

MAYER | BROWN

A Distinctive Middle East Practice



ACCOLADES

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We knew that we had finally found the right lawyers to represent us in the Middle East. Their expertise, reliability, pragmatism and responsiveness were second to none, and we felt as though we were being both supported and guided by the very best in the region.

DAVID GOLDEN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL COUNSEL, EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY

Mayer Brown has been our go-to law firm in the Middle East region for several years. We are impressed by their problem solving focus and their governmental and private sector contacts across the region. They always bring the A-team to our large and smaller matters and work seamlessly and in true partnership with our in-house legal and business teams

HAMID SYED, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER,
UL – UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES MIDDLE EAST

“Mayer Brown is a go-to counsel for corporate and commercial engagements across the Middle East. They are a reliable partner in the region with a wealth of experience negotiating and closing deals with government and quasi-government entities, especially in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Their multilingual, Western-trained and locally fluent lawyers are great problem solvers, and they know how to get deals done. When we have the Mayer Brown team in our corner, we know we are in excellent hands.”

EVGENY KRUGLOV, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL,
HEAD OF LEGAL – EEMA, LEADING INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM
RIAD AZZI, MANAGING COUNSEL – MIDDLE EAST, LEADING MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRM

RANKINGS

Corporate/Commercial & Commercial
Contracts, Chambers & Partners UAE, 2023

Commercial, Corporate & M&A, the Legal500
EMEA, UAE, 2023

Dispute Resolution: Arbitration And
International Litigation, EMEA, UAE, 2023

AWARDS

Middle East Legal Awards – Winner of
“**Restructuring Team of the Year Award**”-The
Middle East Legal Awards 2023 by LAW.COM

**Best Law Firm in Asset Management &
Finance** – IFN Awards (2021 and 2022)

Mayer Brown's commitment to the Middle East

Mayer Brown has a long and distinguished history of providing legal services in the Middle East. Our team of experienced lawyers has a deep understanding of the region's legal and regulatory landscape, and we are committed to providing our clients with the best possible legal counsel.

Mayer Brown's Middle East practice has a strong track record of success, having advised on some of the region's most high-profile transactions. We are particularly well-positioned to advise clients on cross-border transactions, with top-tier legal advice delivered by our legal experts. We have a deep understanding of the Middle East's growing economy, and we are able to help our clients navigate the complex legal and regulatory landscape.

Our global network gives our clients access to the best legal minds in the world. We are committed to helping our clients achieve their business goals in the Middle East.



TOM THRAYA

Chair of the Middle East practice,
Partner

Companies seeking to compete in global markets benefit from Mayer Brown's global reach and local savvy. We have more than 250 Chambers-ranked lawyers worldwide, and we are regularly ranked among the leading law firms in the United Kingdom, the United States, Europe and Asia by all of the main reviewing bodies. Working together with our lawyers across the world, Mayer Brown provides its clients with conscientious and comprehensive representation on local and multi-jurisdictional matters alike.



Our key distinguishing characteristics

Our Middle East team represents a **unique breadth and depth of experience** across a broad spectrum of matters, industries and geographies. From modest start-ups to major multinationals, from princes to private equity funds, from local governments to global banks, we bring the breadth of our experience to bear on all client matters, whether emanating from or oriented towards the Middle East.

Our team members operate from a highly developed understanding of business objectives and commercial concerns. Our driving focus is on navigating the legal issues our clients face to achieve **practical commercial solutions and successful business outcomes**.

We maintain a determined emphasis on quality, consistent both with the preeminent reputation of our firm and with the high expectations of our clients. Our team prides itself on a level of **reliability and responsiveness** that is difficult to find elsewhere in the region.

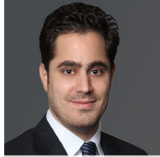
By design, our team demonstrates fluency and facility with the laws, practices, norms and trends of both the Middle East and the West. Being **legally, commercially and culturally ambidextrous** is a hallmark of our practice, and we are as comfortable in London, Paris and New York as we are in Dubai, Doha and Riyadh. Our lawyers are fluent in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.



