

Priscilla Balgobin-Bhoyrul

Senior Partner, Counsel



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Overview

Priscilla is a senior partner in the Dentons Mauritius office.

She specialises in corporate, finance and tax law. She also regularly advises or acts on behalf of commercial and investment banks, private equity and venture capital firms. Over the years, she has been involved in a number of M&As and IPOs, many of them involving companies in the global business sector or foreign companies investing in Mauritius. Priscilla has a keen interest for Fintech matters and keeps herself abreast of all developments in that field.

She has practised at the Mauritian Bar since 1999 and has appeared before all the courts of Mauritius, as well as before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the United Kingdom. She has also sat for numerous years as a member of the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal, a Tribunal set up to hear appeals on appointment decisions made by the Public Service Commission and Local Government Service Commission in Mauritius.

Experience

- Assisting in reviewing and drafting of corporate documentations (Private Placement Memorandum, Subscription Agreements, Constitution and other management/advisory agreements) with respect to the setting up of closed end funds operating as Professional Collective Investment Schemes, incorporated in Mauritius and investing into India and African countries. Clients include Airavat Capital Holdings, India Growth Fund Ltd, Alpha Special Opportunity Fund – I, Equanimity Ventures Fund Limited, OBOR Capital PCC, Sundaram Alternative Opportunities Fund Mauritius Limited, Filter Capital Fund I Ltd, Leo Capital Fund I, Focus Inde Growth Fund Ltd, 1729 Capital Fund, India Moats Fund.
- **Mahindra Gears Global Limited:** Acting on behalf of a Mauritius entity in respect of a reverse merger with its Italian subsidiary.
- **Chedid Capital Holding:** Acting on behalf of a foreign client acquiring a 50% stake in the biggest insurance broker company in Mauritius.
- **Courts Mammoth:** Acting on behalf of a consortium of foreign and local investors who acquired the assets of Courts.
- **Duet Private Investments Limited:** Assisting Duet, a UK based private equity company, with respect to the

acquisition of a majority interest in AJEast Nigeria, a Nigerian African beverage manufacturer, for US\$50 million.

- **Swala Oil and Gas (Tanzania) plc:** Assisting with the primary listing of Swala Oil and Gas, a global business company on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius ("SEM").
- **Banyantree Bank:** Advising and assisting on the setting up of Banyantree Bank in Mauritius. The bank is fully set up, duly licensed and operational.
- **Development Bank of Mauritius:** Advising on the restructuring of the bank.
- **Confidential client:** Assisting a client further to the Financial Services Commission issuing instructions to client to cease all operations until some issues were resolved satisfactorily notwithstanding which its licenses would be revoked.
- **Sugar Investment Trust Property Development Limited:** Chairing the board of the largest shareholder based company in Mauritius, responsible for the property development arm of the Group. The company was set up to act as a land developer and promoter, by acquiring, holding and disposing property.
- **Confidential:** Representing the owners of a hotel in an arbitration under the Mauritius International Arbitration Act 2008 in relation to the sale of the hotel undertaking.
- **Golf Development International Holding (Pty):** Representing Property Developers from South Africa in an arbitration under the Mauritius International Arbitration Act 2008, in relation to a dispute with the Mauritian landowners for the development of a real estate project in Mauritius.
- **Confidential:** Assisting a well-known group for the setting up of a Property Development Scheme project attached to a hotel. Our assignment consists of advising on legal matters and drafting of all legal documents.
- **Confidential:** Chairing disciplinary committees for a leading hotel chain in Mauritius.
- **Confidential:** Providing legal assistance on the setting up of real estate property funds worth USD 250,000,000 investing in India.

Recognition

- Highly regarded lawyer by *IFLR1000*.
- Ranked lawyer in General Business Law by Chambers and Partners.
- Recommended lawyer by *Legal 500*.
- Africa's Most Influential Women award (Mauritius) (Cuvil Society) by *CEO Magazine (Africa)*

Insights

- Co-author, "Digitalisation in Mauritius amidst the Industrial Revolution 4.0," "Business Going Digital" online guide, June 2020

Activities and Affiliations

Community Involvement and Pro Bono

- Founder, SPEAK Human Rights and Environmental Initiative, an NGO that provides free legal services to those who complain of serious human rights breaches.

Presentations

Priscilla has lectured law on a part-time basis at the University of Technology, Mauritius and provides regular training in data protection and GDPR.

She has intervened on the occasion of Women's Day at universities and international banks as guest speaker, at schools on Independence Day to read the Prime Minister's speech and to talk about the practice of law at law faculties.

Memberships

- Member of the Mauritius Bar Association
- Member of Middle Temple, UK

Prior and Present Employment

- Senior Partner, Dentons Mauritius (present)
- Barrister at Law, Balgobin Chambers

Areas of focus

Practices

- Arbitration
- Banking and Finance
- Capital Markets
- Corporate
- Real Estate

Industry sectors

- Financial Institutions
- Government
- Infrastructure and PPP
- Insurance
- Private Equity
- Professional Services
- Hotels and Leisure

Education

- Harvard Business School, 2015, Authentic Leadership Programme
- London School of Economics and Political Science, 2006, Understanding Women's Human Rights

- City University, 1998, Higher Diploma, Law
- Inns of Court School of Law, 1998, Bar Vocational Course
- London School of Economics and Political Science, 1997, LLB (Hons)

Admissions and qualifications

- England and Wales, 1998
- Mauritius, 1999

Languages

- English
- French