

Pretorius new chairman of Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr

Attie Pretorius, national practice head at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's Real Estate Practice, has been appointed chairman of the firm effective 1 April 2014. Pretorius has been a director at the firm since 1984.

After a long and illustrious career spanning 40 years at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Chris Ewing, the current chairman, will retire as a partner but will remain closely associated with the firm. He will be freed up to focus specifically on the firm's relationship with DLA Piper and its key role as one of the member firms of the DLA Piper Africa Group. He will also continue to serve as a mentor and adviser to younger lawyers in the firm.

Pretorius graduated from the University of the Free State with a B.Com LLB in 1978. Then served articles with a firm of attorneys in Bloemfontein and was admitted in 1980. In 1984 Pretorius joined Hofmeyr van der Merwe (now Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr). Since being admitted he has followed his passion for real estate and is currently the national practice head of the Real Estate practice area in the firm which employs approximately 100 people in the Sandton and Cape Town offices, respectively.

Respected lawyer

Pretorius is a highly respected and recognised real estate lawyer in both South Africa and globally. Best Lawyers International 2013 South Africa listed Pretorius as the Johannesburg Lawyer of the Year for Real Estate. Who's Who Legal - International Who's Who of Real Estate Lawyers 2011 and 2012 nominated Pretorius as a leading lawyer in real estate. Practical Law Company PLC Which Lawyer? 2007 to 2011 endorsed Pretorius as a leading individual in Corporate Real Estate and in the Expert Guides: Guide to the World's Leading Real Estate Lawyers 2009 and 2011, Pretorius was nominated by in-house counsel and peers as one of the pre-eminent practitioners in the world in real estate.

Commenting on his appointment, Pretorius said, "I have to fill the very big shoes that Chris will be leaving behind and that is a daunting task. I want to pay tribute to Chris who has served the firm as an inspiring leader over many years. My duty is merely to build on that - I see this as a team effort and will be working in close co-operation with the rest of a very capable management team."