

Regulatory

We have an intimate knowledge of the laws of the UAE and are regularly called on by the UAE government, ministries, government entities and local public entities to assist with the drafting and review of major legislation at Federal and Emirate level, which changes the legal landscape of the UAE.

To draft new laws in a unique jurisdiction such as the UAE not only takes a fundamental understanding of the existing legislative landscape but also requires an understanding of the economic strategy and objectives of these new laws in a business context. It also entails having an understanding of other frameworks globally and what works best in practice to achieve these objectives.

Our legislative and regulatory lawyers have extensive experience in drafting legislation in English and Arabic and have experience in international best practice across a range of areas of the law. We have held governmental positions at the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), and have also worked on drafting the law of the Dubai Healthcare City and the Dubai Aerospace Industries as well as various government committees. We drafted the legal framework that led to the creation of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the first financial free zone in the UAE and Dr Habib Al Mulla served as the Chairman of the legislative committee of the DFSA, the regulatory body of the DIFC.

Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla also drafted the decree establishing the DIFC and the commercial court law for the freezone. At inception, Dr Habib Al Mulla led the Dubai team in negotiations with various federal teams to agree on the concept and the framework as well as the exemptions that the free zone needed.

Whilst a member of the FNC, Dr Habib Al Mulla took the lead on the constitutional amendments and the preparation of the federal law. As Chairman of the Legislative Committee he was responsible, with others, for reviewing and suggesting which laws should be incorporated particularly at the Dubai non free zone level. As Chairman of the DFSA he set out the initial policy for the DFSA (the financial services authority as detailed above).



What others say about us:

"Ability to co-ordinate global investigations and offer clients essential local knowledge, enabling the smooth navigation of different national regulations and anti-corruption laws."

Chambers Global 2015

- Tier 1 - Middle East-wide
Legal 500, 2015
- Tier 1 - Dispute Resolution, UAE
Legal 500, 2016

Representative Deals

- Dubai International Finance Center (DIFC)**
 - Drafted the Commercial Court law and the decree establishing the DIFC.
- The UAE Ministry of Finance**
 - Drafted new laws for financial services in the UAE for the Ministry of Finance.
- Securities & Commodities Authority (ESCA)**
 - Drafted the Primary market (IPO) regulations for the UAE.
- Saudi Capital Market Authority**
 - Assisted in developing the regulatory framework for implementing Capital Market law in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- The Ministry of Finance**
 - Drafted the new UAE Leasing Law for the Ministry of Finance.
- Dubai Healthcare City**
 - Drafted the decree establishing the Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC).
- Dubai Multi Commodities Centre**
 - Drafted the decree establishing the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), its bylaws, as well as its Companies Licensing Regulations.
- International Finance Corporation**
 - Advised the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on drafting the law on movable security for the UAE Government.
- Roads & Transport Authority**
 - Assisted with the review and translation of the regulations of the Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) in Dubai and ensured compliance with UAE laws.
- Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority**
 - Drafted the regulations of the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority.
- Dubai Events Management Authority**
 - Drafted the laws establishing the Dubai Events Management Authority.
- Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority**
 - Reviewed current legislation and advised the Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (DAFZA) on how to make the free zone more competitive from a local, regional and international perspective.
- Securities & Commodities Authority**
 - Drafted the Primary (IPO) Market regularities in the UAE.
- Central Bank of the UAE**
 - Advised on the structuring of the e-payment system in the UAE.
- Ministry of the Interior**
 - Reviewing 20 laws in the UAE (with Booz Allen Hamilton).
- Federal Transport Authority**
 - Reviewing and (re)drafting the UAE Federal Maritime Law.

Key Contacts



Dr. Habib Al Mulla
Chairman, Co-Managing
Partner, UAE
+971 4 423 0001
habib.almulla
@bakermckenzie.com



Mazen Boustany
Partner, Dubai
+971 4 423 0002
mazen.boustany
@bakermckenzie.com



Omar Momany
Partner, Dubai
+971 4 423 0019
omar.momany
@bakermckenzie.com



Tarek Saad
Counsel, Dubai
+971 4 423 0060
tarek.saad
@bakermckenzie.com

www.bakermckenzie.com