

# KMK Africa Advocates LLP

# "Recalibrating the Ethos of Legal Practice"

# **FIRM PROFILE**





# Who we are

KMK Africa Advocates LLP is a boutique law firm based in Nairobi, Kenya, focusing on the Financial Services, Technology, and Real Estate sectors. In the Financial Services sector, we handle various aspects of legal practice, including compliance and consumer legal needs. The firm assists service providers in banking, capital markets, insurance, pensions, and Saccos in addressing all their sector-specific legal requirements.

Within our technology practice, we strive to ensure that businesses achieve optimal regulatory compliance through tailored legal solutions suited to their business models. Our Commercial & Real Estate Department manages a wide array of commercial legal matters for businesses and facilitates securitization and diverse property transactions for property developers, vendors, and purchasers. Our approach to client service is solution-oriented. We also customize our delivery processes to accommodate the requests of each client, considering the diverse needs and unique nuances that each situation demands.

Established in 2018, the firm's lawyers possess distinct expertise in both domestic and cross-border mergers, acquisitions, investments, joint ventures, legal advisory, regulatory compliance, and practical legal advice. We champion environmental sustainability and ethical business practices, as our business model is rooted in full legal compliance, adaptability, anticipation of market needs, and a focus on end-to-end solutions for business setups. Moreover, we have implemented measures to manage risks and compliance, and we are committed to ensuring that we are well-equipped to serve our clients and cultivate long-term relationships for mutual benefit.

"Recalibrating the Ethos of Legal Practice"

# **Our Core Values:** Acumen . Proficiency . Integrity

# **Core** Competencies



### **Client Service**

Ability to anticipate clients' needs and provide tailor-made solutions to their problems. We have the precision to break down ordinary problems into cogent legal issues that we solve with ease.



# Industry leadership

In-depth understanding of industry dynamics trends.



# Forward thinking

We see the future with y<mark>ou.</mark>



# Research and Expertise

Content and opinion leaders on complex and emerging content and opinion leaders on complex and emerging legal issues.



## Dynamism

Our founding partners bring a unique blend of our founding partners bring a unique blend of academic and technical competencies and experiences there by enhancing our ability to meet the needs of the ever evolving market.

# **AREAS OF PRACTICE**







### **Financial Services Law**

- Banking & Securitization
- Insurance law & Practice
- Capital Markets Regulation
- Pension Law & Practice
- Saccos Legal Practice areas
- Financial related dispute resolution & Litigation

### **Commercial & Real Estate Law**

- Conveyancing Practice & Projects
- Mergers & Takeovers
- Corporate Restructuring
- Contracts generally
- Commercial transactions & Tax Law
- Commercial Litigation

## Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law

- Fintech Law practice
- E-commerce Law
- Data Protection Compliance
- Intellectual Property
- Cyber security regulation
- Software Licensing
- Technology Sector Dispute Resolution & Litigation

# **1** Financial Services Law

Our Financial Services Law Department advises a diverse range of financial service providers spanning regulatory compliance and corporate governance, to mergers and acquisitions, complex financing transactions, and dispute resolution. Some of our clients include: banks, microfinance institutions, SACCOs, payment service providers, fintechs, insurance companies, pension funds and regulatory agencies.

We regularly counsel our clients on complex regulatory matters and represent them before regulatory agencies, courts and tribunals including in guiding them through enforcement proceedings and negotiating supervisory and commercial agreements. Our team also regularly advises on cybersecurity and data protection compliance enabling them to navigate any legal minefields.

As a Practice, we negotiate, draft and close financing transactions including asset-based and unsecured commercial loans, acquisition financings, bond and dealer financing, securitized asset financing, syndicated lending, sovereign debt and project financings.

We also advise our clients on regulatory compliance issues and assist them in obtaining requisite industry licenses, company formations, insolvency proceedings, restructurings, intellectual property and employment matters.

We have also helped our clients resolve disputes with other private players as well as the regulators touching on competition/antitrust, data protection, tax disputes, and loan disputes, among others.

We consider it needful and inevitable that a cogent understanding of the policy rationale and context of law and policies be had by legal practitioners and law makers if law is to play a part in the political and socio- economic development of the society. If this be considered a noble aim of the law as an institution, as we indeed do, then continuous learning and legal reform is an imperative. We seek to consider the law in its context and help in policy formulation. Our legal consultancy and projects department is involved in these critical tasks of legal research, knowledge development and management and legal advisory to various institutions.

