

About Fieldfisher

Fieldfisher is an international law firm with market leading practices in many of the world's most dynamic sectors. We are a forward thinking organisation with a particular focus on technology, telecoms, finance and financial services, energy and natural resources.

Our global international network of 27 offices supports our established on-the-ground Middle East and North Africa (MENA) practice and a local client base that includes major local players such as banks, sovereign funds, telecoms, energy companies, government agencies, pharmaceutical and medical device companies and social media platforms.

The Fieldfisher MENA team boasts lawyers who are qualified to practice in the Dubai International Financial Court (DIFC) and over 20 Arabic speakers. As per common practice for most international firms in the Middle East, we collaborate with some of the leading local law firms and consultancies in major contentious and transactional matters across the region and beyond.

We act only in areas where we feel are strongly positioned to add value and advise our regional clients, such as Investigations & Compliance, Disputes & Arbitration, Banking (including Islamic finance), Corporate and Tax.

Some of our clients

- Major Abu Dhabi bank
- International audit firm
- Major e-commerce provider
- Regional telco regulatory authority
- Global telco
- International bank
- Major ME development company
- Major ME airline
- Global asset management firm
- ME petroleum company
- Regional investment authority
- Regional bank
- Global oil and gas exploration firm



Miguel Vaz

Partner, MENA Group –
Global Investigations
& Compliance



+44 (0)330 460 7235
miguel.vaz@fieldfisher.com

Vivien Davies

Partner MENA Group –
Middle East Disputes



+44 (0)330 460 6695
vivien.davies@fieldfisher.com

Aymen Khoury

Partner, MENA Group –
Middle East Disputes



+44 (0)330 460 6593
aymen.khoury@fieldfisher.com

How we help

The MENA region is a fast changing and dynamic market. On the background of our extensive knowledge and experience of the laws, language and business customs of the region, we have been able to provide clients with a road map, navigating them through any issues or queries they may have, or advice they may need.

We offer the board platform to not only cover the legal aspects of a project, but also to evaluate the commercial risk, the financial models available and also advice on how best to establish a presence in a country if that is considered desirable.

We have extensive regional experience of acting on both contentious and transactional work. We are continuously involved in significant corporate investigations, compliance remediation and training, litigation and arbitration as well as complex transactions, often set in a multi-jurisdictional context.

We have the knowledge and resources to provide tailored commercial advice to companies and private clients who conduct business within the MENA region and farther afield.

Our MENA team includes individuals who work and are qualified to practice in the region, including at the Dubai International Financial Court. As such, our cross-sector team recognises the unique features of conducting business in MENA and understand first-hand the expectations of clients working in the region.

“

Clients choose to work with us because we deliver commercial, pragmatic and innovative solutions through our exceptional legal expertise and knowledge of the regional legal and regulatory landscape – all of this on time and on budget!

”

Our MENA experience

Financial Services & Investigations

- › Advising a banking institution in connection with an investigation by the Dubai Financial Services Authority into anti-money laundering failures. Assisting with the internal fact finding investigation, reporting to the DFSA and subsequent accountability review.
- › Advising various financial services and large corporations across the Middle East and Africa on corruption, terrorism financing, financial crime, anti-money laundering, misappropriation of funds and asset-tracing investigations. Assisting with the investigative stages, reporting to relevant authorities, compliance remediation and accountability reviews.
- › Representing a FTSE-listed plc in successfully negotiating the restructuring of trade finance arrangements between its group companies and a leading UAE bank, in the context of allegations of fraud and the misuse of such funds for non-Sharia compliant investments and the threat of worldwide freezing orders. We also advised the client in the context of related ongoing criminal proceedings in Dubai and Bahrain.
- › Acting for a major international bank on the disposal of its retail portfolio in the UAE.

Telecom, Energy & Infrastructure

- › Advising a regional telco regulator on telecom and spectrum auctions regulations in the EU, Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- › Assisting numerous telecom and energy regional players on all aspects of internal compliance and wrongdoing investigations. Managing regulatory interaction and compliance remediation.
- › Acting for the claimants in a series of ICC arbitration proceedings focused on Middle East shareholder disputes and relating to the telecoms industry transactions worth in excess of US\$4.5 billion.
- › Acting for an oil and gas company and its high profile Middle Eastern shareholders in defending various claims (in England, Mauritius and South Africa) arising out of rights issues. The proceedings involved interlocutory applications in all three jurisdictions, including applications for a worldwide freezing injunction for US\$33 million and search and seizure orders.
- › Acting for a Middle Eastern petroleum company in a claim against a former employee and sham company for misappropriation of £5 million in a property related fraud. We obtained a worldwide freezing order and recovered significant sums.

Other

- › Acting for and advising various high net-worth clients and Ruling families from the Middle East region on investment structures and acquisitions in the EU and USA.
- › Advising a shipping company in relation to a container terminal concession agreement.

