

2023 | CONFIDENTIAL

Stephenson Harwood's Middle East Corporate practice



An overview of our Middle East practice

Our firm has a rich history, dating back over two decades, of advising both regional and international clients on some of their most complex, highly significant and sensitive matters (contentious and non-contentious) both within the Middle East markets and abroad. This experience has allowed us to develop deep roots in the region through our regional hub office located in Dubai.

With approximately 40 lawyers, including **13 partners**, our office has lawyers who are able to **advise on all aspects of English law and the laws within the UAE (including the laws and regulations within the various freezones)**. Furthermore, many of our lawyers are **bilingual in several languages**, including **Arabic and English**.

Our team acts for a wide range of international and local listed and private owned companies, institutions, private equity firms, sovereign wealth funds and high-net worth individuals and families throughout the Middle East, including the **United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Kuwait, Republic of Iraq, Kurdistan, Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Qatar, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab Republic of Egypt**.

The Middle East is a significant part of our network. Our lawyers advise on high profile and complex multi-jurisdictional transactions in the region. Over the years we have also nurtured strong relationships with regional law firms, key government agencies and regulatory bodies.

Our team advises clients carrying out in-bound and out-bound transactions concerning the Middle East, Asia and Africa. We provide sophisticated and perceptive legal advice coupled with a creative, commercial, and service-oriented approach to legal services, carried out to the highest standards.

Through the team's local knowledge, we are able to guide clients through the commercial as well as the practical issues encountered when operating across the region.

Key areas of focus



Decarbonisation



Life sciences

Private capital
and funds

Technology

Transport and
trade

Legal services



Aviation

Commercial
contractsCommodities
/trade
finance

Construction

Corporate
financeDebt
capital
markets

Disputes



Employment

International
arbitrationInternational
tradeIntellectual
property

Immigration

Islamic
financeLeveraged/
acquisition
finance

Regulatory



Shipping



Pensions

Projects and
infrastructurePrivate
equityPrivate
wealth

Rail

Real
estate/
HospitalityReal
estate
finance

Sanctions

Corporate and commercial

Our corporate and commercial team has a unique and diverse range of experience spanning across the Middle East, African and South West Asian regions. The team provides a range of expertise that includes mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, private equity and venture capital, company set-up and advising clients on regulatory issues throughout the region.



Our international client base is broad and we advise across a range of different business sectors including technology, telecommunications, engineering services, marine services, shipping, power generation, hospitality, oil field supply and services, health, education and aviation.

Our team has vast experience in handling multi-jurisdictional M&A transactions advising both on buy-side and sell-side mandates. Furthermore, our team has significant experience in advising on the restructuring of group companies (as well as conducting the due diligence) in the context of various capital events such as an acquisition, fund raising or an IPO.

Highlight credentials

An Abu Dhabi state-owned entity

Advising an Abu Dhabi state-owned entity, on a transaction valued at AED6 billion, in respect of the sale of 50% of its stake in a group agriculture business.

EnTrust Global's Blue Ocean Fund

Advising EnTrust Global's Blue Ocean Fund on a loan facility to United Overseas Group in relation to its acquisition of United Arab Chemical Carriers. This involved a complex "reverse triangular merger", the first ever such merger under the Companies law of the DIFC. This was awarded "M&A Deal of the Year" by the IFLR Middle East Awards 2021 and shortlisted as "Regional Deal of the Year" by *Seatrade Maritime Awards Middle East, Indian Subcontinent & Africa Awards 2021*.

Madison Pacific Trust Limited

Advised Madison Pacific Trust Limited, on the enforcement sale of a 51% stake in HG Storage International Limited, a Jersey incorporated joint venture operating in the oil and gas industry with assets in over nine jurisdictions, to Tristar Transport (L.L.C.) - a UAE-based petroleum storage and logistics business.

Chart Industries Inc

Advising NYSE-listed Chart Industries Inc on its acquisition of UK-based industrial equipment maker Howden for US\$4.4 billion from private equity firm KPS Capital Partners through a combination of cash and preferred stock. The team's role included advising the client in relation to the target company's UAE-based operations.

TSA Group

Advising and assisting the owners of TSA Group, a global hotel and hospitality consultancy, with operations in Singapore, Dubai, US and UK, on its sale to Frontline Performance Group a US-based strategic hospitality software and performance consultancy group.

