

### السـوبـدي ومشاركـوه AL SUWAIDI & COMPANY

**International Standards • Local Knowledge** 



#### **Founding Partner & Chairman**

### **MOHAMMED R. ALSUWAIDI** LLM (BOSTON)

Founding Partner and Chairman, Mohammed Alsuwaidi is a renowned expert with over 30 years' experience. His practice covers commercial litigation and arbitration across Islamic finance, real estate, construction, as well as oil and gas. He well regarded as an arbitrator, and has been appointed as an arbitrator in more than 70 arbitrations to date. Mohammed is often called upon as a UAE law expert on international arbitrations. Within this field, he has successfully assisted many litigants with the enforcement of arbitral awards.

#### **RANKED LAWYER FOR 2020 IN**





"I take this opportunity to thank our existing clients for their loyalty – their satisfaction is evident from the high number of repeat instructions we have received over the years, as well as referrals from them. Thank you, you are the reason we are here today.

We continue to grow our reach in the region, growing organically both our lawyer teams and our specialisms so we can better service our client's needs. We are delighted to welcome new clients into our fold, I am confident you will find us capable of meeting your expectations.

For those that know us, you will know we thrive on delivering the best possible results. The legal landscape in the UAE often poses some uncertainties. Allow us to bring legal certainty to your business. We are constantly adapting to the constantly changing commercial and legal landscape but remain focused on our core principle to maintain our client's best interest and drive the best possible results".

Best wishes

Mohammed R. Alsuwaidi

#### الـســوىــدي ومشاركـوه AL SUWAIDI & COMPANY

"The team is very helpful and always ready to provide support."

LEGAL 500, 2020

"Enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards, executive-level employment litigation and debt recovery are areas of activity for Al Suwaidi & Company."

LEGAL 500, 2020

A client found the team to be "a respectable name in the courts and in front of the judges."

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS, 2020

"Mohammed Alsuwaidi is committed and supportive."

LEGAL 500, 2020

"Mohammed Alsuwaidi and Ali Alraeesi, both of whom are locally qualified with rights of audience, are key contacts in the team."

LEGAL 500, 2020

Contributing authors of the Chambers & Partners Litigation Law & Practice Guide 2019, and 2020. Mohammed R. Alsuwaidi, Ali Alraeesi, Lailani Manalastas, Merline D'Souza and Vivian Ch'ng.

Offices in strategic locations across the United Arab Emirates

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Over 35 multinational and multijurisdictional Lawyers over

35 nationalities

30

The increase

in the number of clients

over 4 years

3U er 30 Janguag

of over 500 Clients in the GCC and beyond

Representing the interest

Over 30 languages spoken Over 2 decades of supporting businesses in the UAE

Our success rate since Over our inception multijur

### IN JUNE 2020 WE CONDUCTED A CLIENT FEEDBACK SURVEY. HERE ARE SOME OF OUR RESULTS:

We provide clients a value-add solution to their legal needs.

During our recent survey, 97.5% of the respondents agreed that Al Suwaidi & Company was priced fairly.

98.8% of our clients agree that Al Suwaidi & Company's lawyers are active in responding to client queries.

We understand that clients would like systematic updates of their legal matters.

Our survey results showed that 98.6% of our clients agreed that Al Suwaidi & Company lawyers kept them informed on the progress of their matters.

We have a high client retention, and many of our clients have grown with us.

We represent a broad spectrum of clients including high net worth individuals, global corporations and government institutions in all levels of courts in the UAE and DIFC.

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### WHO WE ARE

Al Suwaidi & Company is a full-service law firm, rooted in regional know-how. Since the firm's inception in 1997, we have supported leading businesses across the UAE and beyond, assisting them navigate complex and commercial challenges. Our goal is to bring legal certainty to our clients and in doing so, helping them to innovate, grow, and thrive. We have built a reputation for our knowledge and expertise and our formidable standing in the Dubai and Abu Dhabi Courts is second to none.

