



# Merapelo Speakman

**Candidate Attorney**

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- **2025:** Bachelor of Laws - University of Botswana

## **BACKGROUND**

Merapelo completed her Bachelor of Laws at the University of Botswana in 2025, graduating with a 4.0cgpa and ranking among the top 10 students in her class. She is currently serving as a Candidate Attorney under the pupillage of Mr Rizwan Desai where she works in the Corporate Commercial Department, alongside the Litigation & Dispute Resolution Department at Desai Law Group. She is an admitted Attorney of the High Court of Botswana and other courts of Botswana.

## **LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

- **January 2026 - Present:** Candidate Attorney - Desai Law Group
- **July 2025 - December 2025:** Legal Intern - African Export-Import Bank
- **October 2025 - June 2025:** Intern - Bonolo Omphile Selelo Attorneys
- **June 2024 - July 2024:** Intern - Chibanda Makgalemele & Company
- **October 2022 - May 2024:** Intern - Lawrence & Associates
- **June 2022 - July 2022:** Intern - Toteng & Company

## **ACCOLADES & PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

- Professional Certificate in Regulatory Compliance
- Professional Certificate in Credit Risk Mitigation

- World Bank (African Mining Legislation Atlas Program: Legal Researcher
- Centre for Human Rights (University of Botswana): University of Botswana Representative in Moot court Competition
- Phillip C. Jessup White and Case Moot Court Competition: University of Botswana Moot Court Representative
- Equality Now Moot Court Competition: University of Botswana Representative
- University of Botswana Trade Society: Executive Member

## **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL (TRANSACTIONAL WORK)**

- Worked on high-value cross-border financing and project finance transactions, with exposure to structured finance, trade finance instruments, and commercial lending. These include;
  - a. Bahamas Striping Limited Group, The Bahamas – USD 100 Million Discounting Receivables Facility
  - b. JE Energy Group, UK- USD 100 Million Revolving Back-to-Back Letter of Credit Facility
  - c. Spiro Mobility Limited, Kenya - USD 25million Project Finance Facility
- Assisted senior counsel on transaction structuring, documentation and closing processes.
- Assisted in the Review and analysis of term sheets, facility agreements and other ancillary legal finance documents.
- Conducted legal due diligence and regulatory review in support of financing transactions.

### **LITIGATION**

- Assisted in drafting pleadings, affidavits and legal opinions.
- Conducted legal Research and case analysis for matters before the courts
- Supported Dispute Resolution processes, including preparation for hearings and settlement discussions.

### **PROPERTY AND CONVEYANCING**

- Drafted conveyancing and property-related documents, including Deed of transfer, bonds and ancillary conveyancing documents.