

Chambers

Global

2021

The leading lawyers
and law firms globally

Palestine

chambers.com



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

Contents:

General Business Law p.2321

General Business Law

General Business Law
Leading Firms
Band 1
A.F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm *
Al Zaeem & Associates
Hussam Attareh Group for Legal Services
Band 2
Ittqan Consulting Services
Kamal & Associates
Band 3
Husseini & Hussein
Kurdi & Co.
Nabil Mushahwar Law Offices
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Al Zaeem Sharhabeel Al Zaeem & Associates
Attareh Firas Hussam Attareh Group for Legal Services
Kamal Rasem Kamal & Associates
Band 2
Assaf Muhanad Ittqan Consulting Services
Mushahwar Nabil Nabil Mushahwar Law Offices
Shehadeh Kareem A.F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm
Shehadeh Nadeem A.F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm
Band 3
Husseini Hiba Hussein & Hussein
Katbeh Lubna Equity Legal Group (ORL) ◇
Kurdi Mousa Kurdi & Co.
Up-and-coming individuals
Nesnas Mark-George Ittqan Consulting Services
* Indicates firm with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

A.F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm

See profile on p.2323

Based in Ramallah, this firm is known for its wealth of experience representing international clients and maintains an outstanding reputation in the market. One source described it as “the top law firm in the West Bank.” The firm is notable for its expertise in trade mark registration and enforcement, and also advises on a wide range of M&A transactions and disputes. Interviewees state that the team is “very responsive,” adding: “They’re brilliant individuals and collectively they do a marvellous job.”

Kareem Shehadeh is an experienced practitioner who is very visible acting for high-profile individuals, as well as major corporations. He also offers admirable experience in banking and finance. **Nadeem Shehadeh** remains a notable figure in the Palestinian market, having built a reputation for

his transactional work. He has experience in corporate and finance matters, including bond insurance and shareholder agreements.

Al Zaeem & Associates

Commentators consistently regard Al Zaeem & Associates as the leading law firm in Gaza, particularly when it comes to representing international clients. It is especially well versed in finance matters, counting numerous banks and financial institutions among its clients. The team also acts for several NGOs and has further experience advising telecoms operators and energy companies. A source declared: “I would recommend them for anything in Gaza.”

Sharhabeel Al Zaeem maintains an outstanding reputation in Gaza and is well known for his representation of NGOs, banks and major corporates. Clients judge him to be “a very strong adviser” and “very good at putting contracts together.” In addition to his legal work he is well known for his academic position at the Islamic University of Gaza and his board membership roles at several notable companies.

Hussam Attareh Group for Legal Services

This firm is widely recognised for its specialism in IP matters, with one commentator going so far as to name it “the best in IP law in Palestine.” The firm is a well-established adviser to several well-known technology clients and is accustomed to working alongside international law firms. Beyond intellectual property, the team also has expertise in licensing, taxation and corporate governance. Sources appreciate its “prompt, clear and detailed responses to emails and queries,” and its high standards of client service in general.

Firas Attareh has broad-ranging expertise in intellectual property, regularly assisting with trade mark and patent registrations as well as opposition proceedings. Commentators describe him as “an excellent attorney” who is “responsive, smart, intelligent and very tough in litigation,” further appreciating that “he is the sort of lawyer who has a good commercial view.”

Band 2

Ittqan Consulting Services

This firm has offices in Ramallah as well as a presence in Amman in Jordan. It is applauded for its handling of a diverse range of work, from banking regulatory matters to M&A, commercial contracts and corporate governance. Commentators praise the group for its “excellent knowledge of the law,” adding that “their service is of excellent quality and they are extremely responsive.” The team regularly acts for startups and venture capital investors, and has complementary expertise in employment and intellectual property.

In addition to transactional issues it is also active on high-value litigation.

Muhanad Assaf advises on a wide range of non-contentious matters, including M&A transactions and banking regulatory issues. He also regularly assists with disputes. One client described him as “a trusted adviser on all issues relevant to our organisation in Palestine,” while others highlight his extensive legal knowledge and strong sense of strategy. According to sources, **Mark Nesnas** is “responsive and understands client needs.” He assists with a wide variety of transactional and commercial advisory work and is viewed by commentators as “a rising star.”