General Partner and Directors of Abraaj Growth Markets Health Fund

Advising the General Partner of US\$1 billion Abraaj Growth Markets Health Fund and its directors in relation to significant and complex corporate governance issues arising from the collapse of The Abraaj Group. This has been one of the most high-profile matters in the region and global private equity market in recent years and was shortlisted for "M&A Deal of the Year" by *Thomson Reuters' ALB Middle East Awards 2021* and *IFLR Middle East Awards 2019*.

"Stephenson Harwood handles a broad range of international inbound and outbound cross-border transactions, with expertise across a wide variety of sectors."

The Legal 500 EMEA 2023, Commercial, Corporate and M&A, UAE

Knowcross

Advised Knowcross, a global hospitality software as a service (SaaS) company, on its successful sale to US private equity company Riverside Company, through its platform UniFocus.

S&P Global Platts

Advising S&P Global Platts, a leading independent provider of information and benchmark prices for the commodities and energy markets, on the acquisition of the business from Conference Connection Pte. Ltd., which organises and hosts flagship conferences in Bahrain and Fujairah, UAE.

Inspired Education Limited

Advising Inspired Education Limited on its:

- acquisition of a majority stake of Knowledge Gate International School in Oman and
- multi-million dollar private equity acquisition of Synkers Lebanon, a Lebanese-based education platform with a subsidiary in Dubai.

Livio AB

Advising Livio AB, the largest provider of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) in the Nordic countries, on its joint venture with American Hospitals Dubai (part of the Mohamed & Obaid Al Mulla Group, one of the leading pioneers of private healthcare in the Middle East).

Ardonagh Specialty

Advising Ardonagh Specialty, London's largest independent broking group, on the acquisition of Oxford Insurance Group Limited. Oxford operates across several specialisms including professional indemnity, property, general liability, marine and energy and its businesses include, Dubai-based, Antarah Limited. Antarah deals with reinsurance liabilities within the Middle East and North African and Asia region and is regulated by the Dubai Financial Service Authority (DFSA).

UltraTech Cement Middle East Investments Ltd.

Advising UltraTech Cement Middle East Investments Ltd., the largest cement producer in India and the third largest cement producer in the world, outside of China, on its 70% equity share acquisition of Duqm Cement Project International ("Duqm Cement") from Seven Seas Group, Oman.

Buyers of financial services group

Advised buyers on the acquisition of majority shares in a financial services group based in the DIFC, UAE.

Eddyfi Technologies

Advising Eddyfi Technologies, a Canadian headquartered non-destructive testing inspection technologies company, on the acquisition of NDT Global, a leading supplier of ultrasonic pipeline inline inspection ("ILI") and data analysis supplier for onshore and offshore pipelines worldwide.

NMC Health Plc

Advised UAE-based private healthcare provider NMC Health Plc on its acquisition of Aspen Healthcare, a UK-based healthcare company from Tenet Healthcare Corporation. The deal marked the company's first acquisition of a UK-based company.

Acquisition of DIFC financial training company

Advising an ADGM holding company on a two-tranche share acquisition of a DIFC financial training company, offering education training services catering to students seeking professional qualifications.

Cleartrip

Represented Cleartrip, a leading travel portal in India and the Middle East (KSA, UAE, Egypt and) on its:

- acquisition of the Flyin Group in Saudi Arabia, an online travel portal; and
- subsequent sale to Flipkart, an e-commerce company.

Al Dahra Holding LLC

Acting for Al Dahra Holding LLC on its minority stake in a joint venture operating a climate-controlled greenhouse in relation to the sale of the majority interest in the joint venture company by BayWa AG to Pure Harvest Smart Farms. The Pure Harvest-Al Dahra partnership will increase the agri-tech company's total operating capacity under management to more than 22 hectares.

Mr Abdul Rahman Barham

Advising Mr Abdul Rahman Barham on behalf of Al Madina Real Estate on its acquisition of a 10% stake of Medco LLC an oil company in Oman from Kuwait Energy PLC.

Physicswallah Pvt Ltd

Advised Physicswallah Pvt Ltd, an Indian-headquartered online education platform, on its acquisition of Knowledge Planet Centre Group, Dubai – its first market entry into the MENA region.

Watchbox Middle East

Advising WatchBox, the US headquartered e-commerce platform for buying, selling and trading watches, on its joint venture with Ahmed Seddiqi & Sons, a UAE retailer of luxury watches and jewellery, to create WatchBox Middle East.

Cotecna Inspection

Cotecna Inspection in relation to its multi-jurisdictional acquisition of Geo Chem Middle East Group.

An investment firm

Advised a diversified investment firm in relation to an off-market purchase of a stake in an international energy and water company from majority stakeholder Abu Dhabi Power Corporation PJSC.