Our regional expertise is consolidated by wider knowledge of international legal systems and the firm boasts a number of qualified arbitrators and lawyers registered to practice in the DIFC Courts, enabling us to provide for our client's needs in all forums.

## CLIENTS WANT A LAW FIRM THEY CAN TRUST

We consider ourselves an extension of our client's legal team and our focus is always "how can we best serve you". Our legal practice groups work closely together in a collegiate environment whilst always putting our client's interest first. This approach aligns our interest with our clients, and it is through our focussed client service approach that we have been fortunate to have admirable client retention numbers, with many of our clients being with us from the start or joining us along our journey and staying with us.

### MULTINATIONAL, HIGH CALIBRE LAWYERS

We have been privileged to recruit the highest calibre and experienced lawyers, from diverse international backgrounds, including the UAE, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and Asia. Our ability to speak over 30 languages enables us to assist both regional and international clients in their choice language.

### **RELIABLE LEGAL SUPPORT**

Our clients benefit from our firm's low lawyer turnover rate. We have achieved this by creating a positive and collaborative working environment enabling our lawyers to grow with us and develop strong relationships with our clients. We give our clients the certainty that they will continue to receive unrivalled and strategic legal support from lawyers that truly know and understand their business.

### **RESULTS DRIVEN**

Al Suwaidi & Company lawyers take a solution based and pragmatic approach to our clients' legal matters and we continue to win praise from clients for our impressive results. We punch above our weight, particularly in litigation and arbitration, and are privileged to boast a dispute resolution track record of 97% since our establishment.

### **EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING**

Our clients benefit from advice given by experienced lawyers who are accessible. We act for individuals, including those with a "high net worth", local and international companies of different sizes from start-ups, small independent entities to SMEs and large corporate multinationals.

A fundamental part of the approach we adopt is appreciating not only the legal mechanisms governing different jurisdictions but also our sensitivities to cultural and social variations. Our understanding of these differences often helps us to greater assist to our clients and we are able to progress their matters effectively and efficiently.

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# WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

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"Al Suwaidi & Company is a very professional law firm that understands how to navigate the region's legal landscape, while taking into consideration the commercial model we operate. We value how committed the team is to achieving positive and favorable outcomes for us. We are looking forward to build on the years we worked together and continue to grow our relationship with Al Suwaidi & Company."

#### **Osama Romeih**

Group Legal Counsel Air Arabia

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"We have had the pleasure of numerous positive experiences as clients of Al Suwaidi & Company for almost 20 years. In this time, they have handled a wide variety of litigation matters for us, and actively defended our company's interest. The level of service has systematically been excellent. Each of the lawyers professional, and accessible. We are pleased with the level of service provided. This is a law firm which continually strives to ensure our needs are met as a priority".

#### **Karim Serour**

Head of Dispute Resolution Construction Al Ghurair



"I dealt with the lawyers and the legal consultants at Al Suwaidi & Company for more than 7 years now, since I was with my previous employer, and I continued to use their services when I joined Al Habtoor Group, as I am confident with their advises and legal services.

The legal teams working there are very responsive, they always keep us up to date with the progress of our legal matters, and they are conveniently approachable and result oriented. We are extremely pleased with their level of professionalism in providing the legal services, and we intend to maintain this cooperation and business relationship with their firm in the future".

### Hadi N. El Kadi

Group Chief Legal Officer
Al Habtoor Group



"Al Suwaidi & Company have been handling our litigation matters for over 5 years and in that time, we have been impressed by their handling of our cases. The lawyers provide a first class service, and work hard to protect our business's interest. They continuously meet our expectations and we recommend them as a trusted legal advisor in the field of banking and finance."

