

MOONEY FORD

ATTORNEYS

2020

Company Profile

ABOUT US

COMPANY PROFILE

About Us

Mooney Ford was established in May 1902 when a partnership was formed between Edward Jeffrey Holgate and Fred Blamey. In 1955 the firm merged with Renaud, Fellows-Smith and Mooney with whom they had a long and close association. This resulted in a name change to Mooney Ford and Partners. The firm continued under this name from 1955 to 2002 when it changed its name to the present-day Mooney Ford Attorneys. Various prominent lawyers have practiced at Mooney Ford, including the legendary Jack Mooney, a well-known sportsman, and Wally Chaplin, who, in the 1960's, was President of the Natal Law Society, as it was then known, and President of the then Association of Law Societies. Today, Mooney Ford is made up of a number of partners practicing in various specialist and general fields of law. The firm's head office is located at The Boulevard in Park Lane, Umhlanga Ridge, Durban and also offers a conveniently located branch office at Bristol House in Hillcrest for those clients who live and work in the outer west area of eThekweni.

Meet our Team

Mooney Ford is a partnership of 6 partners and a number of experienced and professional associates and paralegals. We are a Level 2 rated BBBEE entity and subscribe to transformation and employment equity principles. The majority of our staff are female and come from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. We believe in constantly upskilling and advancing all of our members of staff, and we continually provide training and support programmes to facilitate empowerment and the transfer of skills and help all of our staff realise their full potential. The fact that one of our partners began her career at Mooney Ford as a secretary is testament to the success of our efforts.



MEET OUR PARTNERS

Ian King



Ian's preferred area of practice is commercial work and in particular all aspects of the Companies Act, including shareholder disputes and corporate governance. Ian also specializes in and has extensive experience in all aspects of civil litigation. Ian was appointed a partner in 1997 and managing partner in 2011. He is a member of the Association of Arbitrators and serves on the Board at Durban Country Club.

Ian's commercial law experience includes advising on all aspects of the Companies Act, negotiating, drafting and concluding commercial agreements as well as business rescue and liquidation applications.

- √ **Commercial Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution**
- √ **Insolvency, Liquidations and Business Rescue**

Ashton Naidoo



Ashton joined the firm in 2019. He completed a BSoc Sci in Criminology and an LLB at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, and thereafter worked as a legal advisor prior to going into private practice. Ashton has experience in public law, labour & employment law, insurance law and general commercial litigation.

Ashton is well known for his slot on East Coast Radio during the lockdown due to the coronavirus and the *pro bono* work that he performed for the Restaurant Association of South Africa, assisting them in persuading the government to open the restaurant industry up again.

- √ **Commercial Litigation**
- √ **Insurance Law**

MEET OUR PARTNERS

Rita Padayachee



Rita joined the firm as a litigation secretary in 1999, studied for her law degree part-time and was offered articles on completing her degree. Rita became an associate in 2006 and took up the position of partner in 2008. In addition to being a skilled litigator, Rita heads up our Estates Division. She specializes in the administration of trusts, deceased estates and curatorship estates. She also has extensive knowledge of insurance and family law.

- √ **Estates**
- √ **Litigation**

Mignon Ronné

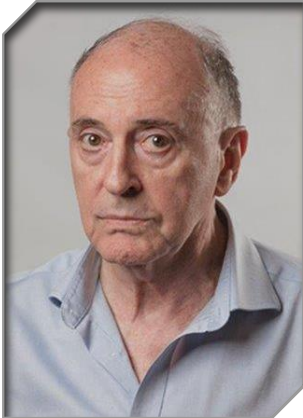


Mignon was admitted as an attorney in 1999 and joined Mooney Ford in 2004. Mignon is a conveyancer and a notary public and is *au fait* with all things property, she has a wealth of knowledge in Property law, specializing in transfers and sectional title properties. Mignon is also the resident partner in our Hillcrest branch office.

- √ **Conveyancing**
- √ **Property Law**

MEET OUR PARTNERS

Louis Simon



Louis joined the firm in 1976 and is a specialist conveyancer and notary public. Louis is the doyen of the property industry in Durban and has substantial experience in transfers, bonds and servitudes. He acts for a number of institutions that require specialist knowledge of property rights and registration requirements.

- ✓ Conveyancing
- ✓ Property Law

Michelle Naidoo



Michelle joined Mooney Ford Attorneys as a partner in November 2020. Michelle has 18 years' experience practising as an attorney in the specialist field of employment and labour law. The foundation of her labour and employment law career was established in November 1996 when she was appointed as an Associate to Judges of the Labour Court, where she served for 4 years. In 2005, Michelle was appointed as a Director of Deneys Reitz Inc. (the firm became Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa Inc.) where she practised labour and employment law in the role of Director for ten years. Michelle did her articles at Mooney Ford and her joining as partner sees her career coming full circle.

