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MENA Construction



Construction specialists

Simply put, we are experts in construction. We have excellent construction capability and experience across the Middle East and Africa.

We offer a full range of infrastructure, construction and energy law expertise. From procurement planning, contract negotiation and drafting to strategic advice during construction, claim avoidance and settlement and formal dispute resolution through courts, arbitration or ADR. Our team of construction law experts is on hand to provide knowledgeable, reliable advice when it is needed, at any time throughout a construction project.

Our lawyers are recognised for their track record in advising on the largest, most complex projects in the region and for successfully resolving associated major domestic and international disputes. We act for developers, government agencies, oil and gas multinationals, international and domestic contractors and consulting firms.

Our team of construction law professionals is experienced in the complete construction lifecycle; from “cradle to grave”. We have a full service offering, including advising on employment issues, performance bonds and parent company guarantees and representation in connection with all regulatory matters affecting the design, development and construction process.

Our dispute resolution and international arbitration specialists have a wealth of experience in arbitrations administered by prominent arbitral institutions, regional and international, including ADCCAC, ICC, LCIA, DIAC and DIFC-LCIA, as well as those governed by UNCITRAL and other ad hoc rules. We also assist local and international parties who are involved in proceedings in the local courts around the region.



Very highly regarded and experienced construction lawyers.

Legal 500 (United Arab Emirates), 2017



Highly skilled and knowledgeable legal team with cross-border knowledge of applicable local laws. They are very supportive of our business needs.

Chambers and Partners (United Arab Emirates), 2017

Global firm, MENA expertise

We are the 6th largest law firm globally, with over 4,500 lawyers in 72 offices across 42 countries.

We are a modern law firm that blends scale with an exceptional depth of sector expertise.

Our presence in the Middle East and North Africa offers an extremely strong proposition to our clients.

Our regional platform is unique in terms of locations and our genuine commitment and expertise in key sectors and jurisdictions.

Our UAE construction team is a truly market-leading construction practice, made up of five partners and seven lawyers.

- Over 150 lawyers across our MENA offices in Algeria, Iran, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE, and associated offices in Iraq and Lebanon.
- Genuine sector expertise in some of the most exciting investment markets in the world.
- Combining local knowledge with international experience offering advice in Arabic, French, Farsi and English.

Unique MENA footprint

- CMS offices
- Associated CMS offices



Some highlights of our MENA experience

Government of Ras Al Khaimah

On the procurement and construction of the Emirate's wastewater system and multiple waste management projects.

Abu Dhabi Airports Company

On the USD 6.8 billion expansion of Abu Dhabi Airport, including the USD 3.6 billion Midfield Terminal construction contract.

Al Ghurair

On the engineering, procurement and construction of an 8 MW captive clean coal co-generation power plant in Dubai.

Babcock and Wilcox Volund

On its bid for the Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Operation of an AED 2 billion (USD 545 million) solid waste to energy project in Dubai.

BP Middle East

On an aviation fuel tank farm project at Erbil International Airport, including advising on a Concession Agreement with the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Gulf Data Hub

On the design and build of a Tier III LEED Silver, multi-tenant Data Centre at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.

The Abraaj Group

On the development of multiple hospital projects across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Korea Electric Power Corporation/Mitsubishi Corporation/Wartsilla

On the USD 800 million, 573 MW, IPP3 independent power project in Jordan.

Olbapack SA

On the USD 37 million, 1 billion cans per year, aluminium canning plant in Algeria.

Japan/Turkey joint venture (Obayashi/Kajima/Yapi Merkezi)

On the USD 4.2 billion first phase of the Dubai Metro and related time and money claims.

Cimerwa Ltd

On the USD 100 million, 1,500 TPD, cement plant in Rwanda.

Global Student Accommodation

On a student accommodation building in Dubai and a USD 30 million sale and leaseback.

Acropole Holdings Limited

On the design and construction of a Novotel hotel development in Downtown Dubai.

Sumitomo Corporation/Malakoff International Limited/Aljomaih

On the USD 7 billion Ras Azzour IWPP in Saudi Arabia.

An oil major

On a USD 300 million LCIA arbitration arising out of an oil drilling contract in Iraq.



Dynamic construction-focused firm, with noted strengths in dispute resolution and arbitration. Furthermore, on top of its contentious construction work, the practice often advises on non-contentious development and infrastructure-related matters. The firm has a large base of both local and international clients.

Chambers and Partners (United Arab Emirates), 2017



Extremely professional – they provide an efficient service and have a good knowledge of UAE law and practices.

Chambers and Partners (United Arab Emirates), 2017



Get in touch



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Nick is the Head of Construction at CMS Dubai and has worked in Dubai since 2005. He specialises in the drafting and negotiation of construction related contracts, as well as advising on associated disputes, on projects spanning the Middle East and Africa.

Nick's experience includes building contracts; EPC contracts; consultancy services contracts; public works concession contracts; and O&M contracts. He has considerable experience using and advising on the FIDIC standard forms of contract.

Nick has advised and represented clients from all sides of the construction, engineering and project development industries, including international construction and engineering contractors and consultants; commercial real estate developers; government ministries and agencies; developers of industrial projects, process plants and petrochemical plants; promoters and developers of independent water and power projects; and oil and gas multinationals.



Focusses on non-contentious construction mandates...recommended.

Legal 500, 2017



Reliably produces good advice in a timely manner and has led the construction side of many deals.

Legal 500, 2014



Non-contentious specialist.

Legal 500, 2016



Provides solid technical advice in a commercial context.

Legal 500, 2012



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