

VALENCIA RISABA

Attorney of the High Court of South Africa

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Executive ICT regulatory, legal and governance executive and Attorney of the High Court of South Africa with more than 20 years' experience across telecommunications, regulated infrastructure and major State-Owned Enterprises. Brings extensive experience at the intersection of technology, law, public policy, regulation, governance, compliance and institutional oversight, including senior responsibility for regulatory strategy across multiple African telecommunications markets.

Currently Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer at Liquid Intelligent Technologies, with executive responsibility spanning Legal, Regulatory Affairs, Stakeholder Relations and Transformation. Experienced in interpreting complex regulatory frameworks, advising Boards and executive leadership on regulatory and enterprise risk, developing policy positions and regulatory submissions, and engaging government departments, regulatory authorities and industry institutions.

CORE LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

- ICT Regulation & Regulatory Strategy
- Public Policy Development & Regulatory Advocacy
- Regulatory Compliance & Institutional Governance
- Data-Intensive & Technology-Enabled Operating Environments
- Legal Interpretation & Administrative/Regulatory Frameworks
- Government & Regulatory Authority Engagement
- Enterprise Risk, Compliance & Ethics
- Corporate Governance & Board Advisory
- Cross-Border Telecommunications Regulation
- Stakeholder & Industry Relations
- Transformation & B-BBEE
- Executive & Organisational Leadership

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Pan-African Governance Build:** Established governance, compliance, and company secretariat frameworks from inception across a four-country African telecoms group (Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, DRC), including board training, delegation of authority guidelines, and succession planning.
- **Multi-Board Governance Contribution:** Active Board Member and Committee participant across industry bodies, pension funds and company boards - including Audit & Risk, HR & Remuneration, and Benefits Committees, thereby demonstrating sustained trust from peers and stakeholders.
- **Regulatory Influence at Scale:** Shaped regulatory strategy and policy positions across multiple jurisdictions; led direct engagement with government ministers, regulatory authorities, and industry bodies to influence frameworks affecting the company's commercial operations.
- **Executive Portfolio Expansion:** Appointed to progressively broader mandates across a 20+ year career — most recently elevated to Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer, consolidating Legal, Regulatory, Stakeholder, and Transformation under a single executive function
- **USD315M Capital Transaction:** Led the legal workstream for a multi-instrument debt and equity funding transaction across multiple African markets, closing deals across 2015–2016 — one of the most significant fundraising efforts in the organisation's history.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Liquid Intelligent Technologies

Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer

Oct 2025 – Present

Chief Corporate Affairs Officer

Jun 2021 – Oct 2025

Executive leadership of an integrated Corporate Affairs portfolio within a pan-African telecommunications group, encompassing Legal, Regulatory Affairs, Stakeholder Relations, and Transformation.

- Elevated to Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer following organisational restructure; absorbed the Legal and Company Secretariat functions into an already-complex executive portfolio
- Serve as principal governance and legal advisor to the Board and executive leadership, providing strategic counsel on risk, compliance, regulatory exposure, and commercial matters
- Direct enterprise-wide stakeholder engagement strategy - maintaining relationships with government ministries, regulatory authorities, and key industry bodies across multiple jurisdictions

- Lead development and execution of regulatory strategy, ensuring business operations remain compliant and commercially protected in a rapidly evolving multi-market regulatory environment
- Drive BBEE and transformation strategy, overseeing implementation and reporting in line with applicable codes and business objectives
- Contribute to enterprise-wide strategic planning and risk decision-making at ExCo level

Liquid Telecom

Senior Manager: Regulatory Affairs

Jul 2019 – Jun 2021

Led regulatory strategy, policy development and stakeholder engagement for a pan-African broadband operator.

- Led regulatory strategy and policy development for a pan-African broadband operator.
- Developed regulatory submissions, position papers and policy responses for government departments and regulatory authorities.
- Analysed emerging legislation and regulatory developments and advised executive leadership on their strategic, compliance and operational implications.
- Represented the organisation in engagements with regulators, government stakeholders and industry forums.
- Integrated regulatory considerations into commercial and strategic decision-making.
- Advocated for regulatory frameworks capable of supporting investment, innovation and sustainable telecommunications development.

