



FIRM PROFILE

AL JALLAF

الجالاف

GLOBAL STANDARDS. LOCAL EXPERTISE.

“Their competency, know how, deliverables and their aim to ACHIEVE THE BEST interests of their clients, has been a virtue which we highly appreciate.”

For over 20 years, we have provided strategic and commercially grounded legal advice and representation in the UAE to clients from around the globe. We are proud of the work we have done and the boundaries we have broken; but, despite our successes, we don't have any plans to rest on our laurels.

The UAE legal market is still young. To develop further, it requires pioneers who are well placed to innovate and BRIDGE THE GAP between UAE legal services and standards required by the international business community.

Our novel business model reflects this aim, and, to ensure that it is met, our standards and internal procedures have been developed to converge and integrate with those of international counsel. More importantly, our business model permits our team to seamlessly (and virtually) sit within a team managed by your own preferred international legal counsel or to internally assemble a team around the needs of a case.

Drawing on our expertise across a range of sectors, our select team of internationally qualified lawyers shares the ambition to make Al Jallaf the UAE's premier commercial law boutique, and the leading specialist aviation law firm in the Middle East.

For further details and to discuss how Al Jallaf can support your business, please come visit our offices for a coffee and a chat.

Amna Al Jallaf
Managing Partner

OUR SERVICES

Al Jallaf offers professional legal services that span the entire spectrum of commercial disputes and transactions. With particularly strong capabilities in UAE commercial litigation and arbitration, Al Jallaf is the right partner to face a challenge with.

