Competition
We provide a full range of competition and anti-trust law services covering merger control, cartels and markets, abuse of dominance and other restrictive practices, and trade issues such as the commercial and exclusivity agreements, joint ventures and strategic alliances. We also provide compliance training and conduct audits.

Corporate Services
Our team consists of experienced CPS practitioners and accredited governance auditors with collective experience gained over many years within the East African region.

Data Protection
Our highly experienced lawyers assist clients needing specialist advice on their statutory obligations as well as data protection issues in the context of particular transactions.

Debt Capital Markets
We are recognised for providing exceptional legal and transactional advice in this specialist area of law. This is borne out by the impressive mandates that we secure both locally and internationally.

Dispute Resolution
We are proud to be regarded as one of the pre-eminent dispute resolution teams in Africa. Our services include litigation, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. Our size means that we are able to offer a high degree of specialisation across a variety of areas.

Employment and Benefits
We have been at the forefront of employment law in the region for many years. We offer a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience in the fields of industrial relations, employment, employee benefits and pensions law in Africa that is hard to match.
Environment
Our practical understanding of both the law and its application by the regulators means we can help our clients to comply with increasingly strict environmental regulation across various African jurisdictions.

Equity Capital Markets
We have advised local and international book runners, underwriters and issuer clients on some of the largest and most high profile, global equity capital market transactions with an African connection.

Finance
We are recognised as a leading adviser on banking and finance law in Sub-Saharan Africa and a market-leader in innovation, documentation standards and best practice.

Fintech
Our comprehensive service ranges from forming financial service businesses and licensing financial products, to ensuring regulatory compliance, to advising on corporate activity involving regulated entities, to dispute resolution.

Governance, Compliance and Investigations
We represent both private and public sector clients, undertaking specialist forensic investigations; providing governance, corruption and regulatory compliance advice; and completing risk management reviews.

Government Contracting and Public Procurement
We advise clients from both the public and the private sectors. Our experience spans various African jurisdictions, where we have developed good working relationships with government agencies and regulatory authorities.

Intellectual Property
We have a world-class intellectual property team that advises on all aspects of intellectual property under the Madrid and ARIPPO systems of registration, as well as national protection in countries worldwide.

International Arbitration
We advise clients throughout the arbitration process from drafting appropriate dispute resolution and arbitration clauses, to conducting pre-arbitral negotiations and arbitral proceedings and ultimately to enforcing arbitral awards.

Litigation and Arbitration
We provide a professional and efficient legal service, whether in a court room, arbitration tribunal hearing or other dispute resolution forum.

Mergers and Acquisitions
We have a strong record of acting on the most significant corporate and M&A transactions across the African continent. We frequently handle large and time-critical transactions.

Oil and Gas
Our team combines lawyers from across key emerging and mature hydrocarbon jurisdictions in Africa to provide practical and commercial legal advice for oil and gas companies.

Private Equity
We provide bespoke upstream and downstream services to the private equity sector in Africa. We have advised on some of the largest private equity transactions undertaken in the region to date and have been involved in the formation of a number of Africa-focused private equity funds.

Project Finance
We have had a leading role in many of the most significant and high profile projects in Sub-Saharan Africa notwithstanding the persistent lag in the roll out of infrastructure development across the region.

Regulatory Services
We advise on a range of regulatory matters, including drafting of laws and regulations, High Court review applications, the interpretation and application of statutes as well as commercial and transactional matters.

Restructuring
Our insolvency and restructuring specialists draw on expertise within the group to provide a comprehensive service in all relevant legal areas including insolvency, regulatory, tax, pensions and employment law, competition and merger control and real estate law.

Shipping and Logistics
With experienced practitioners in this specialised field of law in many jurisdictions along the African coastline, we have built a solid reputation for providing fast and effective service.

Tax
Our tax lawyers have knowledge based on years of experience and a depth and breadth of cross-border tax law skills that few firms are able to match. We provide tax efficient business solutions by combining these strengths with commercial acumen.
Sectors

Aviation
Our aviation specialists have a keen understanding of the industry based on a proven track record of involvement in major aviation-related matters.

Construction
We assist clients throughout the project life cycle of complex infrastructure and construction projects including development, delivery, financing and disputes under all forms of construction contracts.

Consumer Goods
We are uniquely positioned to advise consumer goods companies on all aspects of their businesses in Africa and have an exceptional track record of having advised some of the world’s leading companies in this sector.

Energy
We act for a wide range of clients in the energy sector including developers, sponsors, public utilities, funds, commercial banks and other financial institutions, and governments.

Financial Institutions
We have extensive experience advising clients in the banking, insurance, financial products and services sectors across the continent.

Hotels and Leisure
We have specialist know-how and experience in the sector, having advised a number of international hotel groups as they commenced doing business, or expanded their existing footprint, in Africa.

Industrials
Our offering spans the full range of corporate services and extends to all the specialist areas of law associated with activity of this nature including competition and antitrust, employment and tax.

Infrastructure
We help our clients at all stages of the economic life-cycle of infrastructure projects – from developing to acquiring to managing to restructuring to selling assets, including advising on financing aspects.

Mining
We have a strong record of acting on the most significant mining-related mergers and acquisitions across the African continent. We advise on every aspect of mining and resource-related transactions from the initial due diligence through regulatory compliance to negotiating and closing the deals.

 Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare
Our pharmaceuticals and healthcare specialists have extensive experience in, and regularly advise stakeholders across, the healthcare services and products supply chain.

Ports, Transport and Logistics
We are experienced in the ports, transport and logistics corridors sector across numerous countries in Africa. We deliver a comprehensive service facilitating relationships between land and sea users and owners of ports, terminals and equipment.

Technology, Media and Telecommunications
Our understanding of the regulatory landscape in many African jurisdictions enables us to assist clients get to market quickly while avoiding many of the pitfalls of operating in a new jurisdiction.
Key Contacts

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