Kamal & Associates

Kamal & Associates represents a diverse list of clients, including NGOs, government ministries and high net worth individuals. In addition, the team acts for several development banks and financial services companies. Clients judge the firm to be “reliable and efficient,” and say: “They have always done a great job.” Highlight transactions include guiding the European Investment Bank through its provision of two loan facilities, with a combined total of USD28 million, to the Palestine Investment Fund and leading micro-finance organisation Faten respectively.

Rasem Kamal is well respected by market commentators, who laud his hands-on and industrious approach, as well as his attention to detail. He has considerable expertise in real estate, finance and private client matters and is acknowledged by his peers as a market-leading lawyer. Interviewees also value his “very professional and precise” advice.

Band 3

Husseini & Hussein

Husseini & Hussein has a well-established presence in the Palestinian market. The firm has a broad base of skills and is very well known for litigation in a variety of sectors. The team is highly visible on labour and employment issues and is noted for working with NGOs and international companies. Key members of the team are also involved in consultation and drafting in relation to legislation.

Managing partner **Hiba Hussein** is held in high esteem by market sources, who agree she is a “very good” lawyer. She is highly experienced acting for international clients and combines her legal practice with board membership roles at a number of business organisations.

Kurdi & Co.

This noted firm is well versed in real estate matters, having advised on an extensive list of sales and acquisitions in the West Bank. It also maintains a vibrant litigation practice

which showcases expertise in employment and intellectual property litigation, as well as real estate and commercial contract disputes. Commercial advisory work is another string to its bow, with the firm representing a broad range of clients, from startups to well-established enterprises.

Firm founder **Mousa Kurdi** is a well-established litigation lawyer with a strong client following. He is known for his prodigious work rate and complements his disputes expertise with a sound grasp of transactional matters.

Nabil Mushahwar Law Offices

This West Bank-based firm has a respectable presence in the market. It has a considerable wealth of experience in litigation and is particularly noted for advising clients from the finance sector. The team is also involved in real estate, as well as corporate and other matters for companies in the insurance sector. Commentators hail it as *"a good firm for local litigation work."*

Nabil Mushahwar is an esteemed figure in Palestine with a reputation as a *"very strong litigator."* He is well known for his abilities as an advocate and his successful handling of a wide range of general commercial and white-collar criminal disputes, in addition to his particular expertise in insurance cases.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Commentators highlight **Lubna Katbeh** as *"a capable lawyer"* who is conscientious and pleasant to work with. A respected and experienced individual, her practice has a strong emphasis on commercial litigation and arbitration. She also has considerable expertise in banking regulatory matters, including those pertaining to microfinance.

A. F. & R. SHEHADEH LAW FIRM

www.shehadehlaw.com tel: +972 2 296 1111 fax: +972 2 295 3471

Managing Partners: Raja Shehadeh, Nadeem Shehadeh, Kareem Shehadeh, Aziz Shehadeh

Number of lawyers: 10

Languages: Arabic, English, French, Hebrew

Firm Overview:

Founded in 1935 in the coastal city of Jaffa, A. F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm is a Ramallah based law firm, and is one of the oldest, leading, and best-known law firms in Palestine with lawyers who are members of the American, British and Palestinian Bar Associations. It is a big firm by local standards consisting of 10 lawyers and a strong trilingual support team. The firm's lawyers offer responsive, timely and focused advice. The firm has unrivalled experience in all corporate matters relating to both local and foreign private and public companies. Lawyers extensively advise on shareholder rights and agreements, management responsibilities, IPOs and secondary offerings. Other areas of practice include corporate and commercial advising, capital markets, banking and project finance, international business transactions, energy including renewable and natural resources, intellectual property and litigation in all Palestinian courts, and dispute resolution. The firm has associates in many countries.

