

MICHAEL VERMAAK

ABRIDGED RESUMÉ

**Senior Environmental Legal Consultant:
IMBEWU Sustainability Legal Specialists
(Pty) Ltd**

Consultant: Warburton Attorneys

EDUCATION

- **BSc (Plant Sciences and Geography):**
Rhodes University – 1986
- **BSc (Honours) (Plant Sciences and
Geography):** Rhodes University – 1987
- **LLB:** Rhodes University – 1995
- Admitted as an attorney – June 1998.

EXPERIENCE

**July 2003 to date:
IMBEWU Sustainability Legal Specialists
(Pty) Ltd – Senior Environmental Legal
Consultant**

- Specialise in environmental law.
- Conducted environmental-legal compliance evaluations ("audits") of numerous industrial and mining operations throughout South Africa.
- Assist in health and safety legal compliance audits.
- Advise on and assist in environmental permitting, licensing and authorisation processes and assist in strategising for multiple authorisation processes.
- Assist in the administrative appeal process for EIA's.
- Advise on general water rights related issues.
- Compile electronic legal registers for operations.
- Undertake environmental legal due diligence investigations, risk assessments and review EIA's, EMPs etc.
- Undertake training sessions and conduct workshops on environmental-legal awareness and environmental-legal compliance auditing.
- Provide general legal support and advice and legal assistance on environmental policy and strategic issues.
- Monitor legal developments and provide input into legislative and policy developments.

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Groundwater Consulting Services (a water, environmental and earth sciences consultancy)

- Practical involvement in various aspects of environmental authorisation processes, including water licence applications, water rights "trading" and EMPRs.
- General advice on environmental authorisation process requirements.

**Moolmans Attorneys Inc – Candidate
Attorney, Professional Assistant and
Associate.**

- Experience in environmental permitting, licensing and authorisation processes, including the integration of processes and integration of government departmental involvement in multiple authorisation processes.
- Assisting clients with running processes from a legal perspective, including negotiating with relevant authorities in the regulatory processes.
- Assisting clients with the resolution of environmental-legal threats, including through negotiation with government departments.
- Providing opinions on diverse environmental-legal issues.
- Compiling environmental-legal guides, legal compliance assessments and legal risk assessments.
- Environmental-legal input into multi-disciplinary studies concerning environmental management plans, environmental impact assessments, legal compliance assessments, legal risk assessments, etc.
- High Court environmental litigation.

**Bowman Gilfillan Inc – Professional
Assistant.**

Predominantly involved in environmental-legal due diligence work.

**Nettelons Attorneys (Grahamstown) –
Candidate Attorney**

Involved in a range of attorney's work, gaining experience in general High Court and Magistrates Court civil litigation as well as criminal law.

**Temporary lecturer in the Department of
Law at Rhodes University**

Legal Theory 1 (History of South African Law).

Ad hoc Research

Research into legislation relevant to land claims in the Dwesa-Cwebe Nature Reserves in the Transkei. This included researching the developments in environmental legislation in the area from the late 19th century until the present day.

PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Numerous presentations to companies on the implications of environmental legislative provisions on their activities.
- Numerous training presentations / workshops, including National Environmental Management Waste Bill Legal Training Workshops in Johannesburg and Durban in 2008.
- Presented the legal component of a seminar on Environmental Impact Assessments in Grahamstown in 2005.
- Presented paper "*Co-Operative Governance, Multiple Environmental Authorisation Requirements and the NEMA EIA Regulations – the Risks and Opportunities for Practitioners and Project Proponents*" at the 2006 IAIA's Annual National Conference.
- Presented Environmental Legal Compliance Auditor Training Workshops for a major parastatal in 2004 and 2008.