

The world's largest law firm to combine with five elite law firms in Africa

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Dentons, the world's largest law firm, is announcing today proposed combinations with five leading law firms in Angola, Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

These combinations build on Dentons' strategy to become the first Pan-African law firm owned and controlled by Africans. These firms will help position Dentons as the largest global law firm in those countries from launch, connecting clients to top-tier legal talent in Africa and more than 10,000 lawyers around the globe.

The firms are LEAD Advogados in Angola, Sayarh & Menjra in Morocco, Fernanda Lopes & Associados Advogados in Mozambique, Kyagaba and Otatiina Advocates in Uganda, and Eric Silwamba, Jalasi and Linyama Legal Practitioners in Zambia.

These combinations follow the firm's launch with Kenya's Hamilton, Harrison & Mathews and Dentons Mauritius, and its approved combination in Zimbabwe with MawereSibanda. Further, they build on the strength of the brand Dentons has already established in Egypt and South Africa, as well as enhance the firm's presence and capabilities in Morocco.

"The combination with these five firms builds upon our strategy to become the first Pan-African law firm owned and controlled by Africans," said Elliott Portnoy, Global CEO of Dentons. "As the world's first truly polycentric global law firm, we are able to meet client demands for a law firm that can deliver high-quality legal counsel and business solutions, informed by an in-depth understanding of the various cultures in which our clients operate."

"We are building a Pan-African law firm through whole firm combinations of locally owned and controlled firms, that serve both local and global clients," said Joe Andrew, Global Chair of Dentons. "This strategy is unique and is something that other firms in Africa, that are truly in and of each community, will understand and appreciate."

Since first entering the region with a legacy law firm in Egypt in 1964, Dentons continues to grow its presence. After establishing a second office, in Morocco, in 2014, Dentons has become the fastest growing law firm in Africa. In 2015, Dentons joined with KapdiTwala to become the first Level 1 Black Economic Empowerment qualified global law firm in South Africa, disrupting the traditional model for providing legal services in South Africa.

In 2017, Dentons created a new Africa Region, making Africa a distinct governance and organizational unit within the law firm. By establishing an Africa Region, Dentons guarantees that law firms in new markets involved in future combinations within the region will join the firm as members of Dentons, retaining local control of their governance and financial decisions while also securing a voice in the global governance of the firm.

An early success in the new strategy came soon after the following year, when partners approved a combination with Hamilton, Harrison & Mathews in Kenya and Mardemootoo Solicitors and Balgobin Chambers in Mauritius, demonstrating the attractiveness of Dentons' strategy and polycentric approach in the region. Then in 2019, Dentons' partners approved a combination with a high-quality firm in Zimbabwe, MawereSibanda.

"Dentons' recent combinations in Kenya, Mauritius and Zimbabwe have helped to establish Dentons as a leading Pan-African law firm, and these new combinations in Angola, Morocco, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia, further strengthen Dentons' position to become the dominant global law firm in the region," said Noor Kapdi, CEO of Dentons' Africa Region.

The practice and sector synergies of these firms in relation to Dentons will give the combined firms a competitive advantage in international panel competition and build on Dentons' strength in the areas of Banking and Finance, Corporate and M&A, Energy, Intellectual Property and Trademarks, Labor and Employment, Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Natural Resources, Real Estate, and Tax, among others.

Like Dentons, these firms are dedicated to a polycentric approach that values inclusion and diversity and in and of the community roots, and they have strong traditions of giving back to the communities they serve through pro bono work, volunteerism and financial support.

The five combinations, following approval by partners and subject to meeting regulatory requirements, are expected to launch in the next several months.

Recently, Dentons announced its intention to combine with three leading law firms in seven days: Kensington Swan in New Zealand, Gustavo Zacapa y Asociados in Honduras, and Lee International in South Korea. Dentons' partners have approved all three combinations. Earlier this month, Dentons, the first truly Pan-Latin American and Caribbean firm in the history of the legal profession, announced its intention to combine with Rattagan Macchiavello Arocena in Argentina and Jiménez de Aréchaga, Viana & Brause in Uruguay. Also in 2019, Dentons' partners approved a combination with MawereSibanda in Zimbabwe, and launched Dentons Venezuela in Venezuela and Dentons Larraín Rencoret in Chile.

About Dentons

Dentons is the world's largest law firm, connecting talent to the world's challenges and opportunities in more than 75 countries. Dentons' legal and business solutions benefit from deep roots in our communities and award-winning advancements in client service, including Nextlaw, Dentons' innovation and strategic advisory services. Dentons' polycentric and purpose-driven approach, commitment to inclusion and diversity, and world-class talent challenge the status quo to advance client and community interests in the New Dynamic. www.dentons.com

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