

Introduction

Our global dispute resolution and litigation lawyers advise many of the largest corporations and financial institutions on complex, high-value and sensitive multi-jurisdictional disputes in Africa. With more than 50 offices across the globe and nine in Africa, we have one of largest disputes legal practices in the world, with significant experience resolving cross-border litigation, international arbitrations and investigations and enforcement for clients across all key industry sectors including financial institutions, energy, infrastructure, mining and commodities, transport, technology and innovation, and life sciences and healthcare.

Our lawyers both prevent and resolve disputes by providing clients with practical, creative legal advice that focuses on their strategic and commercial objectives. Our experience includes the full spectrum of dispute resolution and litigation mechanisms ranging from negotiation, mediation, conciliation and conflict resolution to vigorous courtroom strategy, multi-party and class action lawsuits and appellate proceedings.

We have represented clients to resolve numerous disputes concerning African and Africa-related transactions, businesses, projects and developments in arbitration, litigation and other dispute resolution forums across a range of sectors including energy, power, transport, infrastructure, natural resources and financial institutions.

We have acted on many high profile Africa-related investigations, both domestic and multi-jurisdictional, including regulatory inquiries, regulatory enforcement, criminal investigations and prosecutions, and related civil disputes and litigation. We are experienced in advising on risk and public relations issues in the context of legal disputes.

Our lawyers work on disputes from Morocco in the north to Nigeria and Senegal in the west, Kenya and Tanzania in the east, and across southern Africa. We advise on a variety of common and civil laws, including English, Tanzanian, French, Moroccan and South African law, and have experience in Lusophone jurisdictions, specifically Mozambique and Angola.

Our international expertise (primarily led from London, South Africa and Paris) and diverse experience of working in a wide range of African jurisdictions, combined with our local presence and knowledge, means that clients get a truly international team experienced in managing the complex cross border and relationship issues that can arise, tailored to their dispute and particular jurisdictions.

Awards

With a lengthy track record of representing individuals and corporates, Norton Rose Fulbright continues to act on some of the world's most high-profile investigations.

[Global Investigations Review: "GIR 30" 2019](#)

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Global wide – Projects and Energy – Mining and Minerals
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Tier 2

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NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

Norton Rose Fulbright is a global law firm. We provide the world's preeminent corporations and financial institutions with a full business law service. We have more than 3500 lawyers and other legal staff based in Europe, the United States, Canada, Latin America, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Middle East.

Law around the world

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Dispute resolution in Africa



Experience highlights

Arbitration

Angola

Acting for a state entity to recover US\$50m through English court proceedings.

Congo (DRC)

Acting for a global mining company in relation to its shareholder structure and government connections and subsequent exit from the market.

Congo (DRC)

Advising the Chinese owner of a potash mine in the Republic of Congo in relation to a potential US\$76m ICC arbitration with a major Swiss fertiliser trading company in relation to the termination of two bespoke off-take agreements.

Egypt

Acting for an independent in a multi-million dollar ICC arbitration relating to a shareholder dispute for an Egyptian oil and gas project. There are parallel proceedings in the Cayman Islands and a jurisdiction challenge in the ICC proceedings.

Egypt/Israel

Successfully advised and represented the Israeli state national electric corporation in ICC arbitration obtaining a landmark award of over US\$1.7bn against Egyptian state upstream oil and gas companies, also successfully defended on an appeal determined in March 2017 in the Swiss Supreme Court. This is one of the largest gas disputes in the history of the region, and is amongst the most high-profile disputes associated with the Arab Spring of 2011.

Gabon

Acting for an oil major in a US\$50m+ LCIA arbitration relating to a post completion M&A dispute for alleged breaches of warranties.

Liberia

Successfully represented a dual listed gold mining company and its subsidiary in a US\$20m+ London seated arbitration claim brought against it by its earthworks and civils contractor in connection with a gold mine in West Africa. The mine owner was also awarded a substantial counterclaim and its legal costs.

Malawi

Acting for a project and its investors defending a US\$70m ICC arbitration brought by a Chinese contractor following the termination of contracts for the construction and operation of a PV solar plant in the Salima district of Malawi.

Morocco

Securing a multi-million US+ victory in an ICC arbitration for two subsidiaries of a prominent Moroccan real estate developer. The dispute related to a failed real estate project in Morocco with a Bahraini investor. We obtained compensation for loss of profits, damage to reputation, unpaid invoices and guarantees. We also successfully fought off a US\$40m counterclaim.

Tanzania

Advising international clients on issues connected with major changes of the legislation in Tanzania. This involved assessment of local remedies, international arbitration and investment treaty (BIT) claims.

Zambia

Representing a European company in an ICC arbitration seated in London against an African state regarding the failure of a lottery concession and related investments.

Investigations

Angola

Acting for a global mining company in relation to its shareholder structure, government connections and remediation.