### **Badreldin Eltahir Elmogadam**

SVP - Deputy General Counsel & Head of Legal Affairs Division Ajman Bank

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### **OUR PRACTICE GROUPS**

### **ARBITRATION**

Dispute resolution is a sensitive matter for businesses and in many cases, a more confidential forum is preferable for parties involved. Al Suwaidi & Company offers bespoke advocacy services by lawyers who are qualified arbitrators under the rules of all leading arbitral institutions, including Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), DIFC-LCIA and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The firm's arbitration practice encompasses general commercial, construction, energy, oil and gas disputes, as well as the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.

### **CONSTRUCTION**

Our construction practice is active in representing our clients' interest for both contentious and non-contentious matters. We work tenaciously to bring positive outcomes for our clients and their businesses. Our lawyers handle a variety of matters related to land development projects including planning, environmental and construction issues, civil engineering, environmental, regeneration and infrastructure litigation. Our contentious practice represents our clients' interests in both mainland and offshore courts, as well as through alternative dispute resolution such as Arbitration. Together with our regional know- how, our in-depth industry knowledge enables us to deliver a best in class legal service to our clients who benefit from our expertise in achieving systematic superior results.

### **CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL**

We support clients on both advisory and transactional matters, as well as helping them achieve dispute resolution through both the courts and alternative dispute resolution forums. Our non-contentious practice supports a full range of commercial entities, from start-ups, to SMEs and global corporations. Over 80% of our commercial clients are multinationals operating in the GCC and we operate across a spectrum of industry sectors. These include, although not limited to, aviation, technology, education, healthcare, and oil and gas. Our dedicated team of lawyers give expert advice and guidance on company set up, structuring and restructuring, the drafting of commercial agreements, shareholder agreements, MOUs, and articles of association. We advise on agency, distribution, franchise and licensing agreements and are active in mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures both regionally and cross border transactions.

# CORPORATE FRAUD/FINANCIAL & WHITE COLLAR CRIME

We have strong track record in representing clients in relation to White-Collar Crime. We regularly advise organisations and individuals on matters related to criminal investigation, corporate fraud, embezzlement, anti-money laundering as well as asset stripping. We are often asked to act for organisations that have identified incidents of fraud or misconduct performed by directors, employees, or customers. Our depth of understanding in the region enables us to resolve challenges related to all aspects of fraud in the UAE as well as internationally through our network of specialist lawyers. Our Corporate Fraud practice is active in protecting our clients and their businesses, and minimising any adversary effect from any wrongdoing.

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Al Suwaidi & Company has a team of highly regarded lawyers representing employers and individuals in a variety of employment related cases. The firm has exceptional experience providing advice on all aspects of employment law issues/matters including contracts, employee incentives, workplace disputes, wrongful and unfair termination, protection of client information, discrimination, employee data protection and regulatory issues.

### **INSURANCE**

Our insurance practice acts for a number of leading insurance firms, reinsurers, underwriters and brokers across the GCC. We have strong track record in generating positive outcomes for our clients, and in particular from the Insurance Authority and Insurance Dispute Resolution Committee. We handle a broad range of insurance related disputes arising from all insurance products such as liability insurance (including professional indemnity insurance, medical malpractice insurance), engineering insurance (including contractors' all risks/ erection all risk), oil and gas insurance, and marine & aviation insurance. We supplement our insurance services with advisory consultancy, which includes the interpretation and drafting of commercial insurance policies. This draws benefit from our practical experience of understanding how disputes are resolved in court.

### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Our IP services include, registration, renewal, amendments, licensing, patent protection, trademarks, copyright, portfolio management, litigation and enforcement of rights. Our thorough pre-filing service ensures the availability of trademarks for registration purposes, providing an expertly organised start to the process. We are experienced in handling dispute matters from relatively straightforward copyright and design violations to large scale, complex trademark infringement and passing off disputes.

