

FIG M&A capabilities
Middle East and Africa

FIG M&A in the Middle East.

Linklaters is at the forefront of market developments, particularly in the financial institutions sector where we consistently have leading roles on the most challenging assignments. We provide a service that combines a detailed understanding of the financial markets with specialised knowledge of the legal and regulatory considerations.

We offer our clients one of the world's leading corporate practices, operating at the premium end of the market. We have strength, quality and depth across the full spectrum of work in this field, including auction bids, public takeovers, private acquisitions and disposals, cross-border multi-jurisdictional deals and joint ventures, corporate reorganisations, reconstructions and demergers, and the full range of public securities issues.

Our FIG M&A practice in the Middle East

We have significant global experience in advising and assisting on financial institution M&A activity in the Middle East, and we understand the issues that arise when trying to handle such transactions in many jurisdictions, under many different regulatory frameworks.

The number and variety of deals we have been involved in gives our people an invaluable pool of experience, and we are able to provide a service that combines a detailed understanding of the financial markets, with specialised knowledge of the legal and regulatory considerations.

Across the world, our corporate M&A teams have been involved in a range of M&A transactions, capital-driven disposals and restructurings, and government interventions as financial institutions look to shore up balance sheets and pursue opportunities and expansion.

Our Middle East team have acted on many of the regions leading transactions in the sector. Our team includes lawyers who have been seconded into leading Global banks (both internationally and regionally). This breadth of experience enables our team to offer clients a combination of strong regional commercial knowledge, and detailed understanding of local markets and legal regimes. This local expertise, coupled with the strength of our technical abilities and access to the resources of our global network, allows our team to provide the highest quality advice to our clients on their strategic and challenging transactions across the Middle East and in many cases with, multi-jurisdictional dimensions.

M&A Team of the Year 2014

IFLR Middle East Awards

M&A Deal of the Year 2014

ADIB acquisition of Barclays' Retail Business

IFLR Middle East Awards

No. 1 for Middle East and African M&A

Mergermarket 2013, M&A league tables

Our dominant M&A practice.

Unparalleled track record in M&A

We have consistently dominated the legal advisory league tables and are recognised by independent ranking organisations as one of the leading advisers in M&A deal activity.

Our lawyers know that legal advice is not 'one size fits all'.

Our wealth of experience means that we are able to understand complex legal and commercial issues from every angle. And, if faced with challenges we have not seen before, our lawyers also have market-leading experience of advising on some of the most innovative deals in recent years.

Exceeding expectations

We strive to provide the best possible service to clients, for example:

Complex legal transactions

- > track record of advising the world's most prominent financial institutions on their most challenging transactions and assignments

Partner-led teams

- > we offer full execution partner-led teams with the strength-in-depth to handle complex cross-border transactions by clients in the Middle East and those looking to move into the region deals in all key jurisdictions

Strength and unique alignment

- > the strength and unique alignment of our international network ensures we can offer seamless advice wherever our clients' needs demand it, with a sector- and geography-based approach ensuring a clear understanding of transaction issues

Legal advice with international and regional perspective

- > we deliver legal advice with an international and regional/ domestic perspective managing legal challenges accordingly, taking into account our clients' commercial and business objectives

Lasting relationships

- > commitment to building lasting relationships with our clients

Value added service

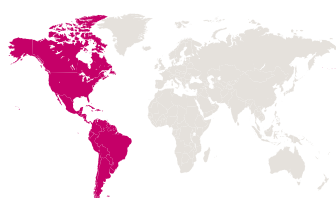
- > keeping you informed
- > growing the team's knowledge
- > enhancing performance
- > making life easier
- > being flexible for you
- > being creative in our support to you

The capabilities and presence to support your needs.

Market leading presence

Linklaters is a leading global law firm that has advised clients in the Middle East for over 30 years. Our global approach, commitment to excellence and depth of experience mean that we have developed a strong track record of advising a range of financial institutions on some of the most significant and innovative deals in the region.

Americas



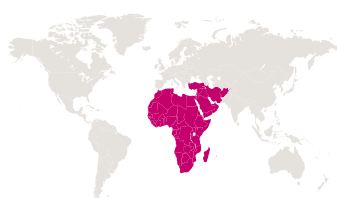
New York, São Paulo,
Washington, D.C.