-Muriuki Muriungi, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Partner KMK Advocates

# o2) Commercial and Real Estate Law

The Commercial and Real Estate Department at KMK Africa Advocates LLP advises a broad range of clients such as companies, property developers, lenders, vendors and purchasers. We advise on establishment of business vehicles (i.e Companies, Foreign Companies, partnerships, Limited Liability Partnerships, General Partnerships), regulatory and licensing requirements, corporate restructuring, negotiating and drafting standard

documentation and commercial agreements, drafting contracts a n d financing documents including debentures, charges, mortgages and their consequent registration and resolving disputes arising from commercial engagements.

For foreign investors seeking to set up in the East African region, we are well equipped to offer the requisite support to comply with all the regulatory requirements from setting up a foreign branch or a local company to obtaining industry specific or import permits. Our firm has home advantage in Kenya but is privileged to have reliable liaison offices and partner firms across Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mauritius and Mozambique. Our sister company, Valicon Corporate Services, is also equipped to offer tax and governance advisory, Company Secretarial Services including liaison with various company registries across East Africa. Where local directors are required, we have a package where we provide director services for investors at a fee.

In the Real Estate Department, we provide counsel on various facets of the real estate journey such as project finance, leasing, joint venture formation, construction, regulatory approvals and compliance, corporate structuring, and enforcement action. In particular, we advise our clients in the entire real estate acquisition value chain commencing from land acquisition and site assembly to occupation or disposal. We procure all relevant consents, ensure environmental compliance, obtain regulatory approvals, assist in documentation necessary for obtaining financing, perfection of securities and conveyance. We deal with, and resolve issues that usually arise such as on tax, zoning and land use, environmental issues, and land ownership disputes.

We have been engaged in negotiating and drafting lease and sale agreements, management of estates, setting up and structuring entities, perfecting securities and resolving resultant disputes.

## 3) Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law

Our Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Practice advises a wide range of clients in the technological sector particularly at the intersection of technology and other sectors such as FinTech, InsurTech, and AgriTech. We advise technology start-ups and on various issues that arise in deployment of technology including: data protection and privacy, data governance and monetization, product development and launch, compliance, market expansion, strategic alliances, funding and global risks.

We possess an intimate understanding of some of the most advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Data Analytics, Internet of Things (IoT), Cloud Computing, Edge Computing, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Virtual Reality and Mobile Applications.

We are actively involved in advising clients in the following sectors: Fintech and Payments, Online Gaming, E-commerce, AutoTech, Digital Infrastructure, Smart Cities, Biotech/Medtech, and social media. We provide various legal services to Tech clients such as employment, tax, competition, private equity, regulatory compliance, cybersecurity, ESGs, Initial Public Offers (IPOs), among others.

The sub-practice areas under Technology, Media and Telecommunications Practice are: Data Protection; Data Privacy; Intellectual Property and Financial Technology (FinTech).





THE TEAM -Meet Our Team-





Robert Mutembei Koome / Managing Partner /



Muriuki Muriungi / Partner /



Alvin Kosgei / Partner /



Macharia Kaguru / Advocate /



Christabel Maina / Associate /



Juliet Abiero / Trainee Advocate /



Cynthia Thandi / Trainee Advocate /



Kevin Muiruri / Legal Assistant /



Victor Kivuva / Clerk /



Celestine Tharuba / Office Administrator /



Partner in charge of Corporate, Commercial and Real Estate

#### **Practice Areas:**

Commercial law and Conveyancing, Technology and Media law, Capital Markets and Securities, Banking, Pensions, Legal and Governance Audits, Due Diligence, Commercial Litigation, Arbitration, Mediation, and Fintech law

#### **Memberships:**

- Law Society of Kenya
- Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK)

#### **Admissions/Certifications:**

- Advocate of the High Court of Kenya
- Certified Public Secretary

#### **Key Positions held:**

- Tutorial Fellow, Egerton University <u>School of Law.</u>
- Project Manager -Egerton University Faculty of Law Legal Aid Project.

### **Robert Mutembei Koome**

An advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Managing Partner, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

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Mutembei is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and an accomplished professional incommercial legal practice, due diligence and advisory. He has been sufficiently exposed to high profile cases in commercial law and related constitutional litigation insuperior courts and therefore brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the firm. His knack for excellence, quick turn around times and personalized client service is contagious in the firm. This has often ledto happy and loyal clients.

He has successfully represented diverse clients to resolve tax and business contract disputes of a complex nature while preserving the clients' business continuity. His notable acumen in commercial law and business language is always a value add to clients in the commercial sector, who are happy to get timely legal advice that speaks to their business. This has made him the go-to person for diverse commercial legal services.

