

## **SABC BOARD NOMINATION**

**Nominee: Michael Grant Markovitz**

**ID:**

**Address:**

**Mobile:**

**Work:**

**email:**

# Michael Markovitz - CV

- Current**      Element36  
Flat Rock Mobility Solutions  
SOS: Support Public Broadcasting Coalition  
V & A Hotel group
- Previous**     Maboneng Broadband  
Primedia  
Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)  
Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA)  
Media and Broadcasting Consultants  
Multi-Party Negotiating Process  
Film and Allied Workers Organisation (FAWO)  
Freelance journalist and researcher
- Education**   University of the Witwatersrand  
University of York  
Rhodes University

**Contact:**

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## Background

### Summary

I have over two decades of experience as an executive and consultant in the media, technology and entertainment sectors. During this time I advised large corporates, start-ups and NGOs as well as heading up a leading media company's digital division where we made acquisitions and set up new businesses. Apart from my commercial experience, I have expertise in regulation and played a part in drafting South Africa's new broadcasting legislation in 1993. I also served as the adviser to the IBA and thereafter ICASA chairperson, Mandla Langa, from 1999-2005.

I have a real world understanding of building new businesses and have taken investment stakes in emerging infrastructure and digital media businesses in South Africa. My other interests are in South Africa's hospitality industry.

## CURRENT EXPERIENCE

### **Founder and Director:**

**Element36 (Pty) Ltd**

December 2015 – Present; Johannesburg, South Africa

Element36 is a boutique consultancy offering strategy and technology consulting for media, entertainment and digital businesses as well as for NGOs in these sectors.

[www.element36.co.za](http://www.element36.co.za)

### **Investor and Director:**

**Flat Rock Mobility Solutions**

September 2015 – Present; Johannesburg and Cape Town

Flat Rock Solutions is an Africa-focused mobile software development business pioneering innovative technology solutions. Flat Rock has developed Mobila, an OS integrated mobile delivery platform (or super app) for mobile content, applications and value adding services that transforms and re-skins the UI/UX layer of low cost Android smartphones. Mobila is the first platform of its kind in Africa, optimized specifically for entry level smartphones and focused on the needs of low income users. [www.flatrocksolutions.co.za](http://www.flatrocksolutions.co.za)

### **Board Member:**

**SOS: Support Public Broadcasting Coalition**

October 2016 – Present, Johannesburg, South Africa

I serve on a voluntary basis on the Board of the SOS: Support Public Broadcasting Coalition. SOS is a civil society coalition campaigning for independent public broadcasting in the public interest. The Coalition is made up of: a broad range of NGOs, trade unions and individuals (academics, freedom of expression activists, policy and legal consultants, actors, script-writers, film-makers, producers, directors etc). *Should I be appointed to the SABC Board, I would resign from my position and membership of SOS.*

<http://www.soscoalition.org.za/>

### **Director:**

**V & A Hotel group**

May 2010 – Present; Cape Town, South Africa

The V & A Hotel (Pty) Ltd is an independent, boutique hotel group which owns the following three hotels on Cape Town's V & A Waterfront:

**The V & A Hotel** <http://www.newmarkhotels.com/accommodation/hotels/victoria-alfred-hotel/>

**The Queen Victoria Hotel** <http://www.newmarkhotels.com/accommodation/hotels/queen-victoria-hotel/>

**The Dock House Boutique Hotel**

<http://www.newmarkhotels.com/accommodation/hotels/dock-house-boutique-hotel-spa/>

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

### **Investor and Director:**

#### **Maboneng Broadband**

February 2015 – March 2017 (2 years 2 months); Johannesburg, South Africa

Maboneng Broadband is currently an open access network fibre provider operating in 3 Johannesburg areas: the Maboneng Precinct in downtown Johannesburg, Fourways Gardens and Vorna Valley. I invested in the business in early 2015, selling my shares just over two years later.

### **Executive Chairman:**

#### **Primedia Digital, Primedia**

August 2005 – May 2014 (8 years 10 months); Johannesburg, South Africa

I joined Primedia in 2005 and handled acquisitions in the digital space for two years. I was then appointed Executive Chairman of a new Primedia Digital division and responsible for businesses in the mobile content, animation, online advertising, app development and digital signage markets. I served on the Primedia Group Exco between 2009-2014 and chaired five Group company boards over a six-year period.

