

Our legal services offering Middle East

خدماتنا القانونية المعروضة
الشرق الأوسط



Linklaters provides you with market leading practices, strong teams focused on all the main legal areas and a regional geographical footprint within an international network.

Linklaters is a leading global law firm with 29 offices in 19 countries and has more top ranked practices globally than its UK or U.S. headquartered competitors*. Our global approach, commitment to excellence and depth of experience mean that we have built a strong track record of advising a range of government organisations and privately-owned businesses, acting on matters throughout the region, including in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Turkey.

*Source: Chambers Global 2015

Linklaters' offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi act as a hub for the firm's activities in the MENA region, and our team has established itself as one of the few firms in the region capable of advising on cross-border transactions. Our fully-integrated international network means that we are able to draw on our market-leading expertise across various offices, practices and sector teams when required, while providing a seamless service to our clients. Our clients instruct us on their most complex deals, whether it's operating in, moving into or looking to expand in the region.

Linklaters is acknowledged as a market leader for **corporate/M&A**, **capital markets**, **banking**, **project finance**, **Islamic finance** and **international arbitration** matters. The offices also have dedicated sector specialists in the **energy**, **infrastructure**, **petrochemicals**, **financial institutions**, **financial sponsor** and **telecommunications** sectors. The firm's track record includes acting on some of the most significant and innovative deals, as well as some of the most high profile disputes that the region has seen in recent years.

Recent Awards:

Equity Deal of the Year

Emaar Malls IPO

IFLR Middle East Awards 2015

Private Equity Deal of the Year

Standard Chartered equity investment in Topaz

Marine Money Offshore 2015

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Middle East

Canary Wharf

The American Lawyer Awards 2015

Winner of 5 Deal of the Year Awards

Islamic Finance News Deal of the Year Awards 2015

Investment Grade Bond/Sukuk Deal of the Year

DIFC Investments LLC \$700m Sukuk

Loans Bonds and Sukuk Awards 2015

M&A Deal of the Year

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank acquisition of Barclays UAE retail banking assets

IFLR Middle East Awards 2014

M&A Team of the Year

IFLR Middle East Awards 2014

Winner of 13 Deal of the Year Awards

Islamic Finance News Deal of the Year Awards 2014

Debt and Equity linked Deal of the Year

Gems Corporate Hybrid Sukuk

IFLR Middle East Awards 2014

Corporate/M&A

We have a pre-eminent market position as lead advisers to companies in all areas of public takeovers, corporate reorganisations, strategic investments, mergers, acquisitions, disposals and joint venture arrangements.

“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, Corporate/M&A: UAE

- > **Barclays Bank disposal**
Barclays Bank plc on the disposal of its retail portfolio in the UAE to Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank PJSC, this represented Barclay's exit from their retail business in the UAE
- > **Emal and Dubal merger**
DUBAL/ICD on the merger of EMAL and DUBAL to create a US\$15bn entity
- > **Al Noor Hospitals Group plc**
On the combination of Al Noor Hospitals Group plc with Mediclinic International Limited
- > **Dubai World Disposal**
Dubai World and PFZW on the US\$2.8bn disposal of EZW (Jebel Ali Freezone) to DP World
- > **Bahrain Telecommunications Company B.S.C acquisition**
Bahrain Telecommunications Company B.S.C on its acquisition of companies comprising the “Monaco & Islands” division of Cables and Wireless

Project finance

Our unrivalled projects team have advised on some of the largest and most complex financing deals to be done in the market to date. Our team has extensive experience in the oil and gas, power, petrochemicals and infrastructure sectors in the region.

“Linklaters has one of the **finest global reputations** of any firm in this sector and the UAE office regularly advises on some of the **biggest-ticket project financings** in the region.”

Chambers Global, Projects and Energy: Middle East

- > **Mirfa Power Project financing**
The financing of the US\$1.2bn Mirfa Power Project in Abu Dhabi
- > **Madinah Airport expansion financing**
The financing of the US\$1.5bn Madinah Airport Expansion Project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- > **King Abdullah Port financing**
The financing of the US\$1.5bn port project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- > **SATORP Refinery**
The financing of the US\$14bn Jubail SATORP refinery and petrochemicals project in Saudi Arabia sponsored by Saudi Aramco and TOTAL
- > **Integrated Acrylates Complex**
The financing of the US\$2bn integrated Acrylates Complex in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Banking

Our top ranked banking team advises banks and other financial institutions, companies and governments on domestic and international bank financing transactions across every industry, commercial, financial and governmental sector.

We have a particularly strong reputation in high grade “jumbo” financings, acquisition finance and debt restructuring.

“They are visible on **sophisticated** deals with an **international flavour**.”