Mutembei has also cut out a niche in technology law and e-commerce; he is currently researching on legal issues in block chain technology. He believes that technology continues to shape business practices and therefore legal practitioners must respond to this disruption with the kind of agility that can help businesses to navigate new phases in the industry successfully. Being a lecturer, Mutembei is also involved in training and mentorship of young lawyers, inpursuit of a passionate desire to recalibrate the ethos of legal practice.

## Muriuki Muriungi

An advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Partner, KMK Africa Advocates LLP

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Muriuki Muriungi is partner in the Financial Services Law Department at KMK Africa Advocates LLP, a full-service law firm based in Nairobi, Kenya. His practice focuses on corporate finance; financial regulation including banking and securities regulation; public policy and public finance including taxation issues, privatization, and public private partnerships as well as law and economics. As a lawyer trained in economics and finance, Muriuki applies economic analysis to law and corporate transactions, while structuring and advising on transactions. As a policy specialist, he has advised and consulted for regulators in the Kenyan financial sector such as the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK), Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) and the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) as well as other organizations such as Kenya Bankers Association, Financial Sector Deepening (FSD) Kenya, and the World Bank Group/IFC.

Muriuki has previously taught law at the University of Nairobi and the University of Embu. He is an author of various peer reviewed journals and book chapters, and has presented at international policy and academic conferences in the United Kingdom, USA, South Africa, Switzerland and Malawi.

Muriuki received his undergraduate degree (LL.B) and master's degree in law (LL.M) from the University of Nairobi. He also received a Master of Science in Law and Finance from St. Peter's College, University of Oxford where he was a Standard Bank Africa Chairman's Scholar. Currently, he is undertaking his doctoral studies in central banking and climate change.



#### **Position:**

Partner & Head of Financial Services Law

#### **Practice Areas:**

Corporate finance; financial regulation including banking and securities regulation; public policy and public finance including taxation issues, privatization, and public private partnerships, law and economics, legal consultancy and legislative drafting.

#### **Memberships:**

• Law Society of Kenya

#### Admissions/ Certifications:

- Advocate of the High Court of Kenya
- Certified Public
- Accountant (II)

#### Key Positions held:

• Lecturer, School of Law, University of Embu



Partner & Head of Technology, Media and Telecommunications

#### **Practice Areas:**

Dispute Resolution including Litigation and Arbitration, Technology Law, Project Structuring through Joint Ventures and Special Purpose Vehicles Data Protection Law, Sports Law, Succession and Estate Planning.

#### **Memberships:**

Law Society of Kenya

#### Admissions/Certifications:

- Advocate of the High Court of Kenya
- Certied Public
  Accountant (II)

#### Key Positions held:

- Lecturer, Vision Institute of Professionals.
- Associate Advocate, Kanjama & MummaAdvocates
- Associate Advocate AGO Advocates LLP

## Alvin Kosgei

An advocate of the High Court of Kenya and Partner, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

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Alvin Kosgei is one of the Founding Partners at KMK Africa Advocates LLP and leads the Dispute Resolution (Arbitration & Litigation) and Technology Media and Telecommunication Practices. He has substantial expertise in regional and cross-border transactional advice and is an accomplished all rounded advocate with a specific and demonstrable track record in litigation as well as commercial practice.

He has advised corporate clients in the areas of data protection compliance, contracting, corporate restructuring and in mergers & acquisition, intellectual property protection, investments, project development and joint ventures. He is also a leading litigation lawyer having represented high profile individual and corporate clients in public interest litigation, employment disputes, election disputes, commercial litigation and constitutional litigation.

He participated in the governance aspect of the project conception for the multi-billion redevelopment of the Nairobi Railways to a modern railway city. He has also recently advised in a multi-million merger and a multi-million takeover involving some of the fastest growing Technology Companies in the region and continues to distinguish himself as a solid and go to advisor in technology related legal needs. He is a member of the Law Society of Kenya, the East African Law Society and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

# Macharia Kaguru Advocate, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

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Macharia Kaguru is a consultant in our Corporate, Commercial and Real estate practice. He demonstratable expansive has transactional experience and has earned a reputation as a trusted legal counsel and strategic business advisor to a diverse client portfolio in areas of joint ventures, general corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, environment, social and governance (ESG), regulatory compliance, technology, media and data protection and securities listing in both primary and secondary markets.