- ✓ Employment and Labour Law
- ✓ Labour Dispute Resolution

OUR SERVICES

As a highly respected firm, Mooney Ford exists to serve the interests of our clients in their chosen markets by addressing their legal challenges and opportunities so that those clients can achieve their business objectives. We do this by giving expert legal advice in specialised fields and acting professionally, ethically and independently at all times. We offer an efficient, sensible and practical approach to solving our clients' problems by providing a consistently high standard of service. We make the best use of the latest office technology and equipment and employ and promote contented, enthusiastic, and hardworking staff. We develop a thorough knowledge of our clients matters so that we can craft solutions, build strategies, simplify complexity, give good advice, protect our clients' interests and at all times give them peace of mind.

General Litigation

Refers to litigation and all other aspects of law which may or may not be litigious in nature such as wills/estate planning, incorporating businesses, contract drafting, real-estate transactions, disputes with administrative bodies, and more.

Corporate Law

Also referred to as Company Law, it is mainly defined as the law of how businesses or corporations, shareholders, employees, directors, creditors, consumers, environment and the community interact with each other.

Commercial Law

Commercial law, also known as trade law, is the body of law that applies to the rights, relations, and conduct of persons and businesses engaged in commerce, merchandising, trade, and sales.

Insurance Law

This is the laws and regulations that relate to insurance. Insurance is a contract between two parties that transfers the risk of loss to the other party to the contract in exchange for a fee or premium.

Conveyancing

The legal process whereby a person, company, close corporation or trust becomes the registered and legal owner of immovable property, including improved and unimproved land, houses, farms, flats and sectional titles.

Debt Collection

Debt collection is the process of pursuing payments of debts owed by individuals or businesses.

Public Law

Public law is that part of law which governs relationships between individuals and the government, and comprises constitutional law, administrative law, tax law and criminal law, as well as all procedural law.

Competition Law

Law that promotes or seeks to maintain market competition by regulating anti-competitive conduct by companies. Competition law is implemented through public and private enforcement.

Insolvency Law

The law of insolvency envisages and accounts for sequestration of individuals and liquidations of companies, amongst various other mechanisms and processes which the law of insolvency provides for including business rescue.

Deceased Estates

The law of succession is the totality of the legal rules which control the transfer of those assets of the deceased which are subject to distribution among beneficiaries, or those assets of another over which the deceased had the power of disposal.

Alternate Dispute Resolution

ADR is a mechanism used by parties who want to avoid having to go to court to resolve a dispute that they have.

Labour Law

South African labour law regulates: the rights/obligations between employers, employees, and trade unions; including dispute resolution mechanisms applicable to dismissals for misconduct, incapacity and operational requirements, collective bargaining; and OHSA.

OUR APPROACH

CLIENT FOCUSED

We provide a wide variety of legal services tailored to our clients' specific needs, allowing them to focus on their core business whilst we handle their legal issues. Everything we do is aimed at helping our clients achieve their goals by anticipating and addressing their legal challenges and opportunities.

TEAM DRIVEN

We work in efficiently run and well organised team structures. This means our clients have the benefit of experienced attorneys focusing on their matters and addressing their legal concern/s to find the best possible solution. This structure allows for effective work allocation based on the level of expertise required, ensuring that the work is conducted at the appropriate level of seniority and with sufficient support staff whilst at the same time being cost effective.

PREPARATION & FORWARD THINKING

We get to know our client's needs and requirements for each individual matter and plan ahead accordingly. We report frequently, and the various specialized departments interact regularly in order to afford the client an all-encompassing specialist service. We further keep abreast of new developments in our ever-changing law by monitoring current trends and precedents.

RESOURCES & TECHNOLOGIES

Mooney Ford is fully networked and computerised with in-house IT support. We have a large boardroom and two smaller meeting rooms, state of the art virtual and conference call facilities and subscribe to various on-line legal resource providers of information containing SA law reports, international law reports and legal articles. We strive to communicate with our clients via the fastest and most efficient route possible. With the assistance of modern technology, Mooney Ford is able to provide a full range of services to clients regardless of where the client is situated and we act for a number of clients in overseas jurisdictions.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS & REPORTING TO CLIENTS

We believe that effective communication is essential to managing all client relationships. Any work done on a particular matter is allocated by the partner in charge according to the nature and complexity of the work that needs to be conducted. The charge out rates will be commensurate with the experience and seniority of the people working on the matter and the fees billed monthly or quarterly (depending on the requirements of the client) on a time basis.

Complex matters will be dealt with by more senior attorneys. Likewise, less complex matters will be dealt with by senior and junior associates under the supervision of senior attorneys. By having attorneys at each of the different levels of experience within the firm, Mooney Ford is able to ensure that the work done is billed out at a rate which provides the client with the best possible value.

Mooney Ford is also open to negotiating fixed fee, monthly retainer or contingency fee arrangements with clients. Our aim is always to add value to our clients without placing our legal services out of their reach financially. Please feel free to discuss these fee options with us.

Depending on the nature of the instruction a reporting method is adopted that will best suit the circumstances, whether that be by way of a daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly basis or based on specific milestones in a matter. A detailed and comprehensive report is prepared, setting out the information that is not only important to the client, but records in detail the work that has been done on the matter to give the client the peace of mind required.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

We are confident that we have the means, the capabilities and experience to successfully represent your interests, and would appreciate the opportunity of exploring how we can add value to your service offering.

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