



MELISSA STRYDOM

(LLB, LLM, PhD) ABRIDGED RESUMÉ

Legal Consultant

PROFILE

Melissa Strydom was admitted as an attorney in 2009 and has been specialising in environmental law for over a decade. She obtained an LLB from the University of Johannesburg in 2007, and an LLM (Environmental Law) from the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in 2012.

In 2022, she graduated with a PhD (Environmental Law) from Wits which considers the use and impact of criminal sanctions for environmental law transgressions in industrial facilities in South Africa and the boundaries of overcriminalization.

Melissa is a legal consultant and consults for Warburton Attorneys Inc since February 2023.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

LLB (Bachelor of Laws)

University of Johannesburg, 2007

Postgraduate Certificate in Mining and Prospecting Law

University of the Witwatersrand, 2009

LLM (Master of Law) in Environmental Law

University of the Witwatersrand, 2012

Postgraduate Certificate, Advanced Company Law

University of the Witwatersrand, 2013

PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in Environmental Law

University of the Witwatersrand, 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Admitted as an attorney, in July 2009
- Registered with the Legal Practice Council of South Africa
- Member of the Environmental Law Association of South Africa

RANKINGS

Whilst practising at one of the large corporate law firms in South Africa, she was ranked by Chambers and Partners Global -

2019:

'Up and coming' – 'Melissa possesses wide-ranging environmental expertise and is commended by sources for her "good insight" and ability to "approach problems in a holistic manner, taking into account both the law and our business operations to find a workable compliance solution".'

2017&18:

'Associate to Watch- '... reputation as a "thorough" practitioner, whom sources highlight as "someone to definitely watch." She assists with a range of mandates, including M&A transactions and independent power producer programmes.'

EXPERIENCE

July 2022 – Present & December 2019 – October 2021: Legal Consultant and Researcher.

Melissa provides wide-ranging assistance and consults on varied matters and projects, including:

- Compliance aspects, including advice on environmental and water approval requirements and outlining extensive environmental, health and safety, and other regulated requirements;
- Assisting clients with contract drafting, review, and negotiation, including for a multinational client on sponsorship, branding and related agreements and advice;
- Researching accountability frameworks for water and sanitation stewardship and services in South Africa research and report drafting regarding the Status of the Just Energy Transition in select Southern African States.

January – June 2022: District Court Prosecutor, National Prosecuting Authority

Melissa pursued this opportunity to experience the criminal justice system and learn how to prosecute crimes - aiming to apply this experience to her area of specialization and research.

November – December 2021: Legal Counsel, Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd

Joined as in-house counsel, working on an array of corporate and compliance legal matters to support various business units, including construction, supply, and other service contracts, guarantees, and overall regulatory compliance review and support.

October 2011 – November 2019: Bowmans - Associate (2011-2013), Senior Associate (2013-2017) and Partner (2017-2019)

In these roles at Bowmans Melissa practised in mining, environmental and related land use, health and safety, natural resources, public procurement, administrative and constitutional law, and related matters, advice ranging from compliance to corporate transactions and litigation.

- She worked on many renewable energy projects as part of the DoE's REIPPP program several reaching financial close and becoming operational (throughout my time at Bowmans - from Bid Window 1 onwards) – advising renewable energy project developers, lenders, or investors on regulatory approval and related requirements, including conducting due diligences, drafting and negotiating aspects of transaction agreements as well as post-construction advice or acquisitions;
- Advised clients in enforcement contexts, including stop orders/prohibition notices, inquiries, investigations, or responding to enforcement notices and prosecutions; defending administrative appeals against environmental authorisations, and appeals by competitors;
- Provided legal opinions for varied clients on regulatory approval requirements or compliance aspects;
- Conducted regulatory due diligence and advising on environmental and other approval/permitting aspects and risks in transactions and related agreement review/advice;
- Conducted site inspections and legal compliance assessments.

May 2010 – September 2011: Cameron Cross Attorneys

Attended mining and industrial sites, conducted environmental, health & safety legal compliance assessments, assisted with legal registers; conducted legal research and drafted opinions on various aspects of environmental, health & safety, and mining law; prepared approval requirement frameworks; reviewed EIAs and EMPs; assisted with administrative appeals and High Court review applications.

November 2007 –April 2010: Mark Beyl Attorneys

Candidate attorney until admitted, retained as an attorney. Completed articles/clerkship and gained valuable experience in various fields, including vast litigation experience, working independently with counsel and senior counsel and appearing in court; exposed to various fields of law, appearing in civil, criminal, labour, and family law matters