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BCLP has been established in the Middle East since 2009, although many of our lawyers have worked in the MEA (Middle East and Africa) region for longer. We are embedded in the local markets by having a genuine on-the-ground local law capability, serving both domestic and international clients. We have an office in Abu Dhabi (ADGM Square) as well as in Dubai (DIFC) and run them as one offering. From these two hubs, our growing team - currently of six partners and 19 lawyers in total - undertake high profile and significant mandates across the Middle East region and Africa on local projects and operations, and on making investments across Europe, USA, Southeast Asia and India. Whether it's a high-value engineering arbitration, assisting in drafting zoning and sustainability laws or free-zone regulations, structuring and planning a giga-project, forming a joint venture or handling any type of transaction in the real estate and infrastructure sectors, our team has the experience and practical knowledge to help you achieve your objectives throughout the region.

THE LEGAL DISCIPLINES THAT OUR UAE OFFICES COVER INCLUDE:

- Real Estate and Infrastructure
- Construction, Engineering and Procurement
- Real Estate Finance
- Corporate and Commercial
- Hotels and Leisure
- Dispute Resolution
- Planning and Environment
- Projects

Together, our UAE lawyers have over 175 years of combined experience advising clients on transactions and guiding them through disputes in the region.

You can rely on our experience of having supported clients such as Abu Dhabi Ports Company, Al Tayer Group, ALEC Engineering & Contracting LLC, DAMAC, Dubai Holding, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre, GS E&C, Hyundai C&E, Majid Al Futtaim, Miral, Samsung Engineering, Tamouh Investments, and many others.

As an example of the unique challenges we can take on, we are acting for a major UAE portfolio company in mediation proceedings (rare in the UAE), seeking to resolve without recourse to arbitration proceedings.

As a testament to the top-end work our Middle East team is undertaking, we were; awarded the United Arab Emirates Real Estate Law Firm of the Year at Chambers Middle East Awards 2022, a finalist in the International Law Firm of the Year and Litigation & Dispute Resolution Team of the Year categories at the Oath Middle East Legal Awards 2021, ranked Tier 1 in the Real Estate category in Legal 500 EMEA 2021, ranked Tier 2 in the Construction category in Legal 500 EMEA 2021, a finalist in the Real Estate category at Chambers Middle East Awards 2021, won the Real Estate & Construction Team of the Year category at the Oath Middle East Legal Awards 2018, a finalist in the Law Firm of the Year category at the MEED Awards 2018, and finalists in the Construction team of the Year, Litigation Team of the Year and Real Estate Team of the Year in the Middle East Legal Awards 2019 (run by the Association of Corporate Counsel and Legal Week).

Additionally, our UAE offices have had multiple media mentions in leading publications including GAR for arbitration, The Banker for the financial sector and the Oath for the UAE.

MEET THE TEAM



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The Evolving Real Estate and Construction Disputes Landscape

As part of Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW), Horizons & Co. and BCLP hosted a discussion on the evolving real estate and construction dispute resolution landscape in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and wider region. This interactive discussion involved questions from the audience throughout the session and resulted in many meaningful points being raised. Below is a high-level takeaway of the key issues discussed and points raised.

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Mar 20, 2024

BCLP advises Skyports on global first passenger air taxi service launch

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Feb 20, 2024

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How UAE is legislating to decarbonise buildings

The built environment is crucial to the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) extraordinary and rapid ascent: since its foundation in 1971, the country has constructed the world's tallest building and largest shopping mall. That scale of development has undoubtedly made the UAE the success it is today – but has come at a cost. The World Economic Forum estimates that 40% of global carbon emissions come from buildings and infrastructure, and the lion's share of these come from ongoing building operation. The energy consumption of buildings in the UAE is among the highest in the world, with modern living in the Arabian Peninsula necessitating 24-hour air conditioning in malls, homes and offices.

Insights

Nov 13, 2023

The parties' perspective: a closer look at the updated UAE Federal Arbitration Law

The recent changes to the UAE Federal Arbitration Regime (set out in Federal Decree 15 of 2023 ("the Amendment")) have been rightly welcomed by the arbitration community, especially in relation to the regulation of arbitrators' conduct and recognition of the increased use and worth of technology platforms. These proactive amendments to a still relatively new law do indeed represent a robust approach to keeping up to date with fast-evolving practice, and a strong statement of intent as regards the UAE's continuing ambition to be a leading hub for dispute resolution. There has been much excellent and thought-provoking commentary on the content of the Amendment from practitioners and others in the arbitration community. So, for a slightly different take, we thought it might be interesting to look at the whole landscape from the perspective of the parties, and/or their transactional advisors, at the front-...

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Abraham Accords: three years on

The Abraham Accords Peace Agreement of 13 August 2020 (the Abraham Accords) heralded the normalization of diplomatic and business relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (the UAE). This historic regional shift in diplomatic relations ushered in a wave of business opportunities and strategic alliances, which have transformed the economic relationship between the UAE and Israel.

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