



Our African  
Finance  
Practice

“Vast on-the-ground experience - very much appreciated when dealing with African countries”

Chambers Global 2014

“A group that really knows Africa and the practical aspects of working in these countries”

Chambers Global 2014

“Dedicated partners in Paris and London that offer a broad spread of expertise in corporate finance, regulators’ issues and OHADA law”

Chambers Global 2015

Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year ASIAN-MENA COUNSEL In-House Community Firm of the Year Awards 2015

## Core strengths

Simmons & Simmons has been advising on financings in Africa for over 20 years and has acted on matters in all of the 54 African nations. Central to our success is the strength and depth of our Africa finance practice borne out by our long-standing presence and outstanding local law capability in jurisdictions key to enabling us to service transactions on the continent of Africa.

In addition to the large team of finance lawyers in our head office in London that has extensive experience of advising on English law transactions in Africa:

- Since the establishment of our Asian practice in 1979, we have consistently grown our presence in the region and now have a sizable presence with offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo, from which our team of experienced finance lawyers provide English and local law advice to Asian banks providing financing into Africa.
- Since the opening of our Paris office in 1988, we have enhanced our capability to service financings in Francophone Africa and now benefit from an excellent team of lawyers that regularly advises on OHADA law and has an in-depth knowledge of the local law in French-speaking African countries.
- In 1992, we were the first London city law firm to establish a presence in Portugal and since then we have continued to maintain that presence and expand it with further alliances. In doing so, we have consolidated our ability to advise on financing transactions in Lusophone Africa.
- Since opening an office in Abu Dhabi in 1994, we have grown our profile in the Middle East, establishing a presence in UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia and have an award-winning Islamic finance practice that regularly advises on Islamic financings in Africa.
- In 2014, we entered into an alliance with Fasken Martineau for the purpose of enhancing each firm’s respective African offerings and we continue to maintain the close relationships that we have formed with Fasken Martineau, whilst building and strengthening our relationships with a large number of other law firms throughout Africa.

The finance lawyers in all of our offices across Europe, the Middle East and Asia can draw on the support of a large team of commodities, regulatory, tax, insurance, environmental, dispute resolution and restructuring and insolvency specialists, in order to provide clear and innovative advice.

## Our services

Our Africa finance practice consists of experienced lawyers who advise all participants in the finance markets from lenders (including commercial banks, investment banks and debt funds), borrowers (including corporates and private equity houses), investors and asset managers to loan servicers, special servicers and insolvency practitioners.

Our lawyers advise across the whole spectrum of products including acquisition finance, asset finance, debt restructuring and re-organisation, general transaction banking (including unsecured loans and vanilla secured structures), project finance, real estate finance, structured finance (including asset securitisation issues, property and other asset related structured finance) and trade & commodity finance. Our lawyers regularly provide advice on large, complex transactions, offering innovative solutions, sector and industry knowledge and a commercially focused approach to transactions.

“Highly responsive and extremely thorough team at Simmons & Simmons provides Magic Circle service with lower fees and is highly professional and polished”

Legal 500 UK 2013

“Best trade finance law firm in Asia Pacific”

GTR Asia Leaders in Trade 2015

“Sources commend the firm’s extensive experience in francophone matters, including OHADA law”

Chambers Global 2013

“Well-respected team focused on representing international corporate and finance clients in natural resources, energy and infrastructure projects”

Chambers Global 2015

## Expertise in practice

Key transactional experience of lawyers in the Simmons & Simmons African finance practice includes:

### South African renewables project financings

- Acting for a major investment bank and for Mainstream Renewables Power on project financings on each of the rounds of the renewables project in South Africa

### African telecoms financings

- Advising a major South African telecom company (acting as Borrower) on its local syndicated loan facilities in various Sub-Saharan countries, including Benin, Congo, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire and Uganda

### Senegalese refinery financing

- Advising the arranging bank in relation to a \$142m syndicated loan facility to a refinery company in Senegal

### Nigerian remittance-backed facility

- Advising the arrangers on a \$150m remittance-backed facility for Skye Bank, the first of its kind in Nigeria

### South African ECA financing

- Advising a major English bank on a multi-billion dollar structured export credit facility for a South African company to finance its capital expenditure programme

### Kenyan government financing

- Advising the Government of Kenya on their \$750m syndicated loan intended for investment in infrastructure

### African financial institution financings

- Advising international investment banks and hedge funds on their financing of various financial institutions in Angola, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania

### Ghanaian power project financing

- Advising a major power group of Abu Dhabi on the acquisition (\$1.39bn) of a portfolio of international power generation assets, including a major power plant in Ghana

### Botswanan power and mining project financing

- Advising a major sponsor on the \$5.2bn Mmamabula power and mining project in Botswana

### Angolan pre-export financing

- Advising BP Angola on its award-winning \$2.5bn pre-export financing

### Guinean bauxite financing

- Advising a Chinese Bank on a financing relating to a bauxite project in Guinea

### African Islamic trade financing

- Advising an African petroleum company on its Shariah compliant trade financing arrangements in various jurisdictions in Africa

### Shariah compliant North African real estate fund

- Advising a UAE based investment manager on the launch of the first Shariah compliant North African real estate and infrastructure development fund

### Libyan real estate financing

- Advising the syndicate of lenders on Palm City, Janzour, Tripoli, the first ever real estate development financing in Libya

### Algerian water and power project financings

- Advising the international sponsors of most of the Algerian independent water and power projects (5 projects) including the first project financed Algerian IWPP and the Magtaa IWP (500.000 m<sup>3</sup>), the world’s largest reverse osmosis plant (468 MUSD)

### Moroccan power station project financing

- Advising the arrangers on an ECA-covered limited recourse financing of a 384MW gas-fired power station in Morocco

### Egyptian LNG project financing

- Advising the lenders in connection with the project financing of a bulk liquids terminal for the import and storage of gasoil, LPG and LNG at Sokhna Port, Egypt

# Key international contacts

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A list of members and other partners together with their professional qualifications is available for inspection at the above address.

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