Werksmans has significant experience in private equity transactions and is widely regarded as one of the leading South African law firms in this area. In the leveraged and acquisition finance field, our experienced transactional lawyers have advised on most of the significant private equity transactions in South Africa over the last few years. Our M&A team has also advised parties to a number of these transactions, including South Africa’s biggest private equity transaction to date.

Our clients include international and local private equity and venture capital houses, investment funds and their managers, investors and financiers. As a full service law firm, we cover all stages of the private equity process from advising on fund structuring and formation, to providing transactional advice, offering solutions to regulatory and tax issues, and structuring and restructuring investment acquisitions and disposals.

The firm routinely delivers multi-jurisdictional solutions to private equity issues and advises funds from various jurisdictions on investments across Africa and beyond. Our experience in relation to fund formation includes the setup of both South African and offshore funds. Members of the private equity team have been involved in the setup and operation of local private equity funds as well as funds based in the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, European Union and elsewhere. As one of the founders of Lex Africa, the oldest network of law firms in Africa, the firm is able to introduce clients to the leading commercial law firms in more than 30 African countries.

Our team draws on the experience of our banking and finance, investment funds, corporate, mergers and acquisitions, tax and regulatory experts to advise on all aspects of any private equity transaction. Members of the team routinely draw on the knowledge of in-house specialists in other fields such as agriculture, environmental, infrastructure, mining, real estate, technology and telecoms law.

**Services include advising on:**
- The structuring of private equity funds, general partners and investment managers
- The formation of private equity funds both in South Africa and offshore
- Private equity investment transactions including leveraged buy-outs and buy-ins, management buy-outs and buy-ins,
secondary investments and capital raising, mezzanine debt, and Black Economic Empowerment transactions

- Exits from private equity investments including listings, initial public offerings, buy-backs and trade sales
- Tax issues relating to acquisition and investment structures

- Regulatory issues including licensing requirements for funds and private equity managers
- Venture capital investments including non-equity investments
- Co-investment arrangements including parallel fund arrangements
- Investor’s interests in private equity funds

- Private equity financing including senior, mezzanine and high yield debt transactions, security arrangements and convertible instruments.

About Werksmans Attorneys

Established in the early 1900s, Werksmans Attorneys is a leading South African corporate and commercial law firm serving multinationals, listed companies, financial institutions, entrepreneurs and government.

Werksmans operates in Gauteng and the Western Cape, and is connected to an extensive African network through Lex Africa*.

With a formidable track record in mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance, and commercial litigation and dispute resolution, the firm is distinguished by the people, clients and work that it attracts and retains.

Werksmans’ more than 190 lawyers are a powerful team of independent-minded individuals who share a common service ethos. The firm’s success is built on a solid foundation of insightful and innovative deal structuring and legal advice; a keen ability to understand business and economic imperatives; and a strong focus on achieving the best legal outcome for clients.

*In 1993, Werksmans co-founded the Lex Africa legal network, which now has member firms in 27 African countries.