

Corporate & Commercial Law

A practical overview of the legal foundations for **doing business in the UAE**: contracts, governance, commercial relationships, and regulatory compliance.

CORE AREAS

CONTRACTS

Commercial contracts define rights, obligations, payment terms, liability, termination, governing law, and dispute forum. Clear terms reduce uncertainty and help prevent disputes.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Supplier, service, distribution, franchise, joint venture, and shareholder arrangements should reflect the actual business relationship. Informal or verbal arrangements are harder to enforce.

GOVERNANCE

Companies should maintain shareholder approvals, board resolutions, signing authorities, ownership records, and internal decision-making records.

COMPLIANCE

Businesses must operate within their licensed activities and comply with applicable UAE laws. This may include tax, employment, AML, data protection, consumer protection, and sector-specific approvals.

KEY CONCEPTS

CONTRACT CLARITY

The most useful contracts are practical and specific. They should clearly state what each party must do, when payment is due, how the relationship can end, and what happens if one side does not perform.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- Keep signed contracts and amendments.
- Document approvals and authority to sign.
- Maintain invoices, payment proof, and delivery records.
- Preserve important emails and formal notices.

