

# Mary Boakye

## Consultant



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## Overview

Mary Boakye, one of the UK's leading authorities on Africa, provides legal, business advisory and strategy planning services to a wide variety of clients including corporates, investment funds, financial institutions and governments in Africa, Europe, Asia and the United States. She has extensive experience in international finance and corporate matters including M&A and private equity, with particular knowledge of capital markets transactions in Africa, and co-led the team that advised the Republic of Ghana on its 2007, 2013 and 2014 sovereign bond issues. Mary is internationally acknowledged as a leader in her field and has been recognized by *The Lawyer* as one of the UK's "Hot 100 Lawyers" and as being "skilled in dealing with complex regulatory environments and jurisdictions" and by Powerlist as "one of UK's most influential black people". Mary is acutely aware of the opportunities and challenges facing organizations doing business in Africa and brings to her clients an in-depth understanding of African markets, a wealth of relationships and her many years of experience in both international and emerging markets.

## Recognition

- The Lawyer - UK's "Hot 100 Lawyers"
- Powerlist - "Britain's 100 Most Influential Black People"

## Insights

- 'The African Way'. Africa - *What Chinese Investors Need to Know*
- 'Ghana's Gold - New Frontiers and Growth Opportunities for Investors in Africa'. *Legal Week*
- 'Bridging the Housing Gap with Residential Mortgage Backed Securities'. *African Development Bank Law for Development Review*
- 'Structured Financings in Africa'. *Trade Finance Review*
- 'Opportunities for Growth in Emerging Markets'. *Insurance Review*

- 'Banking in Africa'. *Legal Week*
- 'Africa Agenda'. *SNR Denton (now Dentons) client newsletter*

## Activities and Affiliations

- Founder and co-Chair of UNICEF (UK)'s Day of the African Child Committee

## Presentations

- Africa M&A and Private Equity (Mergermarket)
- Africa Debt Capital Markets Overview of Bond Documentation (London Stock Exchange)
- Constraints to Economic Growth and Private Sector Investment in Ghana (USAID)
- Venture Capital and Private Equity Exit Strategies (Harvard Business School)
- Investing in Africa - Legal Risks and Pitfalls (Lou Casteou Academy)
- Opportunities and Challenges to Investing in Africa (BSN City Group)
- Corporate Governance (International Anti-Corruption Conference)
- Managing Your Career: A Pathway to Leadership (GPA Conference)
- Raising Capital for Business Transactions and Projects - Alternative Sources of Funding (Denton Wilde Sapte (now Dentons) African Banking & Financial Institutions Seminar, Ghana)
- Debt Reduction & Financial Sector Reforms (MOCOMILA)
- Africa the New Credit Frontier (Standard & Poor's)
- Legal and Regulatory Issues for a Successful Domestic Bond Market (Ghana Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning/Central Bank of Ghana Local Capital Markets Forum)
- Women in Business (UKTI (South Africa) Breakfast)
- Investing in Africa (Botswana Investment Forum)
- Legal Aspects of Doing Business in Africa (American Bar Association Annual Conference)
- Various client seminars

## Memberships

- China Europe International Business School's Africa Foundation for Governance and Leadership Advisory Board
- World Bank/African Development Bank Technical Committee of the All-Africa Conference on Law, Justice and Development
- Business Advisory Board of H.E. Kofi Annan's Africa Progress Panel

## Prior and Present Employment

- Mary started her career at Allen & Overy, where she worked as an international capital markets lawyer for extended periods in Hong Kong, London and New York, and in client organizations including Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Bank. With a rare insight into client priorities, business risks, financial drivers, policies, operations and product areas, she also has unparalleled experience of assisting clients on business

development and commercial strategies for expansion in Africa as well as governance (particularly Africa related) issues.

- Previously a partner and head of SNR Denton's (now Dentons) Africa Financial Markets Group, Mary shared the strategic leadership and development of the firm's Africa practice and jointly supervised its transformation into a leading and internationally recognized practice.

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Capital Markets
- Corporate

### Industry sectors

- Financial Institutions
- Private Equity

### Region

- Africa

## Education

- Brunel University, LLB, Law (Hons)
- The College of Law, Guildford, Solicitors' Finals Examination

## Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, Senior Courts of England and Wales
- New York