Europe and CIS



Amsterdam, Antwerp, Berlin,
Brussels, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt,
Lisbon, London, Luxembourg,
Madrid, Milan, Moscow,
Munich, Paris, Rome,
Stockholm, Warsaw

Middle East and Africa



Abu Dhabi, Cape Town^{**},
Dubai, Johannesburg^{**}

Asia-Pacific



Bangkok, Beijing, Brisbane*,
Delhi[^], Hanoi*, Ho Chi Minh
City*, Hong Kong, Jakarta**,
Melbourne*, Mumbai[^], Perth*,
Port Moresby*, Seoul, Shanghai,
Singapore, Sydney*, Tokyo,
Ulaanbaatar*

^{*} Office of integrated alliance partner Allens*

^{**} Widyawan & Partners has an association with Linklaters LLP and Allens

^{**} Office of collaborative alliance partner Webber Wentzel

[^] Office of best friend firm TT&A

Highlights of our team's FIG M&A capabilities

Barclays Bank disposal

Barclays Bank plc on the disposal of its retail portfolio in the UAE to Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank PJSC, and represented Barclay's exit from their retail business in the UAE (M&A Deal of the Year IFLR Middle East Awards 2014)

Lloyds TSB disposal

Lloyds TSB Bank plc on the disposal of its onshore banking business in the UAE to HSBC

RBS disposal

The Royal Bank of Scotland NV on the sale of its UAE retail banking business to ADCB (IFLR Middle East awards 2011, M&A Deal of the Year)

RBS transfer of UAE and DIFC business

The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. and The Royal Bank of Scotland plc on the transfer of the UAE and DIFC business

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank sale

Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank on the sale of its 25% equity interest in RHB Capital Berhad to Aabar Investments

International Bank of Qatar (IBQ) disposal

International Bank of Qatar (IBQ) on the successful disposal of its Islamic retail banking operations to Barwa Bank and the subsequent disposal of its Islamic corporate banking portfolio to Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB)

Julius Baer acquisition

Julius Baer on its acquisition of Bank of America Merrill Lynch's global wealth management business assets in the UAE – a transaction involving 20 jurisdictions

Emirates Bank International and National Bank of Dubai merger

The US\$12bn merger of Emirates Bank International and National Bank of Dubai, the first merger by way of tender offer in the GCC

International Bank of Qatar merger

International Bank of Qatar on the aborted merger with Al Khaliqi and the on-going consolidation in the Qatari Islamic banking sector

Dubai Financial Market merger

The merger between Dubai Financial Market and NASDAQ Dubai

Dubai International Capital, Jordan Dubai Capital and Dubai Islamic Bank joint venture

Dubai International Capital, Jordan Dubai Capital and Dubai Islamic Bank on a joint venture between these entities to acquire a controlling interest in Industrial Bank, Jordan

The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. transfer of jewellery business

The Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. on the transfer of certain international diamond and jewellery businesses in Hong Kong, Japan and the United Arab Emirates to ABN AMRO Bank N.V.

AXA acquisitions

AXA on the acquisitions of Mansard Insurance (Nigeria) and of HSBC's general insurance business and related long-term bancassurance distribution arrangements in Asia and Mexico

ABSA acquisition

ABSA on its acquisition of Barclays' African operations and then on its £2.9bn sale of a 60% stake to Barclays

Industrial and Commercial Bank acquisition

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China on its US\$5.5bn acquisition of a 20% stake in Standard Bank

Merrill Lynch International purchase

Merrill Lynch International on the purchase and placement of global depository receipts of Lakah Group from CAPEXCORP

Bank of New York Mellon

Bank of New York Mellon on the US\$500m acquisition of BNP Paribas Egypt from BNP Paribas by Emirates NBD

Egyptian bank transactions

We have advised bidders on potential bids for licensed institutions in Egypt and a European bank on the disposal (aborted) of its Egyptian banking subsidiary

Middle East key contacts.



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“This **powerhouse** maintains its position at the forefront of the market, **handling some of the most complex high-end deals** done in the UAE and the region.”

Chambers Global 2013, Corporate/M&A: The Elite: United Arab Emirates

“This **corporate juggernaut** maintains its impressive market share with a number of high-value mandates.”

Chambers Global 2013, Corporate/M&A: The Elite: United Arab Emirates

“Linklaters provides ‘**excellent service** and response times, as well as **high-calibre work**’.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2014, Corporate and M&A: UAE

“Linklaters **top-quality corporate team** is one of the best for M&A in the region.”

Legal 500 2013, Corporate/M&A



**Ranked Top Tier
in Corporate/M&A**

Chambers & Partners Middle East
Chambers & Partners UAE
IFLR 1000 UAE
Legal 500 UAE

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