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السويدي ومشاركوه AL SUWAIDI & CÖMPANY

We serve clients across multiple industry sectors:

Government

**Utilities** 

**Telecommunications** & Technology

**Engineering** & Construction

F&B

Education

Healthcare

**Pharmaceuticals** 

Real Estate

**Sports** 

### **ISLAMIC FINANCE**

We have an extensive understanding and rooted history in dealing with Islamic finance products and Islamic Banking related matters. We are fortunate to maintain an established Islamic finance network across the GCC. We are not new-commers, and we are proud of our entrenched relationships with some of the region's leading banks in Islamic finance. We deal with a spectrum of Islamic finance matters that range from non-contentious advisory, transactional and consultation, to extensive litigation. Our expertise includes Musharakah, Mudarabah, Murabaha, Ijarah, Investment Instruments, Islamic Insurance and reinsurance, letter of credit and all forms of Islamic financing. Our experienced team also advises on general banking facilities, including the handling of defaulted loans, debts and unstable financial conditions. Our lawyers are Certified Shari'ah Advisors and have attained Auditor fellowships (CSAA) of Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), guaranteeing our clients the best international standards.

### LITIGATION

Al Suwaidi & Company has one of the best known and most successful litigation practices in the UAE consisting of leading international lawyers with expertise in managing large-scale and complex litigation cases and incorporating multi-jurisdictional issues. The firm represents multifarious clients including government or semi-governmental entities/instrumentalities, corporate, partners private, individual (i.e. national and international) on both the claimant and defendant sides in all courts across the UAE, including the DIFC, ICSID Panel of Arbitration and Court of Cassation. Al Suwaidi & Company specialises in high volume and complex litigation. The firm is adept at handling urgent applications and injunctions, ensuring that cases are dealt with in a controlled and cost-effective way.

### **RENTAL LITIGATION**

Rental disputes remain one of the most common contentious legal issues faced by disputed parties in the UAE. In effort to streamline the resolution of rental disputes, the UAE has been active in settling rental disputes before Rental Dispute Settlement Center. Our dedicated Rental Litigation practice handles all tenancy dispute in the UAE, both onshore and in the free zone.

### **MARITIME & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

The United Arab Emirates seaports account for over 60 percent of cargo destined for the entire GCC. In a recent survey (conducted by Menon Business Economics Group and DNV-GL), Dubai was ranked as the ninth shipping centre for 2019. Experts predict that Dubai will continue to grow as a maritime hub and is likely to be ranked as one of the top five maritime centres by 2024. Al Suwaidi & Company's maritime lawyers have supported and advised ship owners, charterers, shipyards, P&I clubs, port and terminal operators, underwriters and traders on all aspects of both contentious and non-contentious shipping-related work, including dry maritime and admiralty.

### **REAL ESTATE**

Our real estate practice is well versed in advising both commercial and residential tenants and landlords, purchasers, major contractors and multinational developers. Our depth of understanding in all real estate matters is further supported through our partnership with the Dubai Land Department (as of March 2020). Our lawyers frequently represent clients before the Real Estate Regulatory Agency (RERA), as well as arbitration tribunals and regional courts. Our practice group possesses both the flexibility and commitment needed to work closely with consultants, contractors and other professional advisors to achieve positive results for our clients.

### **OIL & GAS**

The UAE's oil and gas industry is one of the largest in the region. Al Suwaidi & Company was established further to our founder and Chairman, Mohammed Al Suwaidi, serving as the head of legal at Emirates General Petroleum Corporation. Since our inception, Al Suwaidi & Company has worked with a wide variety of national and international firms on matters including, international energy transactions, joint ventures between regional and international organisations, environmental issues, exploration and development agreements, transportation and storage agreements, downstream distribution, project finance and general corporate matters. The firm advises both government and multi-national firms on regulatory and policy issues related to this sector.

Hospitality, Leisure & Tourism

**Hotel Operators** & Managers

Retail

Oil & Gas

**Maritime & Shipping** 

Insurance

**FMCGs** 

**Business Services** 

Legal

**Islamic Banking** 

### WHY CHOOSE US?

### **ADVOCACY**

We have full rights of audience before all UAE and DIFC courts, along with considerable experience in arbitration tribunals and alternative dispute resolution forums including mediation. Understanding how matters are resolved in court helps us provide our clients pragmatic and realistic solutions to their legal issues.