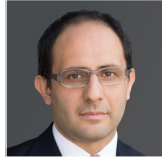
Our Middle East core team



TAHAN (TOM)
THRAYA



JAD
TAHA



ALAIN
FARHAD



RAID
ABU-MANNEH



ANNE
WICKS



DANY
KHAYAT



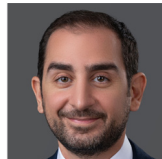
SALLY
DAVIES



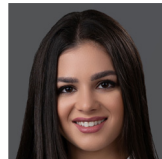
CHARLES
HALLAB***



AMANY
HASSAN



FARID
HAROUN



NANDA AL
QAZAZ



TAMER
SOLIMAN



BOB
PALMER



BARRY
COSGRAVE



IAN
COLES



ALI
AUDA



ALEXANDRE
CHEQUER



LAILA
SLASSI**



GERARD
MOORE



PAULO
RAGE



PATRICA ULGADE
REVILLA



ANTONIN
SOBEK



RYAN
FERRIS



SHRI
MASKI



JASON M.
QUINTANA



JUSTIN CHER
CHUAN TAN



JOACHIM J.
MODLICH



ANNA T.
PINEDO



SIMON
PRICE



JASON T.
ELDER



NICK
KOUVARITAKIS



HANNAH
C. L. HA



MARINA
BESIGNANO



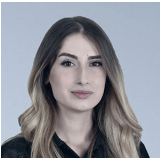
PHYLLIS G.
KORFF



DR MESHEL
AL AKEEL*



MARC
SAROUFIM*



LANA
MASSAD *



CYNTHIA ELIAS
GERGES *



SULTAN
ABDEEN *



FAISAL AL
TOUKHI *



YASMIN TALAL
AL BEHEIRI *

* Al Akeel & Partners

** Partner at Afrique Advisors, correspondent of Mayer Brown

*** Senior Legal and Strategic Advisor to Mayer Brown

Our global clients

Our lawyers have represented a who's who of clients on an impressive array of matters inbound to and outbound from the Middle East, as well as on a wide assortment of intraregional matters within the Middle East (a representative sample is shown).

INBOUND



OUTBOUND



INTRAREGIONAL

الخير كابيتال
ALKHAIR CAPITAL



PayTabs



Alghanim
INDUSTRIES



TAJ

NESMA



Save the Children

MAGPROPERTY

BESIDE



TAV



HSBC

EPIC
PIPING

SEED
GROUP



ANCHORAGE



WATERFALL
Asset Management



TASC

SHUAA

stc



AL HOKAMAA
PHARMACEUTICAL DISTRIBUTION



CORPORATE, COMMERCIAL AND M&A

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Represented **Accenture** in leading a consortium of companies for the restructuring of the UAE Central Bank's National Payment Systems Strategy.
- Represented **Saudia Airlines** and its affiliates in connection with the recapitalization of a Saudi Arabia-based helicopter maintenance, repair and overhaul joint venture, with Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), a Saudi Arabia state-owned defense company.
- Represented **Anchorage Investments** on all legal aspects relating to developing its state-of-the-art Anchor Benitoite Project in Suez, Egypt. The project encompasses a number of production units producing a total of 1.75 million tonnes per annum of petrochemical products and intermediates.
- Represented **Cruise**, a US-based autonomous vehicle company, on its strategic alliance with the government of Dubai (Roads and Transport Authority - RTA) to provide and operate a fleet of autonomous ride-hailing services in the Emirates.
- Represented an **American multinational healthcare company** on its exit of its renal clinics business and joint venture by way of a stock sale in Saudi Arabia.
- Represented Caesars Palace Hotel in Dubai on its exit from a joint venture with the Dubai Government.
- Represented an **Irish-American professional services company** based in Dublin, specializing in information technology services, on its consulting projects in Saudi Arabia and often, with Saudi government agencies, including its recent USD 300 million engagement to manage Saudia Airlines' customer interfacing platforms (Kiosks, apps, and other customer care initiatives).
- Represented a **Saudi investment** firm on its acquisition of an equity stake in a Delaware-based cybersecurity and fraud detection business with a USD 2 billion valuation.
- Represented a member of the **royal family in Saudi Arabia** on his seed investment in Fuel Me Holdings. Fuel Me Holdings is a cloud-based technology platform that allows on-road and off-road customers in the United States to purchase fuel anywhere and at any time.
- Represented a Saudi defense firm in the acquisition of a US helicopter repair business in the US.
- Represented **STC** on a significant joint venture with Alcazar Capital (UAE-DIFC) for the development, construction and operation of a data center in Bahrain.
- Represented a **global company** serving customers in automotive technology in a joint venture with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia for the set-up of the largest vehicle production facility in the Middle East.
- Represented **Mawarid Mining** in connection with the development of a copper project in Oman.
- Represented **MAG Group** in a large acquisition of a real estate development in Morocco.
- Represented Benteler International AG in a joint venture with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia for the set-up of the largest vehicle production facility in the Middle East.
- Represented **UL**, a global leader in applied safety science, on acquiring the region's largest fire test lab company.
- Represented the **Boeing Company** and its affiliates in connection with the recapitalization of the Saudi Rotorcraft Support Company, a Saudi Arabia-based helicopter maintenance, repair and overhaul joint venture, with Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), a Saudi Arabia state-owned defense company.

