

*B Matanga*

Intellectual Property Attorneys for Africa



**Corporate Profile**

# The Firm

The firm was founded by the Managing Partner, Miss Brenda Matanga, in January 2010. It was set up as an anchor to give legal support and address the legal needs of companies, individuals and institutions with business interests in Africa. It is mainly an Intellectual Property Law firm which is currently developing other specialist legal services. Out of the realisation that intellectual property interfaces with other areas of the law, we are developing these complimentary specialist services so as to give full legal support to our growing and varied client base, locally and internationally. The firm is dedicated to high ethical and professional standards and adheres to a work culture of service excellence and professional competence.

## **Vision**

- To become a recognised, reputable and outstanding legal service provider highly sought after in the region and beyond.
- To grow the value of our law firm in real terms on a sustainable basis.
- Intellectual property law lies at the heart of our practice, we strive to be the leading voice of intellectual property matters and to impart helpful legal information to our clients.

## **Mission Statement**

- We strive to provide professional, high quality, highly ethical, globally recognised, cost effective and competitive legal services to our clients.
- We will achieve this through offering our clients outstanding service and paying rigorous attention to detail at all times.
- We will render professional, efficient and personalised legal services to our clients whilst maintaining the highest standard of integrity and excellence.

## **Our Core Values**

- Efficiency
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Teamwork
- Honesty
- Respect
- Innovation and ingenuity
- Social responsibility

# What Sets Us Apart

We are a firm that has an international outlook therefore we have established synergies with firms in various parts of the world in order to cater for our clients with a global presence and to ensure that we do not operate in isolation in providing globally applicable solutions to our clients. We have a reliable network of brilliant attorneys that we work with throughout Africa in countries where we do not have a physical presence yet. Outside Africa, we are represented globally in various networks of Intellectual property lawyers and we are connected to some of the world's leading firms therefore we can competently assist you with legal services outside the African continent. Not only do we solve legal problems, we seek to develop effective strategies that enhance our Clients' competitive edge on the market.

What distinguishes us from the traditional law firms is our accessibility, efficiency and the personalised services that we offer our Clients. Our team of attorneys have strong academic backgrounds with each carrying a huge wealth of experience in their areas of expertise.

As a progressive firm, we employ cutting edge technology in our operational systems to enhance our service delivery. Our long term view of business helps us to see potential in our Clients and to build on it to create solid and long lasting relationships. We are committed to nurturing and developing global and local relationships through various networks.

We are affiliated with the following bodies:

- Member of the Law Society of Zimbabwe
- Member of Prae Legal Global Network - Zimbabwean representative law firm
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) - affiliate partner
- African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) - accredited agent
- Foreign member of the Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA)
- Member of the International Trademark Association (INTA)



# Our Core Services

- **Trademarks**

We offer trademark registration, observation, search, investigation and portfolio management services. Protect your trademark and keep it secure from illegitimate use.
- **Patents**

We can be consulted on protection of inventions and any other innovative creations. We value our clients' ingenuity, efforts in research and development and we will assist Clients with stopping free riders.
- **Copyright**

It is our belief that your original works of art deserve exclusivity and your control. We empower you against direct or indirect reproduction or exploitation of your original works.

**Services** - Copyright Infringement, Copyright Licensing, Copyright Litigation, Copyright Prosecution, Copyright Protection, Copyright Registration, Internet Copyright Law.
- **Domain Names**

Domain names are identifiers of a company and their goods and services on the internet. They basically serve as online source indicators, allowing consumers to distinguish one competitor's online offering of goods or services from another.

**Services** - We develop and implement clear domain policies. We give you legal opinions on domain name disputes and cybersquatting matters. We will represent you in cross border disputes through the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) procedure which is international in scope and is administered by the (World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center
- **Counterfeiting**

We recognise that innovators need to be rewarded for their creations and that any unauthorised manipulation justifies legal action.

We devise strategies to counter infringements and unfair competition against our Clients' intellectual property. We assist Clients in seizures, raids, interdicts, customs surveillance, obtaining Anton Pillar Orders and implementing other available legal remedies that ensure that our Clients' rights and interests are adequately safe guarded from copy cats. Through our team of external investigators, surveillance of markets and customs can be carried out for our Clients.
- **Design Law**

An industrial design refers to the ornamental or aesthetic aspects of a product. Design registration is specifically directed at the visual features of an article, i.e. the shape and appearance of an article. By protecting an industrial design through its registration the owner obtains exclusive rights right to prevent its unauthorized copying or imitation by others.

