Supporting your strategy.
Linklaters

Our legal services offering
Middle East
An award-winning practice.

Linklaters is a leading global law firm that has advised and represented clients in the Middle East for over 30 years. Our global approach, commitment to excellence and depth of experience mean that we have built a strong track record of advising a range of government organisations and privately-owned businesses, acting on matters throughout the region, including in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

Linklaters’ offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi act as a hub for the firm’s activities in the MENA region, and our team has established itself as one of the few firms in the region capable of advising on cross border transactions. Our fully-integrated international network means that we are able to draw on our market-leading expertise across various offices, practices and sector teams when required, while providing a seamless service to our clients. Our clients instruct us on their most complex deals, whether its operating in, moving into or looking to expand in the region.

To be successful in the Middle East you have to develop a long-term commitment to the region. We appreciate and understand the rich culture of the region, and like many of our clients, we see it as a group of inter-related yet independent markets, not a single homogenous group. The fast paced dynamic environment requires our team to monitor and adapt to market conditions and client needs daily. We seek to build deep and valued relationships with our clients, dedicating significant resources to ensure we meet their needs.

Where we do not have offices, we are able to mobilise resources wherever needed by our clients. Our lawyers have experience of working on the ground in all continents and a very large number of countries.

What differentiates us from our competitors?

**Exceeding expectations**
We strive to provide the best possible service to clients. For example:

- **Complex legal transactions**
  - we conduct the most complex legal transactions in the world, aspiring to be the world’s leading global law firm

- **Full execution partner-led teams**
  - we offer full execution partner-led teams with the strength-in-depth to handle complex cross-border transactions by clients in the Middle East and those looking to move into the region: our partners have executed deals in all key jurisdictions

- **Demonstrated strength across all practice areas**
  - we offer clients demonstrated strength across all practice areas based around a partner team that has been in the region for many years

- **Strength and unique alignment**
  - the strength and unique alignment of our international network ensures we can offer seamless advice wherever our clients’ needs demand it, with a sector- and geography-based approach ensuring a clear understanding of transaction issues

- **Strong Islamic finance capability**
  - we have a strong Islamic finance capability which works alongside our conventional finance team

- **Legal advice with an International perspective**
  - we deliver legal advice with an international and regional/domestic perspective managing legal challenges accordingly, taking into account our clients’ commercial and business objectives

- **Lasting relationships**
  - we are committed to building lasting relationships with our clients

- **Value added service**
  - keeping you informed
  - growing the team’s knowledge
  - enhancing performance
  - making life easier
  - being flexible for you
  - being creative in our support to you

M&A Team of the Year
IFLR Middle East Awards 2014

M&A Deal of the Year
Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank acquisition of Barclays’ UAE retail banking assets
IFLR Middle East Awards 2014

Debt and Equity-linked Deal of the Year
GEMS corporate hybrid Sukuk
IFLR Middle East Awards 2014

Winner of 13 Deal of the Year Awards
Islamic Finance News 2014
Middle East practice overview.

Linklaters is acknowledged as a market leader for corporate/M&A, capital markets, banking, project finance, Islamic finance and international arbitration matters. The offices also have dedicated sector specialists in the energy, infrastructure, financial institutions and telecommunications sectors. The firm’s track record includes acting on some of the most significant and innovative deals that the region has seen in recent years.

Middle East practice highlights.

**Corporate/M&A**

We have a pre-eminence market position as lead advisers to companies in all areas of public takeovers, corporate reorganisations, reconstructions, mergers, acquisitions, disposals and joint venture arrangements.

- **Barclays Bank disposal**
  - Barclays Bank plc on the disposal of its retail portfolio in the UAE to Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank PJSC, this represented Barclays’ exit from their retail business in the UAE

- **Email and Dubai merger**
  - DUBA/ICD on the merger of EMAL and DUBAL to create a US$15bn entity

- **Bahrain Telecommunications Company B.S.C acquisition**
  - Bahrain Telecommunications Company B.S.C on its acquisition of companies comprising the ‘Monaco & Islands’ division of Cable & Wireless

- **Dubai World Disposal**
  - Dubai World and PFZW on the US$2.8bn disposal of EZW (Jebel Ali Free zone) to DP World

**Project finance**

Our unrivalled projects team have advised on some of the largest and most complex financing deals to be done in the market to date. Our team has extensive experience in the oil and gas, power, petrochemicals and infrastructure sectors in the region.