DISPUTES AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

- Represented a **Ukrainian food distributor** on a dispute related to the termination of a construction contract with Al Khateeb, a Saudi contractor.
- Represented an **Australian architectural firm** in a commercial dispute before Dubai courts.
- Represented a German multinational insurance company based in Munich in a commercial arbitration before the Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA).
- Represented an **American company** that develops and manufactures elevators in a subcontractor arbitration.
- Represented two of the largest and most active **construction contractors** in the Middle East in Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation & Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC) proceedings against one of the most important airports in the Middle East, one of the largest value arbitration proceedings ongoing in the Middle East.
- Represented a **leading contractor** based in Kuwait in a dispute arising out of a project for the construction of one of the tallest residential towers in Sabah, Kuwait.
- Represented a **digital payment gateway company** in DIFC-LCIA arbitration proceedings in relation to a claim brought by a shareholder and former board member in a dispute governed by English law.
- Represented one of the **leading real estate developers** in Dubai, the respondent in DIAC arbitration proceedings.
- Represented a **Lebanese bank** against a telecom operator in the region in arbitration proceedings administered by the Lebanese Arbitration and Mediation Centre in connection with a subordination agreement for a loan that was the subject matter of previous arbitration proceedings challenged before the Lebanese Courts.

MAJOR ENERGY TRANSACTIONS

- Represented the **Chinese National Oil Company (CNPC)** in its projects in the UAE, including its UAE subsidiaries involved in petroleum projects in Africa.
- Represented the **Mozambican National Oil Company (ENH)** in its projects in the UAE, including its UAE subsidiaries involved in the financing of its natural gas projects in Africa.
- Represented the **Angolan National Oil Company (Sonangol)** in the planning of its UAE subsidiaries involved in its petroleum projects in Africa and Latin America.
- Represented the **Angolan National Oil Company (Sonangol)** in the negotiation of a sharing agreement with Iraq.
- Represented the **Arabian Petroleum Supply Co. (APSCO)** in its projects in Africa, including Mozambique and Uganda.
- Represented a **Middle Eastern NOC** in the Second Transfer of Rights Surplus Bid Round promoted by ANP, which offered developing areas of Atapu and Sépia, which are located in the Santos Basin. We advised the client in Brazil in the relevant legal regulatory tax matters related to this complex and unique global upstream opportunity, which combines both the acquisition of Petrobras assets and an E&P license offered by the Brazilian government (under the PSC regime)."
- Represented **Diatoms** on the potential acquisition of indirect equity interest in the Landulpho Alves Refinery ("RLAM") and related storage terminal and pipeline infrastructure in Bahia, together with contracts and other related assets and liabilities from Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. – PETROBRAS. In the proposed corporate structure, Diatoms would invest together with Mubadala Investment Fund, the sovereign fund of Abu-Dhabi, on a foreign vehicle which will have indirect participation in RLAM.

CONSTRUCTION

- Represented a **leading Middle Eastern national oil company** in relation to its strategic partnership with BHGE to improve efficiencies and grow its drilling services into a fully-integrated drilling and well construction business.*
- Represented a **Middle Eastern national oil company** in the common operator model for a number of downstream projects.*
- Represented the sponsors on the development, implementation and financing of a **methanol and ammonia project** to be located in Egypt.*
- Represented the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in relation to the procurement by the Government of Uzbekistan of a 450MW solar PV power project in Uzbekistan, including drafting and subsequently negotiating the project agreements with Masdar, the successful bidder.*
- Represented **Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA)** with respect to the structuring, tendering and closing of the 2,400MW Hassyan clean coal power project in Dubai including the drafting of all tender.
- Represented the main contractor on the **MASAR Project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** in its claims against the Employer, a Development and Construction Company.
- Represented **one of the largest national oil companies in the UAE** in respect of claims made by a contractor arising out of a project for the development of an oilfield in the Al Dhafra region, Abu Dhabi.
- Represented **one of the largest Spanish infrastructure contractors** in relation to a dispute arising in connection with the USD 2 billion expansion of the Dubai metro.
- Represented a **multinational company with commercial presence** in more than 30 countries in a dispute with an international energy services company in relation to Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, and Instrumentation works as part of the Lower Fars Heavy Oil Development Programme.
- Advised **one of the largest, privately owned industrial companies** in the Gulf region on a KWD 61 million dispute with a global leading Energy, Construction and Procurement Company (Kuwait branch) in relation to Work carried out at the Al-Zour Refinery Project in Al-Zour, Kuwait.
- Represented **two of the largest and most active construction contractors** in the Middle East in ADCCAC proceedings against a key subcontractor on an airport terminal project.