"Exceptional team, very knowledgeable, great client service mentality."

The Legal 500 EMEA 2022, Commercial, Corporate and M&A, UAE

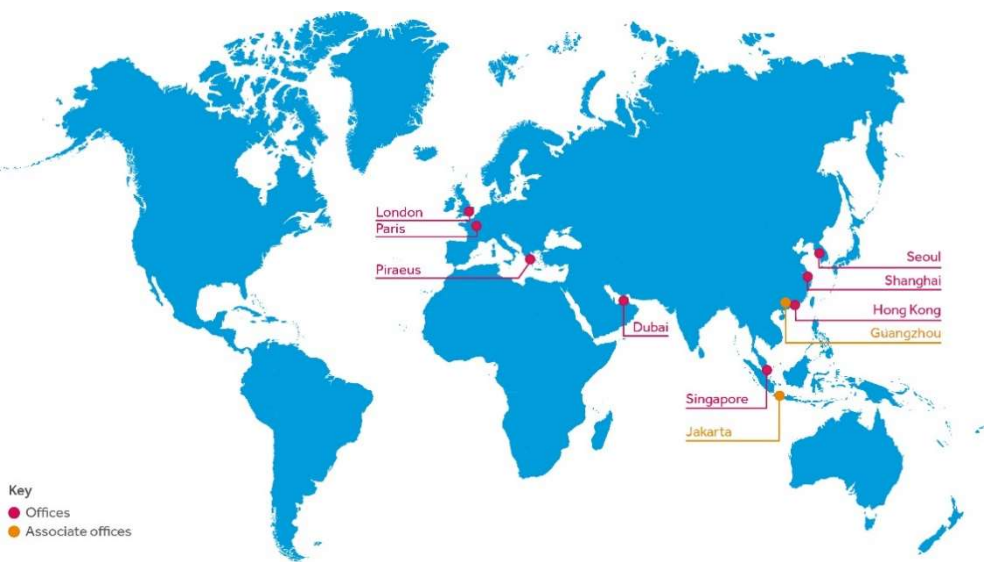
Global reach

Stephenson Harwood is a law firm of over 1,300 people worldwide, including over 190 partners. Our people are committed to achieving the goals of our clients – governments, parastatals, banks, listed and private companies and individuals.

We assemble teams of bright thinkers to match our clients' needs and give the right advice from the right person at the right time. Dedicating the highest calibre of legal talent to overcome the most complex issues, we deliver pragmatic, expert advice that is set squarely in the real world.

Our headquarters are in London, with eight offices across Asia, Europe and the Middle East. In addition we have forged close ties with other high quality law firms around the world in key jurisdictions.

Office locations



"Comprising of dedicated and pragmatic individuals, the corporate team services an international client base across a variety of sectors"

-Chambers and Partners Global

Key facts and figures

190+ Partners



1,300+ People worldwide



8 Offices worldwide



90 Clients in over 90 countries



25+ Languages spoken by our staff



49 Top rankings for individuals



Contacts

Key contacts for the Corporate Middle East team

Partners



Diwakar Agarwal

Partner

T: +971 4 407 3905

M: +971 52 120 3149

E: diwakar.agarwal@shlegal.com



Melissa Forbes-Miranda

Partner

T: +971 4 407 3904

M: +971 54 306 6543

E: melissa.forbes@shlegal.com



Sandeep Dhama

Partner

T: +971 4 407 3906

M: +971 55 552 0869

E: sandeep.dhama@shlegal.com

Managing Associates



Philippa English

Managing Associate

T: +971 4 407 3962

M: +971 52 216 6240

E: philippa.english@shlegal.com



Toufic Safie

Managing Associate

T: +971 4 407 3926

M: +971 52 120 3184

E: toufic.safie@shlegal.com

What others say about us

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Legal 500 EMEA 2023 – United Arab Emirates

"Exceptional team, very knowledgeable, great client service mentality."

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – United Arab Emirates

"Stephenson Harwood LLP have an excellent understanding of the market. They are pragmatic, efficient, and able to negotiate with other law firms in an efficient way. They are also very responsive and business oriented."

Legal 500 EMEA 2020 – United Arab Emirates



Stephenson Harwood LLP

Ranked within:
United Arab Emirates



Ranked in:

- Commercial, corporate and M&A
- Banking & finance: Corporate finance (including Islamic lending)
- Dispute resolution: arbitration and international litigation
- Employment
- Infrastructure and projects (including project finance)

Disclaimer

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