Côte d'Ivoire

Advising a mining group in relation to potential corruption exposure subsequent to a transaction in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

Guinea

Acting for a mining group with a joint venture in Guinea to put in place a compliance programme.

Kenya

Acting for a global insurer in relation to an investigation into one of its joint ventures and subsequent reporting requirements. Advised with Hamilton, Harrison & Matthews.

Morocco

Following whistleblower reports, conducting a sensitive money laundering related investigation for a financial institution referring to local and international regulators.

Nigeria

Advising a private equity company on an investigation into the founder of the investee company resulting in litigation, regulatory action and ultimately an exit and settlement.

South Africa

Conducting a multi-jurisdictional money-laundering investigation for a global bank. The customer group had transferred the equivalent of hundreds of millions of pounds to at least sixteen jurisdictions. Extensive engagement with the authorities in various jurisdictions was required throughout the investigation.

Litigation

Congo (DRC)

Advising an LSE and NASDAQ listed gold mining company in relation to the insolvency of its underground mine development contractor at its mining operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Côte d'Ivoire

Representing a listed company and its local subsidiaries on a multi-jurisdiction legal claim and US\$30m dispute against its contractor before the courts of Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan Commercial Tribunal and Court of appeal) and Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou Commercial Tribunal, Court of appeal and Supreme Court) and the Ohada Common Court of Justice and Arbitration (CCJA in Abidjan).

Gabon

Representing an insurance company before the criminal court of Libreville, Gabon, against allegations of breach of insurance regulations.

Ghana

Representing an oil and gas exploration company in relation to a dispute concerning exploration activities off shore of West Africa and involving a claim of *force majeure* and a potential state v state boundary dispute.

Guinea

Defending an international bank in the Republic of Guinea in a claim alleging conspiracy to defraud the claimants into making payments to the Central Bank for gold they did not receive. This high value dispute raises complex, cross border issues relating to the role of intermediary banks in the global payment system and transactions with state entities.

Mali

Advising an LSE and NASDAQ listed gold mining company in relation to its transition from contractor mining to owner mining at two mines in Mali and in relation to the resolution of a number of disputes arising in the course of that transition.

Mali

Advising a listed mining company in relation to a dispute with an African government regarding unfavourable tax treatment and possible investor/ state claims and related defamation proceedings before the English courts.

Nigeria

Acting for a European oilfield engineering company in long running Nigerian court proceedings for non-payment of commission payments relating to the Escravos-Lagos pipeline. Proceedings before the Supreme Court are currently pending.

Tanzania

Acting for a London-based Private Equity investor in High Court litigation concerning claims for misrepresentation and breach of warranty in relation to the purchase of a Tanzanian gold mining company and related exploration licences.

Senegal

Advising a Senegalese mining project company in relation to the settlement of numerous disputes with construction contractors under an EPCM procurement framework relating to the development of a mineral sands mining facility in Senegal.

Zambia

Representing Vedanta in relation to disputes arising out of its interest in Konkola Copper Mines, including arbitration.

Tanzania

Advising a major mine finance investment company in relation to a dispute with an AIM listed gold mining company concerning the ownership of various prospecting licences in the Lupa goldfields in Tanzania arising out of out of the sale of a Tanzanian gold mining company.

Zimbabwe

Advising a Zimbabwean entity on a contractual/shareholder dispute and claim monies transferred pursuant to a fraud and potential English court injunctions.

Pre-dispute

Botswana

Acting for the owner of the Moropule B coal fired power station in Botswana in relation to numerous disputes with its Korean EPC Contractor in relation to major refurbishment works to the project.

Congo (DRC)

Advising the Chinese owner of a mine in the Republic of Congo in relation to a potential ICC arbitration with a major Swiss company in relation to the termination of two bespoke off-take agreements.

Egypt

Advising a French utility on a LNG supply dispute with a group of sellers (which includes state owned entities) for long-term failure to supply LNG and related downstream *force majeure* claims.

Liberia

Advising the Canadian developer of a Liberian gold mining project in relation to the suspension of operations by its civil works contractor following the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in Liberia.

Mali/DRC

Advising Malian and English owners in relation to the restructuring and termination of mine construction and operation contracts and the resolution of related claims by Belgian and Australian contractors in relation to gold mines in Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Nigeria

Advising lenders, international investors and states on dispute resolution mechanisms for major infrastructure projects and foreign direct investments across Africa, including oil and gas and renewable energy projects, road, rail and ports, mining and telecommunications.

Rwanda

Acting for a western investment group in relation to an expropriation claim against the Government of an East-African nation relating to alleged interference and the indirect expropriation of significant mining assets.

Senegal

Acting for the owner of a mineral sands dredge mining project on the Atlantic coast of Senegal in relation to various disputes concerning the construction and commissioning of the dredging barge and ore processing facilities for the project.

South Africa

Reviewing multiple court and arbitral claims in individual jurisdictions brought against a high-net worth individual and preparing an independent report for use in connection with his ongoing engagements with financial institutions.