01 Commercial Litigation

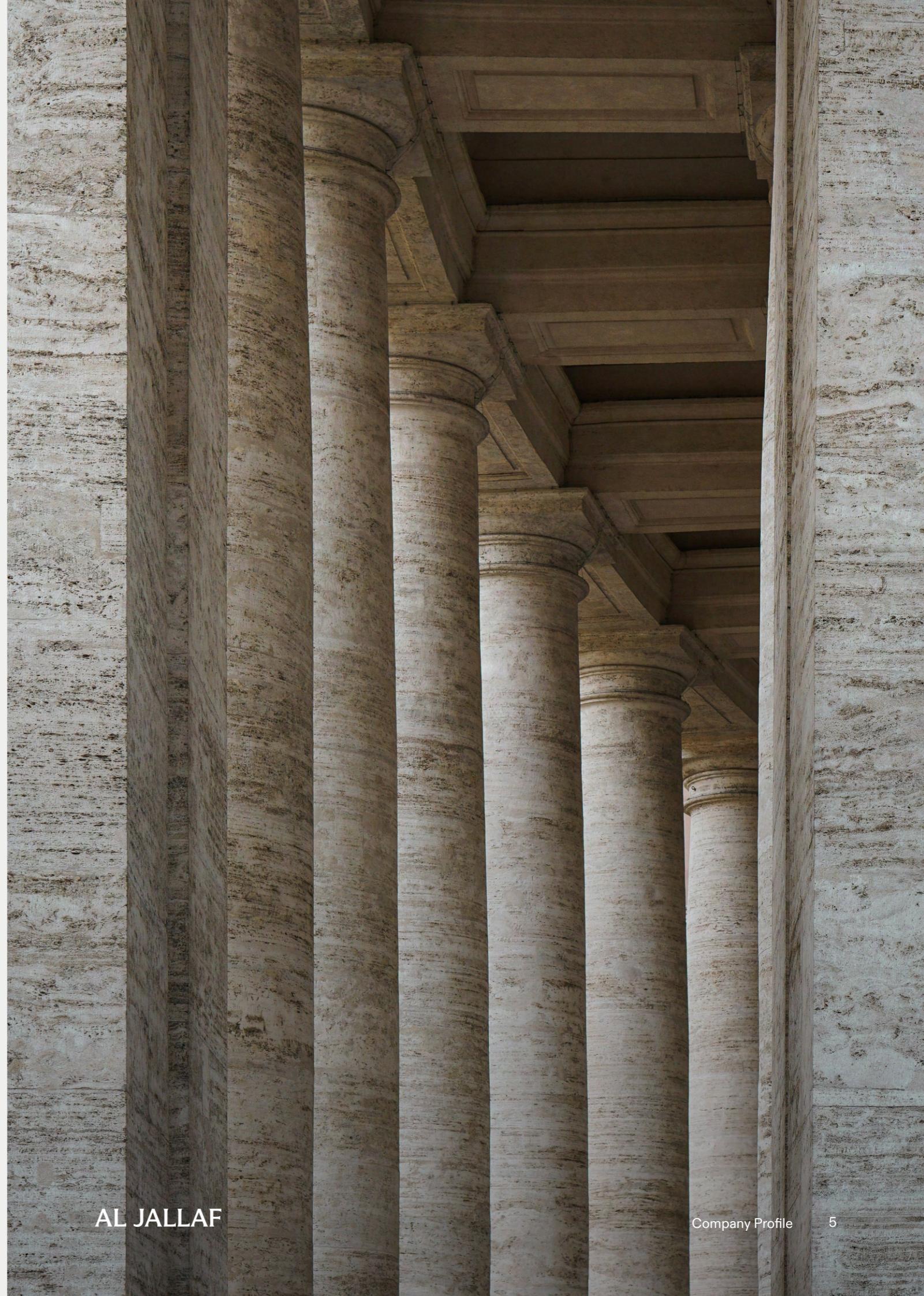
02 Arbitration

03 Corporate

04 Corporate Crime & Regulatory Law

05 Sharia Law

06 Escrow Services





01

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Not all law firms in the UAE can appear before the Federal and Dubai Courts, restricting most international commercial counsel from conducting litigation. Whether managed by an international firm or on a standalone basis, choosing the right team means partnering with the best advocacy firm for your dispute.

Litigation in the UAE need not be a mystery. Al Jallaf's internationally qualified lawyers provide strategic legal and procedural advice from the earliest stages of a dispute (including amicable resolution) through to enforcement.

Our team is experienced in running its own case management but can also seamlessly integrate within a team managed by your international counsel. Drawing on deep knowledge of UAE and international litigation strategy, we frequently act as UAE litigation partners for global law firms, multinationals, and regional leaders. Our work includes cross-border strategy, major recovery projects, fraud claims, and medium to large-scale litigations.

02

ARBITRATION

Dubai has become the arbitration hub of the Middle East, supported by an arbitration-friendly court system that ensures greater certainty in the process. We act at all stages of domestic and international arbitrations as legal counsel and UAE law experts. As an Advocacy Firm, we can obtain interim and injunctive relief through the UAE courts and have extensive experience enforcing local and foreign arbitral awards.

Our work spans Ad-Hoc and institutional arbitrations under DIAC, ADCCAC, ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL rules. With a bilingual team of internationally qualified lawyers, we handle arbitrations in both English and Arabic.

We also regularly appoint and liaise with financial and other experts, and advise on case strategy, settlement negotiations, and formal mediation.

03

CORPORATE

Our team has expert knowledge of corporate and commercial matters in the UAE and strong transactional and commercial drafting capabilities.

Our experience includes advising on joint ventures, asset transfers, outsourcing, distribution agreements, licensing arrangements, manufacturing and supply agreements, mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, private equity, company reorganization and restructuring, and privatizations.

We have advised clients on all issues concerning free zone and onshore company formation, including in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Al Jallaf is a JAFZA offshore agent.

04

CORPORATE CRIME & REGULATORY LAW

Al Jallaf provides critical support to businesses facing investigations or seeking recourse to the criminal law. We represent and advise businesses and corporate legal representatives during Police and Public Prosecution investigations. This involves submitting explanatory memoranda and evidence, and making formal criminal complaints.

We are able to advise in relation to extradition, police and prosecution procedure, and criminal law generally.

05

SHARI'A LAW

We advise on incorporation of Islamic banks, credit facilities and loan agreements (Murabaha), Islamic bond issuance (Sukuk), structuring of Islamic funds and the use of basic Islamic contracts such as Ijara, Mudaraba, Takaful and Istisna'a.