(*) Lawyers experience prior to joining Mayer Brown.

Employment and Compliance

EMPLOYMENT

We represent **Middle East and multinational companies** on their labor and employment matters in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, including:

- Employee Onboarding
- Employment Agreements and Policies
- Secondment Arrangements
- Terminations and Grievances
- Government/Ministry of Labor Investigations
- Cultural and Best Practices Trainings
- Employee Suits before the Ministry of Labor Courts in the UAE



COMPLIANCE

We represent **Middle East and multinational companies** on a wide variety of regulatory and compliance issues, compliance investigations, sensitive whistleblower investigations, bribery investigations and other FCPA, UK Bribery Act and OFAC-related investigations in the Middle East and North Africa. We represent companies on local regulations and regulatory issues across the Gulf, in particular in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Our Probono Community

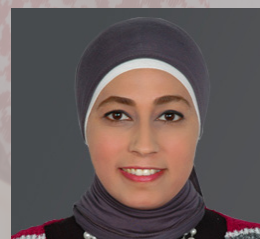
Mayer Brown is a leader in developing innovative approaches to pro bono work. We were the first major law firm to develop and implement a pro bono strategic plan, and we strive to pioneer projects that will have a substantial impact, both locally and globally. We believe that pro bono work is a critical component of our profession and an important factor in establishing our true excellence as a law firm. We have a responsibility to assist the disadvantaged, to help build a more inclusive society and to help provide equal access to justice. These are the guiding tenets of our pro bono program.

Our Middle East team has been involved in key pro bono matters across the region, which include:

- Representing the **International Fund for Animal Welfare** on on-going regulatory, corporate and compliance matters in the Emirate of Dubai.
- Assisted a group of **165 stranded Afghani female university students** (following the political collapse of the country in 2021) in securing their safe evacuation, transport and relocation to the United States. We worked alongside the US government, the US Department of Defense and the White House.
- Assisted the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** on various legal, translation and social aspects in connection with the "Access to Education Project".
- Represented a **Brazilian widow and her children before the Family Law Courts** following the sudden passing of her husband in Dubai.
- Represented a **Canadian widow and her children before the Family Law Courts** following the sudden passing of her husband in Dubai.

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I am proud to work for Mayer Brown, a law firm that encourages its employees to give back to the community through pro bono work. As a team member of Mayer Brown, I have had the opportunity to work on a variety of pro bono cases since joining the firm, which has enriched my career and prepared me to practice law by building legal skills. The pro bono work also allows me to develop a professional network, cultivate legal mentors and explore new areas of law. Most importantly, pro bono is routinely cited as one of the most rewarding parts of practicing law. Pro bono work is an important part of my legal practice, and I am proud to be able to use my skills to help those in need.



AMANY HASSAN, SENIOR PARALEGAL,
DUBAI OFFICE

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mayer Brown and Al Akeel & Partners

In 2022, Mayer Brown formalized its arrangement with a well-established Saudi law firm, Al Akeel & Partners in cooperation with Mayer Brown. Al Akeel & Partners is a Riyadh-based law firm that represents local, regional and international clients operating in Saudi Arabia and around the world. The agreement further enhances Mayer Brown's Middle East capabilities and gives the firm's clients access to a team of leading legal advisers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Established in 2007, Al Akeel & Partners provides legal advice on a broad range of transactional and advisory matters for local and international businesses, listed companies, high-net-worth individuals and government agencies. The Saudi law firm has one of the most experienced and talented teams in the region with proficiency in navigating the fluid regulatory landscape in Saudi Arabia ensuring the efficient achievement of client objectives in adherence to the applicable laws, rules and regulations in the Kingdom.