### **Adviser to the Chairperson**

#### **Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)**

July 2000 – June 2005 (5 years); Johannesburg, South Africa

Between 2000 and 2005, I served as advisor to Mandla Langa, Chairperson of ICASA, to whom I provided advice on broadcasting and telecommunications regulatory matters as well as on strategic and corporate governance issues. During those five years, the ICASA Chairperson and Council had to navigate through and conclude a range of complex broadcasting and telecoms regulatory issues, including:

- the merger of the IBA and SATRA to form ICASA in 2000;
- re-licensing all SABC radio and television services in 18 month-long public process;
- the closure of M-Net's Open Window;
- the Telkom listing;
- new SA TV and radio content regulations and quotas;
- the licensing of over 100 community radio stations;
- the review of ownership and control laws on commercial broadcasters; and
- regulations on Sports Broadcasting Rights to ensure national sports were aired on FTA broadcasters.

**Adviser to the Chairperson:  
Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA)**

July 1999 – June 2000 (1 year) Johannesburg, South Africa

Between 1999-2000, I served as advisor to Mandla Langa, Chairperson of the IBA, providing advice on broadcasting regulatory matters as well as on strategic and corporate governance issues. I was integrally involved in the merger of the IBA and the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (SATRA) to form a new merged regulator called the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA).

**Associate Producer:**

**“Hijack Stories”** film directed by Oliver Schmitz

(starring Tony Kgoroge, Rupulana Seiphemo and Percy Matsemela)

1998-1999

**Director:**

**Media and Broadcasting Consultants**

January 1994 – June 1999 (5 years 6 months) Johannesburg

Consulting work included:

- advice to Sentech and Government on Sentech’s unbundling from the SABC;
- helped establish and represent the South African Music Content Alliance in its submissions to the IBA on the first South African music content quotas; and
- acted for commercial and community applicants in new broadcasting licence applications to IBA.

**Member of the Technical Committee on the Independent Media Commission  
and Independent Broadcasting Authority:**

**Multi-Party Negotiating Process**

May 1993 – November 1993 (7 months) Johannesburg

I served on the Technical Committee responsible for drafting the Independent Media Commission Bill, 1993 and the Independent Broadcasting Authority Bill, 1993 - which became part of the package of laws negotiated and agreed to at the Multi-Party Negotiating Council to ensure a fair and smooth transition to democracy in South Africa

**Member of the Broadcast Commission:**

**Film and Allied Workers Organisation**

January 1988 – December 1993 (6 years)

FAWO was an organisation formed in 1988 to represent the interests of anti-apartheid, independent film and television producers and workers in South Africa. I was a member of FAWO's Broadcasting Commission which played a leading role in the campaign to free the SABC from apartheid government control and establish an independent regulator for the broadcasting sector. FAWO initiated "The People Shall Broadcast" campaign which saw the

first ever mass march on the SABC's headquarters on 25 August 1990. The march took place under the umbrella of the Campaign for Open Media (COM) and was supported by organisations including the ANC, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), United Democratic Front (UDF), the Media Workers Association of South Africa (MWASA), the Congress of South African Writers (COSAW), the Association of Democratic Journalists (ADJ) and the Black Sash.

As part of the ANC's Media Negotiations and Strategy Committee in January 1993, I assisted in drafting the "*Memorandum of Understanding between the South African Government and the ANC on the Appointment of a New SABC Board by 31 March 1993*"

### **Freelance Journalist and researcher**

January 1987 – December 1990 (3 years) Johannesburg, South Africa

I worked as a freelance journalist and researcher in Johannesburg and published stories in The Weekly Mail, Vryeweekblad, Sunday Times, Sunday Independent, De Groene Amsterdammer, Jive, Top40, Pace and others

## **University Education**



### **University of the Witwatersrand**

**Bachelor of Laws (LLB)**

1990 – 1994



### **University of York**

**Master of Arts (M.A), Southern African Studies**

1985 – 1986



### **Rhodes University**

**Bachelor of Arts with Honours, African Studies**

1984 – 1985



### **Rhodes University**

**Bachelor of Journalism and Media Studies**

1981 – 1983