Al Jallaf can draft and negotiate agreements, and litigate on behalf of Islamic banks. We have advised on Shari'a aspects of disputes involving insurance companies and fraudulent banking transactions and Shari'a compliant structures for commercial, aviation and real estate projects.

With an extensive experience in family law, we also advise on UAE Personal Status Law matters, i.e. Inheritance, Wills, Devolution of estate of inherited estate, Personal Affairs marriage & divorce, etc. And we also represent clients in multi-jurisdiction cases.

06

ESCROW SERVICES

Al Jallaf offers specialized escrow and title services and provides professional assistance with title and document recordation within the aviation industry. Our Team has assisted clients in all aspects of aircraft transfers and can provide experienced advice to provide guidance to all parties throughout the duration of the transaction.

Aljallaf plays an important role between major airlines and top international aircraft owners and lessors in facilitating settlement transactions between the parties.

Al Jallaf acts as an independent third-party to hold and transfer documents & funds as necessary and facilitate the closing of aircraft transactions. Throughout the transaction, Al Jallaf works with all transaction parties to ensure protection of all interests and to complete the transaction in an efficient and effectual manner while maintaining compliance with all regulating bodies.

OUR SECTORS

Our professional services are underpinned by a focused specialization in prominent sectors for UAE and multinational businesses. Away from our key sector expertise, we take time to understand our clients' business models and industries to refine our advice and strategy.

01 Aviation & Aerospace

02 Banking & Finance

03 IT & Blockchain

04 Real Estate & Construction

05 Shipping & Insurance

06 Oil & Gas





01

AVIATION & AEROSPACE

Al Jallaf has provided strategic legal expertise in relation to some of the leading developments in the UAE aviation sector. From working on the maiden purchase of the Airbus A380 (then known as the A3XX) to taking delivery of Emirate's first Boeing 777-300 aircraft, Al Jallaf offers a set of skills and experiences unique amongst UAE Advocacy Firms.

Al Jallaf is the oldest and most established specialist aviation law firm in the UAE. Uniquely, our aviation expertise includes first-hand experience of the commercial, regulatory and operational fields.

As a full-service specialist aviation law firm, Al Jallaf covers the full spectrum of aviation disputes and transactions, including: regulatory and commercial issues, business jet acquisition, fleet renewal and asset-based financing (including Islamic finance), reputation, criminal sanctions, aviation contract work, corporate governance, crisis management, strategic safety, and brand reputation issues including insurance and reinsurance liability and subrogation work as well as coverage.



02

BANKING & FINANCE

Al Jallaf is known for its capacity to obtain efficient and effective court remedies in high value banking and finance disputes. Al Jallaf also has notable experience in supporting financial institutions in relation to international banking and finance frauds.

We advise clients on banking and finance arrangements across numerous sectors. Our work includes aircraft, asset and project financing, commercial property finance, shipping, banking litigation and enforcement actions, derivatives, structured finance transactions, incorporation and licensing of financial institutions, debt capital market transactions and bankruptcy and insolvency matters.

We also represent clients during government or state agency investigations, corporate internal investigations and in parallel court proceedings in the UAE.



03

IT & BLOCKCHAIN

We have broad experience in supporting the requirements of IT businesses, including; corporate structuring, development of service contracts, software licenses and technology sharing agreements.

We are well-informed and updated on Blockchain & Smart Contracts technology. We are well-placed to be at the forefront of blockchain technology in the UAE and willing to offer legal assistance to those businesses and individuals looking to setup and develop products and solutions in the blockchain space.



04

REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION

Our experience of the UAE property market means we understand the industry and its ever changing environment.

We handle non-contentious and contentious issues relating to major engineering and construction projects in the UAE, including the performance of contracts and sub-contracts, the failure of material and equipment, changes of orders, cost overruns, delays and disruption, negligent design and faulty workmanship.