Select Engagements in Saudi Arabia

- Represented **Al Nahla Group**, one of the prominent conglomerates in Saudi Arabia, in connection with general corporate, commercial, employment and labor advisory services.
- Represented **Dallah Albaraka Holding**, a diversified investment conglomerate, in connection with its investment and role as a limited partner in East Bridge Asian Mid-Market Opportunity Fund, L.P., a Cayman Islands exempted limited partnership, part of East Bridge Group based in Luxembourg, and the negotiation and entry into definitive documentation in respect of the same.
- Represented **Bridgestone Corporation** in connection with the structuring, documentation and implementation of the First Stop tire service center franchise in the Middle East.



Government

Trusted when it really matters: a snapshot of our lawyers' recent government experience.

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

● BAHRAIN

Represented the **Kingdom of Bahrain** in the privatization of its power and potable water utility systems, which included providing counsel as to the structuring and implementation of a regulatory framework (including associated tariffs), structuring, drafting and assisting in the implementation of all necessary legislation.

● EGYPT

Represented the **Arab Republic of Egypt** in arbitration proceedings against adverse party, Veolia Propreté, with respect to a waste management service agreement for the distribution of water in the city of Alexandria, Egypt.

● IRAQ

Represented the **Iraqi Oil Ministry** in a BOT transaction involving the construction of Iraq's third oil pipeline, valued at US\$15 billion.

● JORDAN

Represented the **Council of Ministers and Natural Resources Authority** of the Kingdom of Jordan on various long-term mining concessions in the Kingdom in relation to the mining of oil shale.

● LEBANON

Represented the **Republic of Lebanon** on matters of international public law, including matters with respect to the United Nations.

● MOROCCO

Represented the **Kingdom of Morocco** on both its US\$750 million and US\$1.5 billion note offerings.

● QATAR

Represented a **senior member of the Qatari Royal Family** in the acquisition of a marquis hotel property in the United States.

● SAUDI ARABIA

Represented **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** on a proposed natural gas initiative, which involved inviting foreign firms into the Kingdom to implement integrated natural gas projects including upstream, midstream and power, water and petrochemical projects through the establishment and organization of joint ventures.

● SYRIA

Represented a coalition of Syrian opposition groups in preparation for UN-sponsored peace negotiations in Switzerland.

● UAE

Represented **Leemar Investments FZE**, a UAE investment company managed by the Director General of the Office of H. H. The Crown Prince of Dubai, on the acquisition of a 50% equity stake in Go Fast Sports & Beverage Company, a US manufacturer of energy drinks, and Go Fast Gum Company, a US manufacturer of energy chewing gum, and to intercompany intellectual property transfers and the execution of joint venture agreements documenting the strategic alliance between buyer and seller post-closing.



Mayer Brown is a distinctively global law firm, uniquely positioned to advise the world's leading companies and financial institutions on their most complex deals and disputes. With extensive reach across four continents, we are the only integrated law firm in the world with approximately 200 lawyers in each of the world's three largest financial centers—New York, London and Hong Kong—the backbone of the global economy. We have deep experience in high-stakes litigation and complex transactions across industry sectors, including our signature strength, the global financial services industry. Our diverse teams of lawyers are recognized by our clients as strategic partners with deep commercial instincts and a commitment to creatively anticipating their needs and delivering excellence in everything we do. Our “one-firm” culture—seamless and integrated across all practices and regions—ensures that our clients receive the best of our knowledge and experience.

Please visit [mayerbrown.com](https://www.mayerbrown.com) for comprehensive contact information for all Mayer Brown offices.

Mayer Brown is a global services provider comprising associated legal practices that are separate entities, including Mayer Brown LLP (Illinois, USA), Mayer Brown International LLP (England & Wales), Mayer Brown (a Hong Kong partnership) and Taulil & Chequer Advogados (a Brazilian law partnership) and non-legal service providers, which provide consultancy services (collectively, the “Mayer Brown Practices”). The Mayer Brown Practices are established in various jurisdictions and may be a legal person or a partnership. PK Wong & Nair LLC (“PKWN”) is the constituent Singapore law practice of our licensed joint law venture in Singapore, Mayer Brown PK Wong & Nair Pte. Ltd. Details of the individual Mayer Brown Practices and PKWN can be found in the Legal Notices section of our website. “Mayer Brown” and the Mayer Brown logo are the trademarks of Mayer Brown.

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