**Services** - Searches, Filings, Registration, Infringement, Licensing, Assignments Renewals, Litigation and all related services.
- **Trade Secrets**

A trade secret is generally understood as information with commercial value that has not been publicly disclosed by its holder and the holder has taken reasonable steps to protect it.

Manufacturing processes, techniques, know how, lists of customers, ingredients, manuals, personnel record, business strategies, marketing plans, blueprints, formulas, business plans, financial information, research results are examples of information that can be protected as trade secrets.

**Services** - Theft of Trade Secrets, Trade Secret Misappropriation, Confidentiality Agreements and general advice pertaining to same.

## OTHER PRACTICE AREAS

- **Notarial Practice, Conveyancing & Real Estate law**

Our attorneys are also registered Conveyancers and Notary Publics. They offer efficient legal services in facilitation and negotiation of property sales, conducting searches on encumbrances and investigating property title, representations, registration and transfer of title for both commercial and residential properties, registration and cancellations of mortgage bonds, leases and notarial bonds, drafting of commercial contracts, ante nuptial contracts, deeds and registration of name changes. The firm also undertakes litigation relating to property disputes in all the levels of various courts.
- **Information Communication Technology, Media, Sports and Entertainment Law**

The firm advises on all aspects of telecommunications including broadcasting, multimedia and the internet. We handle various matters involving issues such as privacy and copyright issues, defamation, e-commerce laws, cyber crimes, cyber protection, impact of the communications revolution, telecommunications regulatory compliance, telecommunications licences, telecommunications transactions such as equipment purchase agreements and outsourcing agreements, telecommunications fees and taxes and commercial ventures. We also monitor the industry and keep abreast of new developments thereby providing our clients with regular updates on the state of the industry. Our attorneys are passionate about sports and art. We assist sports people, artists, and entertainers with the legal aspects of the arts, entertainment and sports. Our team capably gives advice on: Contracts - negotiation and drafting of corporate endorsement deals, broadcasting rights issues, licensing agreements and sponsorships, rights of publicity, defamation and privacy law issues and the various intellectual property rights issues in this industry.
- **Investment, Immigration, Tax & Securities Law**

We realise that as investors come into a particular market they usually need a full range of services, legal services just being one of them. We have therefore put together a pool of associates and consultants in other service areas that are essential for a foreign investor establishing a business such as Financial Advisory, Tax Advisory Banking, Investment Advisory, Immigration compliance and Accounting services. We are therefore well placed to advise foreign investors wholly. We advise investors on their rights pertaining to type and value of the interest under consideration for purchase; notes, stocks, treasury stocks, bonds, certificates of interest or participation in profit sharing agreements, shares, investment contracts, interests in gas, oil and other mineral rights. We also advise clients on structuring of credit agreements and the necessary security arrangements. Our tax practice provides legally sound efficient tax solutions to our Clients. We aim to ensure that the tax aspects of our Clients' transactions are thoroughly considered and planned. We also offer Clients advice and representation in matters involving residence, employment and immigration permits and also assist with visa appeals and visa applications.
- **Commercial Law & Litigation Department**

Legal advice, drafting and litigation services are offered across the full spectrum of corporate and commercial law including insurance law, mergers, acquisitions and demergers, joint ventures, stock exchange listings and rights issues, insolvency law, import and export, electronic transactions law, and commercial disputes. Our corporate foreign Clients may, in the conduct of their commercial businesses end up falling prey to criminal elements thus we have identified the need to protect and defend their interests locally by establishing a criminal litigation department. Additionally; we offer extensive legal services in the field of Labour Law including drafting and advice on employment contracts, codes of conduct and constitutions, retrenchments, pension law and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as negotiation, conciliation, mediation and arbitration. We also advise employers in interpreting and applying the Labour Act and its subsidiary legislation.

We have a range of legal and commercial expertise on board which provides our clients with an integrated legal service outside the parameters of traditional legal practice including: Company secretarial services - company registration and formation, compliance and due diligence. Obtaining of investment and operating permits and licences from administrative agencies..