We have also dealt with injury, loss of life and property damage on behalf of UAE based construction companies, and advise on health and safety issues, including executive investigations under the threat of prosecution. We can draft and negotiate commercial leases for clients investing in the UAE for the first time and have extensive experience purchases in the UAE. We also specialize in handling tenancy disputes.



05

SHIPPING & INSURANCE

Al Jallaf frequently acts for insurers and reinsurers on contentious and non-contentious matters, including wet, dry, hull and cargo. Our experience is in both local and international aspects of maritime disputes. We assist in product design and select the appropriate risk assessment when dealing with maritime legal claims. Our experience includes advising on design of insurance products, risk analysis and dispute resolution. If cover is contested, we can advise on disputes and subrogation actions over the recoverability of reinsurance.



06

OIL & GAS

Al Jallaf offers legal and commercial support on all aspects of the oil and gas industry.

Our experience includes advising major international clients in delivering significant oil and gas projects, mergers and acquisitions, funding, litigation and arbitration. We also advise governments, NOCs, IOCs and other independent companies on complex legal issues associated with upstream, midstream and downstream developments worldwide. We also assist investors and suppliers in protecting their industry interests.

OUR TEAM

Our select team is small but mighty. With lawyers qualified in five jurisdictions, including England, each lawyer brings a unique quality to our practice.

01 Amna Al Jallaf

02 Ihab Arja

03 Yacoub Qassar

04 Divya Malhotra

05 Maysoun Al Nashar

06 Ramez M. Mikhail

Amna Al Jallaf

MANAGING PARTNER

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LANGUAGES

Arabic, English



The Queen of Aviation (the Brief), Amna Al Jallaf is recognized as one of the Middle East's leading aviation law experts. She began her career as the first Emirati and Arabic-speaking in-house legal counsel at Emirates, gaining unique insights by working alongside crew across nearly every department.

After Emirates, Amna set her sights on creating a premier commercial law boutique and the UAE's first specialist aviation firm: Al Jallaf Advocates & Legal Consultants. Today, her clients include international law firms, multinational banks and corporations, and industry leaders. Her practice spans all aspects of commercial litigation and aviation law.

With over 26 years in legal practice and supported by a team of internationally qualified lawyers, Amna remains committed to elevating legal services in the region and bridging the gap between local and international firms.

She holds several prestigious appointments, including membership on the Legal Advisory Panel of the Aviation Working Group (AWG), an UN-endorsed body focused on aviation finance and leasing, and the Advisory Board of the Hague Court of Arbitration for Aviation. She also served on the Board of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce for over 15 years.

A passionate advocate for children's welfare and a sought-after speaker, Amna frequently presents at legal and aviation conferences worldwide and is a registered arbitrator with the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC).

EDUCATION AND HONOURS

- LLM, College of Law, American University (1995)
- LLB, Al Ain University (1988)

COURT ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Member of the Consultative Committee of Advocacy & Legal Consultancy Professions Affairs, Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department (2016)
- Member of ICC Arab Arbitration Group (2015)
- Arbitrator, Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) (2015)
- Member of the Board of Directors, Dubai Awqaf & Minors Foundation (2014 – 2017)
- Adjunct Lecturer, College of Law, University of Dubai, LLM Programme (2014)
- Legal Advisory Panel, Aviation Working Group (2008)
- Member of the Board of Directors, Dubai Chamber of Commerce (2005)

PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS

Book Chapters/Articles

- 'Airline Sukuk Takes Off in the UAE' (with Jeremy A. Brown), article in The Oath, Issue 47, (December 2015)
- UAE contribution (with Jeremy A. Brown) to the Pillsbury World Aircraft Repossession Index edited by Dominic Pearson and published by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, <http://www.pillsburylaw.com/publications/world-aircraft-repossession-index> (2015)
- Al Jallaf, Amna with Ahmed, Nouraddin A. and Dil-ion-Leetch, Geoffrey, 'United Arab Emirates' in Nath, Ravi and Crans, Berend (Eds.), Aircraft Repossession and Enforcement: Practical Aspects, Alphen aan den Rijn: Kluwer Law International (2010)

Speeches

- Amna speaks on topics concerning aviation law, UAE law, Islamic law and Islamic finance.