### **CLIENT FOCUSED**

We strive for excellence to deliver fantastic client service. Delivering excellent client service is central to our business. This means we work closely with our clients to understand their business, so that we can help them pursue the right opportunities and offer them the best solution for their business. By being client focused, our client's benefit from long and lasting relationships with us.

Delivering exceptional legal service means delivering winning solutions on time and within budget. We are active in keeping our client's informed throughout each step of their case development. We operate with our client's best interest in mind.

### **GLOBAL REACH, LOCAL DEPTH**

Our lawyers are adept in handling matters with an international dimension and have a sound appreciation of cultural issues. Our membership to Multilaw, and the International Network of Boutique and Independent Law Firms enables us to service our clients anywhere in thew world. By having access to an international network of leading law firms, each of whom have been vetted, we are able to collaborate with best in class firms where required for any cross border matters.

# MORE THAN JUST EXPERIENCED LAWYERS

Al Suwaidi & Company has developed a culture where new innovation and ideas are encouraged. Our lawyers are all experts in their fields and bring a wealth of experience to ensure every assignment is handled in a manner that brings legal certainty to our clients. Our goal is to strengthen our client's position and/or business. We act with integrity, not just doing things right but doing the right thing.

### **VALUE**

We believe legal services should add value to our client's business. We have been known to price our services fairly, and we are committed to providing clients with transparent and flexible pricing structures.

### **A UNITED TEAM**

Our firm operates as one team. We take a united, inclusive and collaborative approach so that irrespective of our client's legal needs, we are there for them, supporting them. Our firm moves collectively in one direction for the benefit of our clients.

### **COMMERCIAL SOLUTIONS**

We are results oriented lawyers, implementing commercially driven business solutions for our clients. Strategy is a key part of our service delivery platform and we work closely with our clients to realise the best results for them.

Al Suwaidi & Company is the UAE member firm of Multilaw. Multilaw is a leading global network of independent law firms, founded in 1990 on the premise that an alliance of carefully selected, independent firms working together worldwide offered the most effective way of fulfilling clients' international needs. Through our affiliation with Multilaw, we are able to service our clients' needs in over 100 jurisdictions without compromising on service or quality of legal work.

Argentina Australia Austria Belgium Bolivia Brazil Bulgaria Canada Chile China Colombia

Cosa Rica

Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark Dominican Republic Ecuador France Germany Greece Hong Kong Hungary

India Indonesia Ireland Italy Japan Korea Latvia Luxembourg Malaysia Malta Mexico Netherland New Zealand Oman Pakistan Panama Paraguay Peru

**Philippines** 

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Russian Federation Saudi Arabia Singapore South Africa Spain Sri Lanka Sweden

Switzerland Thailand Turkey Uganda UAE UK USA Uruguay Venezuela Vietnam

Through our affiliation with the International Network of boutique and Independent Law Firms (INBLF), we work closely with an extensive network of best in class US law firms. As the only UAE law firm in this network, we are able to service our client's needs and provide them seamless access to multi-practice law firms throughout the United States of America.

California – Los Angeles

California – San Diego

California – San Francisco

California – Silicon Valley Colorado - Denver

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida – Miami Florida - Tampa

Georgia – Atlanta Illinois - Chicago

Indiana – Indianapolis Massachusetts - Boston

Minnesota

Missouri – St. Louis

Nevada – Las Vegas New Jersey

New York

New York – New York City

North Carolina Ohio - Cleveland Oklahoma

Ontario – Toronto

Oregon

Pennsylvania – Philadelphia Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh

Quebec- Montreal Rhode Island

South Carolina Texas – Dallas

Texas – Houston

Utah

Washington – Seattle

Wisconsin







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