

Real Estate & Construction

Our strong reputation in this sector has developed through a combination of our comprehensive local legal knowledge and practical experience acting for both national and international clients. We have advised on a number of ground breaking developments in the real estate and construction sector.

We have experience in real estate matters across various areas including property finance, property acquisition and sale, development agreements and property litigation and arbitration. A key factor in our success is our understanding of the commercial realities of your business, working closely with you to develop appropriate strategies for each transaction.

Our clients include international corporations, financial institutions, property developers, construction and engineering companies and government and state-owned entities.

We are able to advise our clients on all aspects of construction law, from the beginning of a project through to completion including advising on the procurement process, contractual review and dispute resolution.

We deal with all major forms of construction contract with a primary focus on the FIDIC suite as the predominant standard form contract in the region. We also have a specialised construction arbitration team.

We help clients with:

- Real estate financings, both on a conventional and Islamic basis, development and construction finance, creating and negotiating mortgage finance products and structures;
- Acquisitions, disposals and development of single real estate assets and portfolios;
- Commercial and portfolio leasing;
- Corporate real estate needs, i.e. development, acquisition or leasing of commercial, industrial and retail facilities; real estate portfolio management transactions;
- Property ownership syndicating and structuring, together with real estate management agreements and co-ownership agreements;
- A wide range of non-standard, project specific contracts for project delivery approaches, ranging from engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), design, construct and maintain (DCM), engineering procurement and construction management (EPCM), build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT), public private partnerships (PPP), guaranteed maximum price, partnering and alliance arrangements; and
- Mixed use and industrial development.

What others say about us:

*Best for legal services - MENA
Euromoney Real Estate Awards
2014 & 2015*

*Best for legal services - Global
Euromoney Real Estate Awards
2008 - 2015*

"Very experienced, and there when you need them to be - they step up to the plate."

Chambers Global, 2016

Steven Henderson enjoys a first-class reputation across the market and deploys his experience on an impressive range of noteworthy mandates. Sources affirm that he is "very knowledgeable and efficient" in the real estate sphere.

Chambers Global, 2016

- Tier 1 - Middle East-wide
Legal 500, 2015
- Tier 1 - Dispute Resolution, UAE
Legal 500, 2016
- Tier 1 - Corporate/M&A, KSA
Legal 500, 2016
- Tier 2 - Real Estate, UAE
Legal 500, 2016



Representative Deals

Al Zorah Development (Private) Company Ltd

- Advised on a joint venture between Solidere International and the Ruler of Ajman, on the Master Development, known as Al Zorah, in Ajman, including hotel, residential and commercial aspects.

Majid Al Futtaim Properties

- Advised on the EGP3 billion (circa USD435 million) financing of the construction of the Mall of Egypt.

Economic Zones World

- Advised the operational arm of Jebel Ali Free Zone on its first 'built-to-suit' industrial development.

Dubai Properties Group

- Advised on its joint venture with Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the investment arm of the Government of Bahrain, for the acquisition of land and development of a five star resort in Bahrain.

Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority

- Advised on several deals, including its suite of real estate and ownership documentation for the Free Zone.

Prominent Developer

- Advised on the development and construction of four separate residential projects in Jumeirah valued at approximately AED100 million.

Hasan Ismaik

- Advised the former CEO of Arabtec on the USD963 million sale of a significant stake in Arabtec to Aabar Investments PJSC.

International Contractor

- Advised on drafting a standard form construction agreement for the Al Ain Zoo project in Abu Dhabi.

Prominent Kuwaiti Company

- Acted for the client in a highly complex construction dispute valued at AED1.6 billion against a leading Chinese construction company before the Abu Dhabi Civil Court.

A Major Developer

- Acted for the client on an arbitration against another major developer in the sum of approximately AED1 billion in relation to the creation of a project in Dubailand under UAE law and under DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai.

Prominent Real Estate Developer

- Acted for the client on a delayed payment dispute against a prominent investment company before the Dubai courts. Claim amount approximately AED371 million.

Respondent

- Acted for the client on a DIAC arbitration concerning a dispute relating to a major Dubai-based project development worth AED500 million.

Subcontractor

- Acted for the client on a claim arising from work on the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

Respondent

- Acted as counsel to the respondent in a DIAC arbitration case concerning a development contract dispute worth AED900 million.

Claimant

- Acted as counsel in a set of ad-hoc arbitration proceedings concerning a dispute in relation to the non-payment of subcontracted works under the framework of a major Dubai-based construction project worth AED100 million.

Major Engineering Contractor

- Acted for the client on a dispute in the UAE arising from the installation and commissioning of a complex electrical system in a major facility in Abu Dhabi.

Key Contacts



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