Ihab Arja

COUNSEL

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LANGUAGES

English, Italian



Dr. Ihab Arja is a globally recognized attorney-at-law and aviation sector expert. Holding a PhD, he specializes in high-profile litigation, aircraft finance & leasing, regulation, accident investigations, and business aviation. Ihab is a sought-after speaker at international aviation conferences and a published author on topics including commercial aviation developments, environmental regulation, and the Cape Town Convention.

During his career, he has been actively involved in a full range of legal matters arising in the aviation industry, including drafting aviation legislations, participating in major Privatization and Public-Private Partnership projects, delivering regulatory consultations & proceedings, handling general aviation and commercial issues including sale, purchase and lease of aircraft transactions, aircraft & air navigation services' insurance and reinsurance, and other environment, security & safety issues.

Ihab has addressed numerous conferences on aviation law and aircraft financing & leasing in the Middle East, Europe and Canada, and published on a variety of issues, including commercial aviation developments, environmental regulation impacting the aviation sector and the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol.

He serves as a distinguished member of ICAO's Commission of Experts (CESAIR) for the Supervisory Authority of the International Registry under the Cape Town Convention and its Aircraft Protocol.

EDUCATION AND HONOURS

- LL.M. Master of Laws in International Commercial Law(Distinction), 2015.
- International Air Law Diploma (Distinction), 2011.
- LL.B. Bachelor of Laws.

COURT ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Licensed Legal Consultant by the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department (2017)
- Member of the ICAO's Commission of Experts of the Supervisory Authority of the International Registry (CESAIR) for the purposes of the Cape Town Convention (CTC) and the Aircraft Protocol attached thereto. (2015)
- Appointed Observer for the Middle East Working Group for the Cape Town Convention, by the Aviation Working Group. (2014)
- Licensed Attorney-at-Law

PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS

- "Global Approach to Environmental Policy and Regulation on Aviation" (Research), LUISS University, Rome - Italy, 2017.
- "Protecting the National Interests' Creditors under CTC and the Aircraft Protocol" (Research), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Rome - Italy, 2016.
- "The Cape Town Convention's Aircraft Protocol" (Research), the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law, Lausanne-Switzerland, 2014.
- "Security Interests and Remedies protecting Creditors under the Cape Town Convention & Aircraft Protocol" (LL.M. Thesis), UNIDROIT, Rome – Italy, 2014.

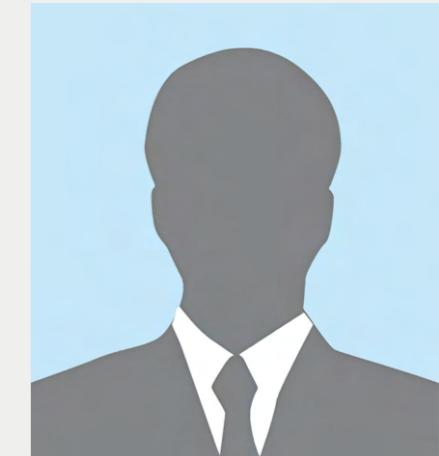
Yacoub Qassar

COUNSEL

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LANGUAGES

Arabic, English



EDUCATION AND HONORS

- BA in Law, University of Damascus, Syria (1980)

COURT ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Bar Association of Jordan (1986)
- Legal Committee of the Association of Banks, Jordan (2001-2012)
- Legal Committee of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce (2015-present)

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Litigation

- Represented and advised Jordanian Banks in a case of fraud that resulted in losses of over USD 150 million
- Acted on behalf of a multinational oil and gas company in a case of fraud and breach of contract across multiple jurisdictions, including the enforcement of a foreign arbitral award in the UAE

Divya Malhotra

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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LANGUAGES

English, Hindi



A seasoned legal counsel with over 14 years of experience in aviation finance, Divya Malhotra is internationally recognized for her deep expertise in aircraft leasing, cross-border transactions, and complex structured finance. Dual-qualified in England & Wales and India, Divya has acted for airlines, banks, lessors, and manufacturers across major aviation markets, including the UAE, Singapore, India, the UK, and Europe.