Smile Telecoms Holdings Limited

Group General Manager: Legal & Regulatory Services

Apr 2012 – Jun 2019

Established and led the Group Legal, Regulatory, and Company Secretariat functions across operations in Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and the DRC.

- Built the group governance and company secretariat function from the ground up - drafted delegation of authority guidelines, board training manuals, and governance policies adopted across all operating companies
- Served as primary legal and governance advisor to the Board and operating company executives; guided the organisation through complex multi-jurisdictional compliance and regulatory environments
- Led the legal workstream for a USD315M multi-instrument debt and equity funding transaction - the company's largest capital raise, closing in 2015–2016
- Oversaw board and committee operations across multiple OPCOs, including scheduling, succession planning, and alignment on governance standards
- Managed internal legal teams and external legal service providers across four African markets
- Led investor, regulatory, and stakeholder relations strategy, including correspondence and submissions at executive level

Eskom Holdings Limited

Chief Legal Advisor – Group Commercial & Primary Energy 2009 – 2012

Led the Contracts Advisory Unit supporting large-scale commercial operations across the Group Commercial and Primary Energy Divisions.

- Directed contracts advisory services across coal, fuel, water and primary energy procurement, thereby, providing legal protection for one of South Africa's largest commercial contracting programmes
- Developed and implemented contract management strategy, including precedent documents and internal training that standardised contracting practice across business units
- Managed complex commercial dispute resolution and litigation, including strategy development and oversight of external legal advisors
- Responsible for team leadership, capability development, and financial management of the Contracts Advisory Unit

Operations Manager – Human Resources (Generation Division) 2007 – 2009

Provided strategic HR leadership across Eskom's Finance, Strategy, Technology and Assurance functions.

- Led HR Business Partners and specialist functions including Industrial Relations, Remuneration, and Organisational Design
- Advised executive leadership on employment law, HR policy, and governance alignment across the Generation Division
- Developed divisional HR directives and practices to ensure consistent, legally compliant people management across business units

Senior Legal Advisor / Chief Legal Advisor

2002 – 2007

Progressive advancement through Eskom's legal function, ultimately appointed Chief Legal Advisor.

- Provided broad legal advisory across commercial contracts, employment law, regulatory compliance, and governance matters
- Managed litigation in CCMA, Labour Court, Magistrates Court, High Court and private dispute resolution forums
- Made regulatory submissions on proposed legislation affecting Eskom's operations; participated in tender committees and governance structures
- Created precedent documents and delivered internal legal training to improve contracting standards organisation-wide

Earlier Career

Legal Advisor – NBC Holdings (Pty) Ltd | 2001

Provided legal advisory on pension law, labour law, corporate law, insurance, and litigation. Liaised with FSB, SARS, the Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator and industry bodies on behalf of clients.

Employment Law Consultant – Global Business Solutions | 2000

Candidate Attorney / Professional Assistant – Wright Rose Innes Attorneys | 1997 – 1999

BOARD & GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Current

- Board Member – Liquid Telecommunications SA (Pty) Ltd (till October 2025)
- Board Member – Digital Council Africa
- Board Member – South African Communications Forum (until April 2025)
- Board Committee Member (Project Steering Committee) – Association of Communications & Technology
- Employer Representative – Liquid Intelligent Technologies Pension Fund Advisory Committee

Pension Fund Governance (Former)

- Trustee – Eskom Pension & Provident Fund (Mar 2004 – Jun 2008)
- Committee service: Audit & Risk Committee | HR & Remuneration Committee | Benefits Committee

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master of Business Leadership (MBL) – University of South Africa (UNISA)
- LLB & BProc – University of the Witwatersrand
- Higher Diploma in Corporate Law – RAU (University of Johannesburg)
- Attorney of the High Court of South Africa