



As the global financial services industry continues to be challenged by an increasingly complex regulatory environment and tightening margins, the enhanced regulatory stability and sustained economic development of the Middle East has contributed to the region's attraction as a global investment hub. The legal and regulatory landscape varies significantly across the region and with regulatory and compliance risks consistently being identified as the most serious risks to global firms, regional expert advice is crucial to the development of a successful business model for firms present in, or seeking to invest in, the region.

A Leading Middle East Regulatory Practice

K&L Gates is one of the largest law firms in the world with over 2,300 lawyers in 48 cities on 5 continents around the World and a second to none global financial services regulatory practice.

Our Middle East regulatory practice is led from our Dubai office which is known globally for providing top-tier advice to international and regional banks, investment/asset management firms, corporates and government entities.

Unlike other law firms, we provide our clients with advice not only for the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, where we have offices, but also for the wider Middle East and Levant regions. This unique offering enables our clients to receive seamless, cost-effective advice from one team as opposed to from a network of different firms.

We are one of very few firms that have the expertise to advise on the full risk spectrum, from the detail of compliance with technical requirements under regulatory and industry body rules, through to investigations and, in extreme cases, to criminal liability.

Commitment to the Middle East

Our lawyers are not newcomers to the region. We know how to get things done and to do so efficiently. We understand the local laws and regulations, having been instrumental in writing many of them. We have relationships with senior personnel at government departments which enable us to have the edge on legal and regulatory developments in the region and we have been at the cutting edge of advising local government departments on how to reform existing legal and regulatory frameworks, examples of which include:

- Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development on the reformation of UAE federal law in accordance with the Abu Dhabi 2030 initiative.
- UAE Central Bank on a major review of the Central Bank Law and associated rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
- Saudi Stock Exchange in relation to an innovative equity derivative structure to facilitate foreign institutional investment.
- Nasdaq Dubai in relation to its listing and trading rules.

Key Practice Areas

Our expertise includes:

- Banking, funds, securities, broker-dealer and insurance regulation.
- Marketing, offering and registration of funds and other financial products.
- Establishment of companies, branches and representative offices.
- Advising on broker-dealer and distribution arrangements.
- Advising on corporate governance, compliance, employment issues.
- Advising on and attending regulatory disciplinary and enforcement proceedings.
- Advising governments and financial regulators in the development of legislation, rulemaking and legal policy.

Client Value Added Services

K&L Gates is consistently recognised as a market leader in client service (2013, BTI Client Service 30). We regularly hold client seminars and webinars and produce client alerters on "hot topics" aimed at keeping our clients up to date with legal and regulatory developments across the region.

Learn more about our Finance practice at klgates.com.

Contacts:

Natalie Boyd
+971.4.427.2731
natalie.boyd@klgates.com

Simon Mabin
+971.4.427.2730
simon.mabin@klgates.com

K&L GATES

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K&L Gates practices out of 48 fully integrated offices located in the United States, Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and South America and represents leading global corporations, growth and middle-market companies, capital markets participants and entrepreneurs in every major industry group as well as public sector entities, educational institutions, philanthropic organizations and individuals. For more information about K&L Gates or its locations, practices and registrations, visit www.klgates.com.

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