



Reena Purshotam

Senior Associate | ALN Malawi | Savjani & Co

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Background

Reena Purshotam has wide experience advising a diverse base of clients (both domestic, regional and international) in corporate and commercial transactions ranging from application of financial services laws, facility agreements, structured finance agreements, company law (including advising on complex winding up, formation of various legal entities and company secretarial advice), tax, energy, public procurement and public private partnership transactions, land transactions, extensive due diligence, advice on competition law (including preparation and submission of applications for Competition Commission approval), intellectual property, employment and insurance law among others.

Reena also has litigation experience and has represented clients in all courts. She has also represented clients in the Commercial Court on a variety of matters including applying for company winding up / defending winding up petitions.

Professional Membership

- Malawi Law Society
- Women Lawyers Association

Professional Qualification

2010: Master in Law and Business (MLB), Bucerius Law School / WHU Otto Beisheim School of management.

2002: Bachelor of Laws, LL.B. (Hons.).

Career Summary

- Feb 2006 – Date: Senior Associate, Savjani & Co
- Apr – Jun 2010: Intern – Tax Department, Linklaters Frankfurt (during master degree programme)
- Jul 2005 – Dec: 2005 Paralegal Clifford Chance, London UK
- Apr 2004 – Jun: 2005 Paralegal Linklaters, London, UK – Commercial Litigation, Conflict and Corporate

- Departments
- Sept 2002 – Sept: 2003 Legal Officer, Malawi Telecommunications

Top Matters

- Acting for a client in connection with the sale of shares in a major insurance broker, Aon Malawi, by its shareholders Aon Holdings B.V. (“Aon Holdings”) and Aon Risk Services EMEA B.V. (“Aon Risk Services”) to Heartland Holdings, including advising on all aspects of the transaction including regulatory approvals, general corporate advice as well as preparation of board and shareholder resolution. The transaction was part of a larger international transaction involving the acquisition by Extologix and/or Heartland Holdings, a wholly owned subsidiary of Extologix, of Aon subsidiaries in Angola, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia;
- Advising a company in the financial technology in connection with the licensing and financial regulatory regime in Malawi to enable it obtain compliance of its business and products.
- Advising Business Partners International of South Africa in connection with the requirements of Malawi’s financial services laws and in particular the Financial Services Act and the setting up and operations of a lending institution and its related company, including obtaining exchange control approval to issue shares to the non-resident shareholders, incorporating the financial institution and its related company in Malawi, obtaining a licence from the Reserve Bank of Malawi to operate as a finance company, and registering both companies with the Malawi Revenue Authority.
- Advising a client in connection with the applicability of Malawi’s exchange control laws to foreign exchange spot and foreign exchange forward transactions settled in Malawi Kwacha as well as foreign exchange forward transactions settled in foreign currency with clients incorporated in Malawi (non-deliverable forwards only).
- Advising a client in connection with the enforceability and risks relating to a receivables discounting arrangement between a bank and sellers of receivables.
- Advising a client in connection with legal and regulatory requirements for the issuance of a note programme of up to MWK 5 billion, including drawing the disclosure documents and other agreements for the programme.
- Advising a foreign lender in connection with a local bank’s corporate power to execute, including reviewing a facility agreement between the local bank and the client, advising on the delivery and performance of the requirements of the facility agreement and ensuring all resolutions and other documents necessary for the transaction were in place.
- Conducting extensive legal due diligence on every aspect of the law and regulations in connection with power generation, construction, public procurement and public private partnerships.
- Conducting due diligence and advising on the structuring of a loan granted by an overseas bank to a Malawian Bank, while reviewing the loan agreement for conflict with the laws of Malawi.
- Advising the local subsidiary of a Canadian Power Company in connection with all areas of law applicable to them, including Malawi’s energy laws and regulations, laws relating to public procurement, construction, land and tax among others.
- Conducting extensive legal due diligence in connection with every aspect of the law and regulations relating to power generation (coal – fired power in particular,) construction, public procurement and public private partnerships.
- Representing a minority shareholder before the Commercial Court in connection with a matter where the minority shareholder filed a petition seeking relief against oppression and unfair prejudice by the majority shareholder and winding up on the just and equitable ground.
- Assisting the Senior Partner in the coordination of information, document preparation and filings at the Companies Registry regarding the securitization of parallel lending to a mobile phone operator in Malawi.