To continuously provide practical and innovative advice to clients, Macharia researches, consults, teaches and is often invited to make presentations in local and international conferences and workshops and participates in policy making in his practice areas. This experience has been instrumental in advising clients with up to date, strategic and forward looking advice for client's continuous growth.

Our dispute resolution department is not only competent in court room representation; we foresee possible areas of misunderstanding and offer accurate advisories guaranteeing minimal disruptions. Our team works in collaboration with the Commercial & Conveyancing Departments in contractual processes with a view to offering foolproof legal solutions.



**Position:** Advocate, KMK Africa Advocates LLP

#### **Practice Areas:**

Corporate Commercial Law Mergers and Acquisitions, Joint Ventures and Private Equity Environment Social Governance (ESG) Intellectual Property Law Technology, Media and Data Protection

#### Education:

- Post graduate Diploma (KSL)
- LLM -Harvard Law School, 2022
- LLM (UoN)
- LLB (First Class Honors) (UoN)

#### **Memberships:**

- Law Society of Kenya
- Associate Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

#### Admissions/Certifications:

- Advocate of the High Court of Kenya
- Patent and Trademark Agent, Kenya, 2020

#### **Key Positions held:**

- Tutorial Fellow, Strathmore Law School
- Researcher Harvard University Centre for African Studies



#### Qualifications

• Bachelor of Laws [LLB] from Egerton University.

#### **Career History**

Intern, Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company

#### Areas of Interest:

Commercial law, Conveyancing, Legal Research, Tax law, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Human rights law, Christabel Maina Associate, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

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Christabel Maina is an Associate in the Dispute Resolution Department at the Firm. She was admitted to the Kenyan bar as an Advocate of the High Court in 2024. She holds a degree in law (LL.B) from Egerton University and a postgraduate diploma from the Kenya School of Law.

Christabel is well equipped and undertakes litigation at the Firm in all its broad aspects including preparation of pleadings, drafting of legal opinions, client care and attending Court.

In addition to her legal knowledge, she is a strong communicator and has a talent for building rapport with clients and colleagues. She is dedicated to ensure that her potential clients understand their legal options and feel comfortable throughout the legal process.

She is excited to begin her legal career and is open to opportunities in Data Protection



# Juliet Abiero

Trainee Advocate, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

Juliet Abiero is a Pupil at the Firm undertaking the final part of the Advocates Training Program for the year 2024.

Juliet holds a degree in law from Egerton University and completed a postgraduate diploma from the Kenya School of Law in 2023. She possesses strong communication skills and a keen attention to detail which comes in handy in legal service delivery. Kelvin Muiruri is a Legal Assistant at the

# Cynthia Thandi

Trainee Advocate, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

Cynthia Thandi is a Pupil at the Firm undertaking the final part the Advocates Training Program for the year 2024.

Cynthia holds a degree in law from the University of Nairobi and completed a postgraduate diploma from the Kenya School of Law in 2023. She possesses strong research and drafting skills.



#### Qualifications

 Bachelor of Laws [LLB] from Egerton University.



#### Qualifications

 Bachelor of Laws [LLB] from University of Nairobi



#### Qualifications

 Bachelor of Laws [LLB] (First Class Honours) from Egerton University.

# Kelvin Muiruri Legal Assistant KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

Kelvin Muiruri is a Legal Assistant at the Firm. He holds a degree in law (LL.B) (First Class Honours) from Egerton University and is currently undertaking the Advocates Training Program at the Kenya School of Law.

Kevin has a sharp legal mind, astute research skills and is keen on honing his skills in legal practice.



# Victor Kivuva Clerk, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.

Victor is a licensed Court Process Server who acts as a Clerk at the Firm. He is well skilled in all court processes and those at the Land and Company Registries.

He has several years of experience undertaking service of court documents, attending to registration of documents at the land registry and related processes. His service helps in delivering to clients timeously.

# Celestine Tharuba Office Administrator, KMK Africa Advocates LLP.





Celestine Tharuba is the Office Administrator at the Firm. She is the first point of contact at the Firm and is responsible for the day to day administrative support functions for the firm. Celestine is well versed in office administration, possesses strong interpersonal skills, is dependable and able to follow instructions.

# "Recalibrating the Ethos of Legal Practice"

At KMK Africa Advocates LLP, we transcend traditional legal boundaries, crafting solutions that mirror the dynamic landscape of today's business world. With a fusion of talent, experience, and agility, we stand ready to address the diverse needs of both individuals and corporations within the commercial sphere. Our unwavering commitment is to provide vital legal support precisely when it matters most.





# Some of our Clients



# **KMK Africa Advocates LLP**



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