Divya began her legal career in Singapore with Drew & Napier, where she gained strong litigation and restructuring experience before moving into asset finance. She went on to join Clyde & Co and subsequently Norton Rose Fulbright, where she specialized in aviation finance. At these firms, she represented major leasing companies and financial institutions in structured finance, sale and leaseback, and aircraft delivery transactions across Southeast Asia.

Her in-house counsel journey began at BOC Aviation Limited, one of the world's leading aircraft lessors. Based in Singapore, she played a key role in cross-border leasing and financing deals across Asia and Europe. Notably, she was instrumental in delivering 20 Airbus A320 aircraft to Vistara Airlines, one of the largest leasing arrangements in the company's history, and was part of the team managing the sale of 24 aircraft to Shenton Aircraft Investment I Ltd.

In 2018, Divya joined Novus Aviation Capital in Dubai as Vice President – Legal Counsel, where she advised on high-value sale and leaseback transactions, operating leases, and limited recourse financings. Her work included the sale and leaseback of Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft with FlyDubai and the purchase and leaseback of Boeing 777-300ERs with Emirates. She also led legal aspects of a US\$423 million financing facility with BNP Paribas and MUFG Bank and managed complex aircraft deliveries during the COVID-19 pandemic for British Airways.

With a proven record of advising on end-to-end aircraft transactions and deep understanding of regulatory compliance across jurisdictions, Divya is a trusted legal strategist in the aviation finance sector. She is known for her ability to bridge commercial goals with legal precision and manage complex stakeholder negotiations under tight timelines.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

- B.A. LL.B. (Hons), First Class Honours – Amity Law School, New Delhi, India (2006)

COURT ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Solicitor, England & Wales (Admitted 2008)
- Member, Delhi Bar Association, India (Admitted 2006)

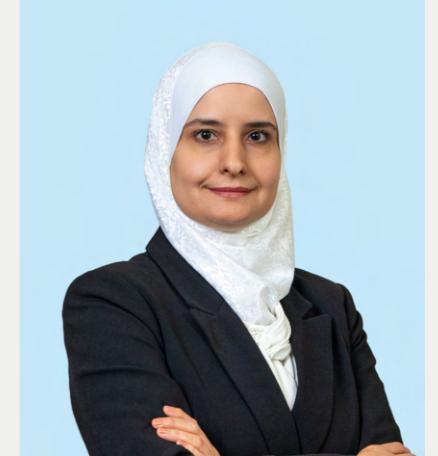
Maysoun Al Nashar

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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LANGUAGES

Arabic (Native; excellent written and oral skills)
English (Proficient; EFL and Business English certified)



With over 20 years of legal experience spanning Syria and the United Arab Emirates, Maysoun Al Nashar is a distinguished Legal Consultant with a broad practice in civil, commercial, corporate, real estate, employment, and arbitration law. Known for her precision and depth of legal analysis, Maysoun is widely regarded as a trusted litigation and advisory specialist in the UAE legal market.

Maysoun began her legal career in Damascus at Outaki Law Firm, where she built a solid foundation representing clients across all stages of litigation in civil, commercial, and criminal matters. Her early years in Syria saw her actively appear before courts and develop strong drafting and litigation skills.

In 2013, Maysoun transitioned to the UAE legal sector and joined Al Owais & Al Matrooshi Advocates & Legal Consultants in Dubai. There, she managed diverse litigation and arbitration matters, further refining her expertise in UAE law and legal procedure.