Chambers Global, Banking & Finance: Middle East

- > **Dubai Group restructuring**
The creditors' committee for the unsecured and partially secured lenders on all aspects of the US\$10bn restructuring of Dubai Group, one of the most complex restructurings to have taken place in the Middle East to date
- > **Acquisition of Travelex**
Acquisition of Travelex from Apax by a Middle Eastern consortium
- > **Jebel Ali Free Zone financing**
The lead arrangers on a US\$1.2bn secured Islamic facility ranking pari passu with a sukuk in favour of Jebel Ali Free Zone FZE
- > **TAQA Facility**
The lead arrangers on the US\$3.1bn refinancing of Abu Dhabi National Energy Company (TAQA)

Capital markets

We have a proven track record of providing financial institutions, companies and government agencies with the highest quality legal advice on domestic and international capital markets financing transactions.

“This firm has a **formidable capital markets practice**, active in market-leading debt and equity transactions throughout the GCC from its offices in **Dubai** and.. **Abu Dhabi**.”

Chambers Global, Capital markets: Middle East

- > **ADIB Capital issuance**
US\$1bn issue by Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, the first international Sharia'a-compliant additional tier 1 transaction and the first ever perpetual sukuk
- > **Oman sovereign sukuk**
Oman's first ever sovereign sukuk issuance
- > **Luxembourg sovereign sukuk**
Luxembourg sovereign sukuk issuance, the first by a European country
- > **Market “firsts”**
The first Basel III-compliant additional tier 1 capital issues internationally, in countries in Europe, Asia and the Middle East (including in the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia)
- > **Emaar Malls**
Emaar on the IPO of Emaar Malls
- > **Al Noor Hospitals Group**
Al Noor Hospitals Group plc, on its listing and IPO on the London Stock Exchange

Sukuk

Our award winning Islamic finance team, works on the cutting-edge of the Islamic finance field and have advised on some of the most significant and innovative transactions, many of which have been first of its kind. Our Islamic finance practice is core to our success in the Middle East.

“They gave us **really good advice** - it's good to work with someone who **really understands** Islamic banking.”

Chambers Global, Islamic finance: Middle East

- > **UK government sukuk**
The UK government on their £200m issue of Shariah-compliant Trust Certificates due 2019 – the first sovereign sukuk issued by a non-Muslim world government
- > **Al Hilal Bank sukuk**
The joint lead managers on the issue of US\$500m Shariah-compliant Additional Tier 1 certificates by Al Hilal Bank PJSC, the first Basel III-compliant offering in the UAE and the first ever Basel III-compliant AT1 in sukuk form
- > **Emaar Malls sukuk**
Emaar Malls Group, on its debut US\$750m sukuk al Wakala structure, listed on NASDAQ Dubai
- > **Flydubai sukuk**
The lead managers on the debut issues of US\$500m trust certificates due 2019 for Dubai Aviation Corporation (trading as “flydubai”) using passenger capacity as the underlying assets

International arbitration

Our international arbitration practice is a global market leader. Major local and multinational companies as well as sovereign entities and states increasingly choose the firm's global team of dedicated arbitration lawyers to advise on all aspects of complex, high-value disputes and international arbitrations.

“The firm relishes the work we put their way and we have settled into a **very good working relationship**. It is hard to think of anything they could improve on.”

Chambers Global, Dispute resolution: Global

- > **European energy company arbitration**
A leading European energy company in an arbitration under the LCIA Rules brought by two Middle Eastern companies
- > **UAE company arbitration**
A leading UAE company in an arbitration relating to the termination of a concession agreement in Africa
- > **Middle Eastern media company arbitration**
A leading Middle Eastern media company in several ICC arbitrations relating to the performance and termination of various cooperation and service agreements
- > **International bank and U.S. construction company arbitration**
A leading international bank and a U.S. construction and engineering company in an arbitration relating to a project in Iraq

Top Tier Rankings:

Corporate/M&A

IFLR1000, UAE 2016

Banking and Finance

IFLR1000, UAE 2016

Corporate/M&A

Chambers Global, Middle East-wide 2016

Capital Markets

Chambers Global, Middle East-wide 2016

Corporate/M&A

Chambers Global, UAE 2016

Capital Markets

Chambers Global, UAE 2016

Corporate/M&A

Legal 500, UAE 2016

Banking and Finance

Legal 500, UAE 2016

Islamic Finance

Legal 500, UAE 2016

Where we are:



Abu Dhabi | Amsterdam | Antwerp | Bangkok | Beijing | Berlin
Brisbane* | Brussels | Cape Town*** | Delhi[†] | Dubai
Düsseldorf | Frankfurt | Hanoi* | Ho Chi Minh City*
Hong Kong | Jakarta** | Johannesburg*** | Lisbon | London
Luxembourg | Madrid | Melbourne* | Milan | Moscow
Mumbai[†] | Munich | New York | Paris | Perth* | Port Moresby*
Rome | São Paulo | Seoul | Shanghai | Singapore | Stockholm
Sydney* | Tokyo | Ulaanbaatar* | Warsaw | Washington, D.C.

* Office of integrated alliance partner Allens

** Office of formally associated firm Widyawan & Partners

*** Office of collaborative alliance partner Webber Wentzel

[†] Office of best friend firm TT&A

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