

VANESSA VAN ZYL

YEARS EXPERIENCE:

21 years

NATIONALITY:

South African

POSITION:

Director: AfriSance Consulting

PROFILE

Vanessa is a director at AfriSance Consulting, a legal and compliance consultancy firm that offers specialised legal compliance, ethics and regulatory management services to both the public and private sector. She has been accredited by The Compliance Institute of South Africa as a Compliance Professional and certified by EthicsSA as an Ethics Officer.

Vanessa's experience spans a period exceeding twenty one years during which she, prior to joining AfriSance Consulting in 2008, occupied senior management positions in high profile regulated communications companies such as Telkom, Cell C and Vodacom and practiced, as a member of the Pretoria Bar Association, as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

She has extensive experience in the operational management of all aspects of the regulatory and legal compliance function and is regarded as an expert in the fields of regulatory, legal compliance and ethics management in both the public and private sector. Her proficiency in interpretation of statutes, commercial and administrative law and her proven ability to apply the relevant law to different institutional frameworks, mandates, business models, technologies and service environments are regarded as invaluable by her former employers and clients.

Vanessa's experience include compliance management, policy, statutory and regulatory analyses, participating in public consultation processes, preparation of legal opinions, litigation, contract negotiations, drafting a variety of commercial agreements as well as participating in various regional and international policy making fora.

Her primary focus since 2008 has been the provisioning of legal and regulatory compliance services which range from determining the client's compliance universe, conducting legal compliance risk assessments and audits to constructively challenging and simplifying regulatory complexities to assist entities in the development and implementation of commercially viable strategies. Her technical expertise in assisting organisations to develop and implement commercially viable strategies and controls to ensure legal and ethics compliance has been widely recognised and appreciated by her clients.

Vanessa has performed eleven large scale legal compliance audits in the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform including three audits which primarily consisted of the assessment of contract management practices and contract terms and conditions, as well as a legal compliance audit at the National Research Foundation. She also conducted a legal assessment review on the adequacy of MTN SA's compliance framework, a contract assessment at Herculite Ferrochrome and provided advisory services to Connection Telecoms, Connectnet Broadband Wireless, XLink Communications and the Independent Development Trust.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 1990 : BProc, University of Pretoria
- 2000 : LLB, University of South Africa

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- 2001 : Admitted as an Advocate to the High Court of South Africa
- 2007 : Admitted as Member to Pretoria Bar Association
- 2010 : Compliance Professional accredited the Compliance Institute of South Africa
- 2010 : Ethics Officer certified by the Ethics Institute of South Africa

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Company Name: AfriSance Consulting
Position: Director
Dates: August 2008 to date

Duties:

Since joining AfriSance Consulting, Vanessa has performed eleven legal compliance audits in various areas within the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, which included Deeds, Land Survey, Security, Spatial Planning and Information, implementation of the Communal Properties Associations Act, Human Resource Management, Asset Management, Supply Chain Management and the Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy. Three of these audits included a review of the contract management practices and the adequacy of the contract terms and conditions. Vanessa also conducted a legal compliance audit at the National Research Foundation.

The objective of the above audits was to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the key internal controls within the Department's processes and systems, the alignment of the internal systems with the relevant legislative requirements, the degree of legal compliance achieved and recommendations with regard to the institutionalisation and/or improvement of controls and systems.

The audits comprised of:

- A critical assessment of all the activities performed with a view to determine the compliance universe (comprising of all parliamentary and subordinate legislation applicable to such activities, international best practice etc), and an analysis and selection of those statutory and best practice requirements which have a statutory impact on the activities;
- Determination of the exact scope of the powers, authorities and/or mandates conferred on the Department;
- Evaluation of the adequacy of the design of the controls and systems to ensure compliance with the above requirements and degree of adherence/compliance with the requirements;
- Recommendations regarding institutionalisation and/or improvement of controls and systems.

In addition, Vanessa recently conducted a legal compliance review on the adequacy of MTN SA's compliance framework and has also provided consulting services to listed and private companies such as MTN, FactComm, Connection Telecom, ConnectNet, XLink and the Independent Development Trust.

Company Name: Pretoria Bar Association
Position: Advocate
Dates: January 2007 to August 2008

Duties:

Vanessa completed her pupillage at the Pretoria Bar Association and practiced as an Advocate and member of the Pretoria Bar Association, where she gained invaluable practical experience in litigation and commercial agreements, which enhanced her corporate experience.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Company Name: Vodacom (Pty) Ltd
Position: Executive Head
Dates: September 2004 – July 2006

Duties:

Vanessa was responsible for the compliance function pertaining to the special regulation portfolio in all Vodacom Group companies in Africa including:

- Policy, legislative and regulatory analysis, including interpretation, drafting and commenting on new laws and regulations and participating in public consultation processes;
- Critical analysis of and formulation of company and/or industry response to relevant legislation and regulation during all phases of legislative processes;
- Implementation of legislation and regulation;
- Compliance management;
- Preparation of regulatory due diligence;
- Regulatory analysis in support of various commercial business ventures;
- Litigation pertaining to regulatory issues; and
- Preparation of media responses and reports.

Company Name: Cell C (Pty) Ltd
Position: Manager
Dates: April 2002 – August 2004

Duties:

Vanessa was responsible for providing regulatory advice and support for internal divisions and subsidiary companies including:

- Policy, legislative and regulatory analysis, including interpretation, drafting and commenting on new laws and regulations and participating in public consultation processes;
- Critical analysis of and formulation of company and/or industry response to relevant legislation and regulation during all phases of legislative processes;
- Implementation of legislation and regulation; and
- Compliance management.

Company Name: Telkom SA Ltd
Position: Senior Manager
Dates: February 1998 – April 2002

Duties:

Vanessa was responsible for the regulatory function in respect of international and special markets, including:

- Policy, legislative and regulatory analysis, including interpretation, drafting and commenting on new laws and regulations and participating in public consultation processes;
- Critical analysis of and formulation of response to relevant legislation and regulation during all phases of legislative processes;
- Compliance management;
- Preparation of regulatory due diligence;
- Regulatory analysis in support of various commercial business ventures; and
- Litigation pertaining to regulatory issues.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Company Name: Vodacom (Pty) Ltd
Position: Consultant
Dates: July 1994 – February 1998

Duties:

During this period Vanessa was responsible for the management of Telkom's insurance portfolio.

Company Name: Price Forbes
Position: Technical broker
Dates: January 1991 – June 1994

Duties:

After completing a two year management trainee programme, Vanessa was responsible for the technical broking on a number of corporate accounts. Her responsibilities included the identification of risk management requirements, negotiating insurance terms and drafting insurance contracts.