Based on interviews with clients and competitors, *Chambers and Partners Legal Publishers, The World's Leading Lawyers* 2003 edition, page 879 published the following:

- "The most prestigious and professional firm in the West Bank. It is a family run practice with an intellectual reputation, which offers wide-ranging corporate advice to international clients in Arabic, Hebrew, English and French. The firm is seen in banking and property matters and has a niche representing foreign investors in the energy sector"
- "The Lawyers: Renowned writer-lawyer Raja Shehadeh and senior partner Fuad Shehadeh are key contact partners"
- "Other Partners include: Nadeem Shehadeh, JD, member of the Utah State Bar 1991, American Bar Association & Palestinian Bar Association. Kareem Shehadeh, JD, member of the Palestinian Bar Association"

Chambers and Partners Legal Publishers, The World's Leading Lawyers 2004-05 edition, page 1142 published the following:

- "The Lawyers: Senior Partner Fuad Shehadeh is the brains behind the firm. Well connected in business and political circles, he is described by interviewees as an amazing practitioner who knows his law. Raja Shehadeh gained plaudits for his role as a writer, whilst Nadeem Shehadeh was said to come up with innovative solutions to tricky problems"

A number of distinguished judges in the judicial system received their lawyer training at the firm; some of the senior and most successful lawyers currently practicing in the West Bank also trained at A. F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm. Three members are licensed as legal translators by the Palestinian Ministry of Justice from the English language into the Arabic language and vice-versa.

Main Areas of Practice:

A. F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm has a national reputation in energy law, having represented international oil and gas companies in the energy industry since well before the beginning of the 21st century. Today, the firm maintains a continuing awareness of statutory, judicial and regulatory pronouncements and policies affecting businesses engaged in utility industries such as natural gas, electric power, renewable energy and telecommunications.

The firm represents a number of leading local and international institutions. It has acted for a number of multimillion-dollar projects including the Bethlehem 2000 Millennium Project, and the Gaza power Generating Company. In view of the worldwide 'GO GREEN' initiative, the firm has been heavily involved in developing the renewable energy sector both domestically and internationally. It has represented the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank in a number of its projects in Palestine involving water, electricity, local government, housing finance, drafting of laws, and renewable energy projects. It has advised on the merger of banks and on issues relative to the issuance of bonds and share-swap transactions. It acts as the attorney for various production plants. For a number of decades it acted as honorary counsel for the British Consulate in Jerusalem and has also been acting for a number of diplomatic missions including the Canadian, Irish, Danish, Brazilian, South African and Australian representative offices to Palestine.

Clients:

The firm acts as the attorney for major local and international non-governmental organisations including the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, SOS-Kinderdorf International, and Palestine Association for Children's Encouragement of Sports (PACES). It also represents a number of major national and international companies and banks including the National Insurance Company, HSBC Bank Middle East, Nestlé S.A, National Beverage Company; the Bottler of the Coca Cola Products. The firm has also helped in drafting the Industrial Estates Law. Moreover, the firm has been representing the following international companies in certain fields in Palestine: Addidas AG, AT&T Corporation, Astellas Pharma Inc., Bacardi & Company Limited, Baker & McKenzie LLP, Chrysler LLC, Colgate Palmolive Company, Domino's Pizza Inc., Federal Express Corporation, Fédération Internationale de Football Association, Fila Fareast Ltd, Glaxo Group Limited, Henkel KGaA, British Gas, Lucent International Inc., MasterCard International Incorporated, McDonald's Corporation, Mercedes-Benz Aklengesell schaft, Novartis AG, Puma A.G., Rolex SA, Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, The Gillette Company, The Mennen Company, Volkswagen AG, Google Inc., and Apple Inc.

PRACTICE AREAS

Banking, Finance & Capital Markets
Corporate Commercial & Representation of Foreign Companies
Insurance Defence
Infrastructure & Construction Projects (Oil, Gas & Renewable Energy)
Public Private Partnership (PPP) Intellectual Property
Real Estate
Litigation & Dispute Resolution
International Trade
Labour & Employment

OFFICES

PALESTINE

RAMALLAH: 26 Main Street, P. O. Box 74, West Bank

JERUSALEM: P. O. Box 20007, East Jerusalem, 91199 via Israel

A. F. & R. Shehadeh Law Firm's Social Contribution:

The firm's social policy is to allocate time to its members to help certain social projects that make it possible to benefit local Palestinian society and bring sustainability to small, local and cultural projects, free of charge, whenever possible. The firm had a large role in the establishment of the first human rights organisation in Palestine and the Arab region, al Haq, and the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists during the most difficult times. This came at very high price because the Authority was disgruntled with these efforts. Raja Shehadeh, one of the senior partners was the organisation's voluntary co-director for over 13 years.