Since 2018, Maysoun has been a senior Legal Counsel at Al Owais Advocates & Legal Consultants, where she leads on complex disputes involving construction, banking, enforcement of foreign judgments, and arbitration awards. She has acted for a wide range of clients, including international banks, developers, and contractors, and is regularly engaged in high-stakes litigation before the UAE courts. Her practice is noted for meticulous drafting of legal notices, memorandums, settlement agreements, and cassation pleadings, as well as providing strategic legal advice in both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Over the course of her career, Maysoun has earned a reputation for being a committed and results-driven legal professional, valued for her strategic insight and client-focused approach.

Complementing her legal practice, Maysoun has also contributed to legal scholarship. In 2006, she presented a research paper titled "Intervention in Civil Law" at the Damascus Bar Association.

She continues to serve the UAE legal community as a registered Legal Consultant with the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department and remains dedicated to advancing the quality and delivery of legal services in the region.

EDUCATION

- LLB, Damascus University, Syria (1999–2003)

COURT ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Licensed Lawyer, Syrian Bar Association (2004–2014)
- Registered Legal Consultant, Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department (2014–Present)

RESEARCH & PRESENTATIONS

- "Intervention in Civil Law" – Damascus Bar Association, 2006

Ramez M. Mikhail

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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LANGUAGES

Arabic, English



Ramez M. Mikhail is a bilingual (Arabic-English) Senior Legal Consultant and UAE-certified practitioner with over 23 years of experience across the MENA region, including 12 years specializing in UAE law. Known for his meticulous approach, he excels in civil, commercial, employment, family, and real estate disputes, delivering precise and strategic legal guidance.

Ramez began his career in Egypt, practicing as a licensed attorney for over a decade and appearing before courts up to the High Supreme Court. His expertise spanned competition, anti-monopoly, construction, real estate, labor, and bankruptcy law, giving him a deep understanding of regional frameworks. Since joining Al Jallaf Advocates, he has advised multinational clients in pharmaceuticals, tourism, and oil & gas, leveraging his bilingual drafting skills to craft contracts and legal memoranda.

His proficiency also covers UAE corporate matters, including Commercial Companies Law, M&A transactions, and regulations for onshore (Mainland, JAFZA, DAFZA, DWC, DMCC) and offshore entities. Ramez's expertise in DIFC Common Law further strengthens his ability to navigate complex legal landscapes, earning clients' trust through thorough analysis and strategic counsel. He also advises on risk assessment, compliance, dispute resolution, and optimizing legal operations.

EDUCATION AND HONOURS

- LLB, Ain Shams University (2002)
- BA in English, High Institute for Language and Translation (1999)
- Arbitration Course in Dispute Resolution, ADR Institute of Ontario, Canada (2016)
- DIFC Laws Certificate Program, 120 Learning Hours, DIFC Law Academy (2023)
- Professional Diploma in Aircraft Leasing and Finance, 40 Credit Hours, Dublin, Ireland (2024)

COURT ADMISSIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Licensed Attorney, Egyptian Courts up to the Supreme Court (Active Member)
- Certified Legal Practitioner, Dubai Legal Affairs Department (LAD) (Active Member)
- Registered Legal Practitioner, DIFC (Active Member)
- Registered Patent and Trademark Agent, Egypt
- Registered Trademark Agent, Canada

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- UAE Litigation : Defense team member in a landmark MENA banking and commercial dispute.
- Egypt Litigation : Managed case files for 5-star hotels' HR departments, providing legal analysis and compliance recommendations.
- Corporate : Drafted bilingual Arabic-English contracts, including service, manufacturing, supply, and concession agreements.
- Real Estate & Construction : Guided clients on UAE real estate rule updates, leveraging SPAs and tenancy contracts.
- Bad Debts : Navigated bad debt litigation and secured amicable settlements for the Cyprus project in Egypt.

PUBLICATIONS, SPEECHES, AND PRESENTATIONS

Book Chapters/Articles :

- Country Profile: Egypt – Labor Law, Doing Business (2008, 2009, 2010)

Speeches

- Regularly presents on UAE corporate law, real estate regulations, and dispute resolution at regional legal forums.

CONTACT

For further information, or to inquire about instructing Al Jallaf Advocates on an aviation matter, please contact:



Al Jallaf Advocates & Legal Consultants

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