**Matthews and Partners: Attorneys at Law**

## **Our Background**

Matthews and Partners is a firm of attorneys established on 1 August 2003 in Kimberley, Northern Cape Province. The firm is wholly owned by Roger Eric Matthews, an attorney from a historically disadvantaged background.

Roger who was admitted as an attorney in 1997, identified the need for the provision of quality legal services especially to municipalities in the Northern Cape, whilst he was employed as Head of Legal Services in the Northern Cape Department of Housing and Local Government.

The Firm was therefore born out of a desire to provide services in a sphere of government that has for many years due to historical reasons been inaccessible to previously disadvantaged legal practitioners. Our aim is however to provide quality legal services not only in the local government sector but also provincial government, national government as well as in the business and private sector.

We commit ourselves to offering our clients a service that is excellent and fulfilling to their needs and thereby giving them peace of mind.

### Our Values

Our values are sacred and uncompromisingly adhered to, as failure to do so will mean that we have failed our clients and ourselves.

*Values*:

* Integrity
* Confidentiality
* Quality
* Continuous improvement
* Clients first
* Reliability

### Our Services

* Local Government Law
* Constitutional Law
* Administrative and Public Administration Law
* Minerals and Energy Law
* Compliance (Statutory and Corporate Governance)
* Drafting of Legislation
* Legal Training
* Legal Audits and Investigations
* Registration of legal entities
* Advising on and drafting a wide range of agreements
* Property transfers
* Civil Litigation (High and Magistrates Court)
* Labour Law
* Administration of Trusts
* Administration of Insolvent Estates

#### Our Team

**Roger Eric Matthews**

##### Educational Background

Roger obtained the B.A. Law and LL.B degrees from the University of the Western Cape. He was admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa on 2 May 1997.

Roger has attended many seminars and conferences aimed at furthering his development in the areas of local government law, public administration, employee relations, labour law, due diligence, compliance, drafting of legislation, etc.

### *Skills*

Roger has more than 20 years post qualification experience, i.e. after obtaining his LLB degree. Since completing his mentioned degree in 1993 he served his articles, practiced for a short period, joined the public service and returned to practice in 2003.

**He has considerable experience in various aspects of the law such as local government; constitutional and public administration; drafting of contracts in general, as well as commercial agreements; labour law (including running disciplinary hearings); the administration of trusts and the administration of insolvent estates. Roger has had further exposure to civil litigation both in the Magistrate’s and High Court, matrimonial and family law, debt recoveries amongst others**.

During his term at the Northern Cape Department of Housing and Local Government, he was involved in several special projects such as heading investigating teams into the affairs of municipalities, as well as advising the Northern Cape Land Use Appeal Tribunal on legal matters.

Since 2001 Roger has extensively become involved in the drafting of legislation, particularly provincial legislation applicable to housing, local government and planning matters. Amongst the pieces of legislation that principal assisted in conceptualizing, drafting and finalizing count the following: Northern Cape Land Administration Act, Northern Cape Housing Bill and the Northern Cape Planning and Development Amendment Bill. Since 2009 Roger has worked with various communities across the Northern Cape Province where land was restituted to them in terms of government’s Land Restitution programme. This has enabled Roger to understand and deal with large communities where social, economic, political and legal factors are at play. The communities mentioned include Riemvasmaak, Vaalbos and Dingleton.

*Career*

Since 2003 Roger has been in private practice as sole owner of the firm. The firm is a general practice offering a wide variety of services as detailed in the preceding paragraph.

Roger is the immediate past Chairperson of the Northern Cape Liquor board and the Northern Cape Rental Housing Tribunal as well as a past Deputy Chairperson of the Northern Cape Gambling and Racing Board.

The Rental Housing Tribunal which has jurisdiction throughout the Northern Cape, adjudicates disputes between tenants and landlords in the rental housing sector.

The Gambling and Racing Board license and monitors all casinos, limited pay-out devices, horse-racing and related matters throughout the province.

The Liquor Board is responsible for regulating the liquor industry in the province including the granting of liquor licenses to the industry.

The firm is at present acting as legal advisor to the Dingleton Community outside Kathu in the Northern Cape, on all matters relating to their resettlement from Dingleton to Kathu. The Dingleton community is being resettled as a result of the expansion of the Sishen Mine by Anglo American PLC.

**Chamelle Jansen**

Office Administrator

Chamelle joined Matthews and Partners during 2005. She is the welcoming face and voice of the firm that keeps clients connected with the rest of the team. Chamelle not only fulfills a secretarial function, she has developed an interest in conveyancing and assists with drafting of transfer documents.

**Celestine Selborne**

Senior Associate

Celestine graduated with a LLB Degree from the North West University – Potchefstroom Campus in 2010.

She served her articles of clerkship at Legal Aid South Africa where after she was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court in 2013.

Celestine then proceeded to work for Lawyers for Human Rights for a period of 2 years.

She joined Matthews & Partners in 2015 where she attends to Special Projects and general Civil Litigation work.

**Kwakhanya Kema**

Senior Associate

Kwakhanya graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with Bachelors of Laws degree. She is a general legal practitioner currently practicing at Senior Associate level at our firm.

Kwakhanya currently concentrates on the following areas of law:

Litigation

Evictions

Commercial and Corporate law

Debt collection

Deceased Estates Administration

Wills and Estate planning

She also has a special interest in Conveyancing and Property law.

Kwakhanya is determined to make a difference in the lives of others through the legal profession and is of the opinion that if people are educated about the law they can make informed decisions.

**Donnay Green**

Candidate Attorney

Donnay obtained an LLB degree from the University of Stellenbosch in 2015.

She was appointed as Candidate Attorney during January 2016 and is currently serving her second year of articles at the firm.

Donnay deals with and assists in general civil litigation, drafting of contracts and debt collections.

**Katlego Shuping**

Paralegal

Katlego matriculated from Kimberley Boys High School. He obtained both his BComm (Law), 2014 and LLB, 2016, from the University of the Free State.

During his years of study he became a member of Golden key honour society (recognising the top 15% academic achievers). He also served in a number of leadership positions, as Treasurer for SLSJ (Students for law and social Justice), head of academic affairs in his residence, SRC Vice- President Portfolio Executive Committee and Secretary for the South African Student’s Congress.

He joined Matthews and Partners in February 2017 as a candidate attorney.

**Meryll van der Westhuizen**

Paralegal

Meryll joined Matthews and Partners as an administrative assistant during 2016. She quickly developed a keen interest in becoming more actively involved with the practice of law. After several months of in-house training, Meryll attends to drafting of pleadings, debt collection and assists in general civil litigation matters. She is currently completing her LLB at the University of South Africa.

**Joanne Vlotman**

Receptionist

Joanne joined our team in May 2016 and she is the welcoming face at our Upington office. She obtained her Receptionist Certificate at Universal College Outcomes in Upington in 2014 and assists in the drafting of contracts. She wishes to further her studies in conveyancing in the near future.

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