

### **Werksmans Dominates Dealmakers M&A Awards**

Werksmans, a leading South African corporate and commercial law firm, dominated the *DealMakers'* Legal Advisers category in its 2007 Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) rankings, winning first position in the 'M&A - Deal Flow' category for the second year in a row, for which achievement the firm won the *LexisNexis* 'Corporate Law Firm of the Year' award in this category.

Werksmans also came second in the 'M&A - Deal Value' category. In a third triumph, the firm's client Edcon, scooped the Private Equity Deal of the Year award. Werksmans advised on all aspects of the transaction.

It was not just the awards that were significant, but the extent by which Werksmans outperformed other corporate law firms. Werksmans' 46 deals announced during 2007 was almost 50% better than the second placed law firms (there was a tied second place with each firm claiming 32 deals).

At a lavish awards ceremony, increasingly being dubbed the 'Oscars of the M&A industry' in recognition of its status as the most widely recognised awards in M&A, held at the Sandton Intercontinental Hotel on Wednesday night, Werksmans director Gareth Driver was presented with the *LexisNexis* floating trophy. As this was the inaugural award of the trophy, Werksmans has created a little bit of history.

In addition, Werksmans' R80,11 billion value of M&A transactions during 2007 was also substantially ahead of the third and fourth placed firms in respect of 'M&A - Deal Value'.

Driver, head of Werksmans' Commercial department said, "These awards recognise our leading status in mergers & acquisitions, a direct result of our clients' confidence in us. Clients keep coming back because of our effective protection of their interests while getting the deal done, no matter how intricate the matter may be."

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### **About Werksmans**

Established in 1917, Werksmans is a leading South African law firm focused on understanding business to achieve the best legal outcome for its clients. Werksmans fosters business partnerships to best advise multinationals, listed companies, offshore concerns and government on corporate and commercial law, and litigation and dispute resolution services. The firm is built on a solid foundation of insightful and innovative deal structuring and legal advice, as well as a keen ability to understand the greater economic forces of the marketplace. Werksmans offers a gateway into 27 other African countries through its African legal network, Lex Africa. The firm is distinguished by the people, clients and work that it attracts and retains. Visit [www.werksmans.com](http://www.werksmans.com) for more information.