- **Mirfa Power Project financing**
  - The financing of the US$1.2bn Mirfa Power Project in Abu Dhabi

- **Madinah Airport expansion financing**
  - The financing of the US$1.5bn Madinah Airport Expansion Project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- **King Abdullah Port Bridge financing**
  - Advising the lenders on the US$140m construction of the King Abdullah Port Project

- **Al-Waha Petrochemical Company**
  - The mandated lead arrangers on the US$520m Islamic refinancing of Al-Waha Petrochemical Company’s (Al-Waha) polypropylene project located in Al-Jubail Industrial City

**Banking**

Our top ranked banking team advises banks and other financial institutions, companies and governments on domestic and international bank financing transactions across every industry, commercial, financial and governmental sector.

- **Dubai Group restructuring**
  - The creditors’ committee for the unsecured and partially secured lenders on all aspects of the US$10bn restructuring of Dubai Group, one of the most complex restructurings to have taken place in the Middle East to date

- **Acquisition of Travelex**
  - Acquisition of Travelex from Apax by a Middle Eastern consortium

- **Jebel Ali Free Zone financing**
  - The lead arrangers on a US$1.2bn secured Islamic facility ranking pari passu with a Sukuk in favour of Jebel Ali Free Zone FZE

- **Lamprell plc restructuring**
  - The lead arrangers on the restructuring and refinancing of Lamprell plc’s bank facilities

**Capital markets**

We have a proven track record of providing financial institutions, companies and government agencies with the highest quality legal advice on domestic and international capital markets financing transactions.

- **Emaar Properties IPO**
  - Emaar Properties on the IPO of Emaar Mall

- **Bateco debut bond issue**
  - Bahrain Telecommunications Company B.S.C. (‘Bateco’) on its debut bond issue, US$650m 4.25% notes due 2020

- **DP World’s convertible notes**
  - DP World’s US$1bn issue of convertible notes, the first ever DIFC convertible

- **Turk Telekomunikasyon**
  - Turk Telekomunikasyon A.S. US$500m 3.750%. Notes due 2019 and U.S.$500m 4.875%. Notes due 2024

**Islamic finance**

Our award winning Islamic finance team, works on the cutting edge of the Islamic finance field and have advised on some of the most significant and innovative transactions, many of which have been first of its kind. Our Islamic finance practice is core to our success in the Middle East.

- **UK government Sukuk**
  - The UK government on their £200m issue of Shariah-compliant Additional Tier 1 certificates by Al Hail Bank PJSC, the first Basel III-compliant offering in the UAE and the first ever Basel III-compliant AT1 in Sukuk form

- **Emaar Malls Sukuk**
  - Emaar Malls Group, on its debut US$750m Sukuk al Wakala structure, listed on NASDAQ Dubai

- **Flydubai Sukuk**
  - The lead managers on the debut issues of US$500m trust certificates due 2019 for Dubai Aviation Corporation (trading as ‘flydubai’) using passenger capacity as the underlying assets

**International arbitration**

Leading multinational companies and sovereign states increasingly choose the firm’s global team of dedicated arbitration lawyers to advise on all aspects of complex, high-value international arbitrations.

- **European energy company arbitration**
  - A leading European energy company in an arbitration under LCIA Rules brought by two Middle Eastern companies

- **UAE company arbitration**
  - A leading UAE company in an arbitration relating to the termination of a concession agreement in Africa

- **Media company arbitration**
  - A leading Middle Eastern media company in an arbitration relating to the termination of a cooperation and service agreement

- **International bank and U.S. construction company arbitration**
  - A leading international bank and a U.S. construction and engineering company in an arbitration relating to a project in Iraq
Middle East key contacts.

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Top tier rankings

Corporate/M&A: Middle East-wide  
Chambers Global 2015

Capital Markets: Middle East-wide  
Chambers Global 2015

Corporate and M&A: United Arab Emirates  
Legal 500 2015

Capital Markets: United Arab Emirates  
Chambers Global 2015

Corporate/Commercial (Desk based abroad): Qatar  
Chambers Global 2015

Capital Markets: United Arab Emirates  
IFLR1000 2015

Corporate/M&A: High-end Cross-border: United Arab Emirates  
Chambers Global 2015

Banking and Finance: United Arab Emirates  
IFLR1000 2015

Corporate/Commercial (Foreign Desk)  
Chambers Global 2015

Banking and Finance: United Arab Emirates  
Legal 500 2015

Corporate/M&A: United Arab Emirates  
IFLR1000 2015

Islamic Finance: United Arab Emirates  
Legal 500 2015

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