# Our Legal Team

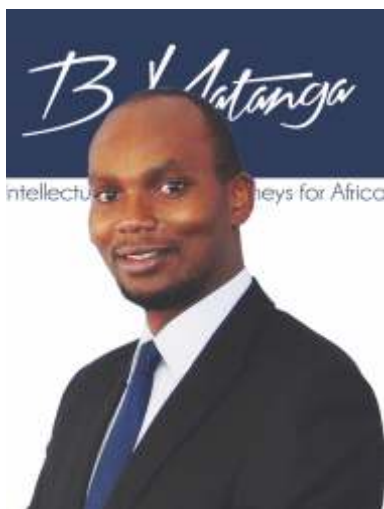


## **BRENDA MATANGA**

Miss Brenda Matanga is currently the Managing Attorney of the practice. She leads the Intellectual Property, Real Estate and Conveyancing department. She holds a Bachelor of Law Honours Degree (LLBs) from the University of Zimbabwe and a Masters in Intellectual Property Law (LLM) from the University of Turin (Italy) in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

Miss Matanga has extensive experience of practice as an Intellectual Property attorney and she served as an attaché at the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) after her post graduate studies and is currently a resource person of the organisation. Her contributions in the intellectual property law field include the recent amendments to the ARIPO Banjul Protocol on Trademarks in which she is part of the working group behind the analysis and amendment of ARIPO's legal instruments. She is currently advocating and spearheading the legislative reforms in patent law and update of the Zimbabwe's IP laws in general.

Miss Matanga can be contacted at [brenda@bmatanga.com](mailto:brenda@bmatanga.com) and [brenda@brenmatip.com](mailto:brenda@brenmatip.com)



## **DUMISANI MTHOMBENI**

Mr. Dumisani Mthombeni is the firm's Lead Attorney for the Commercial Law and Litigation Department. He holds a Bachelor of Laws Honours degree (LLBs) obtained from the University of Zimbabwe in October 2008. Mr. Mthombeni also holds an Executive Certificate obtained from the Zimbabwe Institute of Diplomacy. Mr. Mthombeni is always on the global space speaking about corruption and has attended many international forums, conferences and training programmes pursuing the anti-corruption agenda.

Mr. Mthombeni can be contacted at [dumisani@bmatanga.com](mailto:dumisani@bmatanga.com)



## **EDITH UTETE**

Mrs. Edith Utete is the Lead Attorney in the Information Communication Technology, Media, Sports and Entertainment Law department. She holds a Bachelor of Laws Honours Degree (LLBs) from the University of Zimbabwe. She is a registered Legal Practitioner, Notary Public and Conveyancer with over a decade of experience in private and public enterprises. She has also received training in the areas of results based management, corporate governance in public and private enterprises, labour laws, broadcasting and telecommunication laws. Her areas of interest are Information Technology and Telecommunications laws, Corporate and Commercial law, Insurance law and international trade. She also has a keen interest in protecting the rights of children.

Mrs. Utete can be contacted at [edith@bmatanga.com](mailto:edith@bmatanga.com)

# Our Legal Team (continued)



## **CHIEDZA ZIMUDZI**

Ms Chiedza Zimudzi is a Professional Assistant in the firm. She graduated with an LLB (Bachelor of Laws) degree from the University of Cape Town in 2011. Ms Zimudzi's practice experience consists of research work into different areas of the law and providing advisory services to both individual and corporate clients with an emphasis on Copyright Law, Trademark Law, Property Law and Family Law. She is also developing expertise in negotiating, drafting and reviewing commercial agreements.

Ms Zimudzi can be contacted at [chiedza@bmatanga.com](mailto:chiedza@bmatanga.com)



## **TARISAI MKWACHA**

Mr. Tarisai Mkwacha is a Professional Assistant in the firm who is a holder of a Bachelor of Laws (LLBs) from the University of Zimbabwe. Mr Mkwacha has experience and a special interest in drafting, Corporate and Commercial Law. Before joining the firm he received experience as an intern at a local Firm where he was involved in various aspects of corporate law, debt recovery, will writing, setting up of trusts, labour matters and legal research. He also has a keen interest in Investment and Securities Law and International Trade incorporating Arbitration and Dispute Resolution. Mr. Mkwacha can be contacted at [tarisai@bmatanga.com](mailto:tarisai@bmatanga.com)

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