

# Chambers

Global —————  
2022

The leading lawyers  
and law firms globally

Qatar



## 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.

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## Corporate/Commercial

Corporate/Commercial	Corporate/Commercial	Corporate/Commercial: Banking & Finance
<b>Leading Firms</b>	<b>Eminent Practitioners</b>	<b>Leading Individuals</b>
<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Eminent Practitioners</b>	<b>Band 1</b>
Dentons	Al-Abdulla Sultan M Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *	Hussain Amjad K&L Gates
Simmons & Simmons	<b>Leading Individuals</b>	<b>Band 2</b>
<b>Band 2</b>	<b>Band 1</b>	Chan Simon K&L Gates
Al-Ansari & Associates	Hamad Alaa Arab Law Bureau	Heaton Matthew J Al Tamimi & Company
Al Tamimi & Company in association with Advocate	Kabbani Dani Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP	MacRitchie Alan Addleshaw Goddard LLP
Arab Law Bureau	Wingfield Andrew Simmons & Simmons	Matni Elias K&L Gates
Clyde & Co LLP	<b>Band 2</b>	<b>Associates to watch</b>
Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP	Al-Ansari Salman A. Al-Ansari & Associates	Lawson Maha Simmons & Simmons
Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners	Anani Ahmad Addleshaw Goddard LLP	
White & Case LLP	Cattan Jr E William Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *	
<b>Band 3</b>	Hussain Amjad K&L Gates	
Addleshaw Goddard LLP	Lucente Frank Al Tamimi & Company	
K&L Gates	Moubaydeen Safwan Dentons	
Sharq Law Firm	Nammour Zaher Dentons	
* Indicates individual with profile.	<b>Band 3</b>	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Al Saad Rashid Sharq Law Firm	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Higham Emma Clyde & Co LLP	
	Mahmood Salman Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *	
	Matni Elias K&L Gates	
	<b>Band 4</b>	
	Hill Brenda DLA Piper LLP (ORL) ◇ *	
	Jaafir Ahmed Al Tamimi & Company	
	Keane Lee Clyde & Co LLP	
	Khan Rukhsana Westway Law (ORL) ◇	
	Maakaron Charbel Crowell & Moring LLP (ORL) ◇	
	Sajian Rafi Al-Ansari & Associates	
	Sarkis Samer Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP	
	<b>Associates to watch</b>	
	Doumit Diane Arab Law Bureau	
	Lawson Maha Simmons & Simmons	

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

### Addleshaw Goddard LLP

**What the team is known for** The Doha office of Addleshaw Goddard is an increasingly significant player in banking and finance in Qatar, complemented by further strengths in corporate and commercial matters. The firm frequently represents clients in high-profile equity capital markets issuances, Shari'a-compliant financings and corporate restructurings.

**Strengths** One source says: "I think they've got a good knowledge of the market, with excellent local clients. They're approachable, responsive and easy to deal with at all levels."

Another interviewee adds: "They are very strong locally, particularly when it comes to capital markets work."

**Work highlights** A team led by Ahmad Anani advised QLM Life and Medical Insurance on its QAR659 million IPO.

#### Notable practitioners

**Ahmad Anani** is based in Doha and is lauded by sources for his work across a broad range of transactions. He is especially prominent in equity capital markets and corporate structuring mandates. "Ahmad Anani understands the market and the client very well." **Alan MacRitchie** is a respected banking

and finance lawyer based in Doha. He regularly assists with both conventional and Islamic financing arrangements, and has particular experience in real estate finance work. His recent workload has also included major debt restructuring mandates. "It's a pleasure working with him. He's a nice guy, he knows Qatari law well and he is very responsive." **Robin Hickman** is based in Dubai, from where he operates a notable Qatari banking and finance practice. His recent work includes high-profile Islamic finance transactions and debt restructurings, in which he often represents leading domestic financial institutions. "On top of being a well-experienced banking lawyer, Robin is precise and is the type of lawyer you need when you have tight deadlines."

### Al-Ansari & Associates

**What the team is known for** Al-Ansari & Associates is a skilled domestic law firm based in Doha that is widely recognised for its strength in corporate transactions, particularly within the sports sector. The team is particularly adept in restructurings as well as providing regulatory advice. It is also experienced in acting for local and international clients on finance transactions, as well as all aspects of engineering and construction projects.

**Strengths** One client says: "Al-Ansari & Associates stands out in terms of depth of knowledge of local laws and best practices. They have a team of lawyers with extensive local, regional and international experience." Another client adds: "The firm excels in providing a high quality of service by ensuring that requests and objectives are fully understood, responses are provided in a timely manner and tasks are completed in the most efficient way."

**Work highlights** A team led by Salman Al-Ansari and Rafi Sajian advised Traveler on the restructuring of its local entity.

#### Notable practitioners

**Salman Al-Ansari** is widely applauded for his strengths in matters ranging from company formation to M&A and securities issuances. Based in Doha, he is especially well known for his experience handling corporate matters within the sports sector. "Salman possesses an unparalleled level of knowledge and is always able to provide solutions to complex matters." "Salman really knows not just the law but the way things work, so his advice is very pragmatic."

**Rafi Sajian** enjoys an increasingly significant reputation for his extensive skills in the corporate and commercial sphere, most notably for restructurings and regulatory matters. He is based in Doha and regularly acts for a variety of domestic and international

Foreign Desks (Based Abroad) Corporate/Commercial
<b>Qatari expertise</b> based in countries listed below
UK Allen & Overy LLP
UK Clifford Chance LLP

Foreign Experts (Based Abroad) Corporate/Commercial
<b>Qatari expertise</b> based in countries listed below
Lebanon El Meouchi Chadia Badri and Salim El (ORL) ♦ *
UK Abou Charaf Charbel White & Case LLP *
United Arab Emirates Eido Samer Allen & Overy LLP
USA Visser Michiel White & Case LLP *
* Indicates individual with profile.
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

clients, particularly from the sports sector. "His mastery of the local law and international best standards helped us conclude many transactions." "He has extensive knowledge and expertise in corporate and compliance matters."

### Allen & Overy LLP

**What the team is known for** Allen & Overy is a stellar international law firm which assists with a broad range of Qatari matters. The firm continues to act on numerous notable finance mandates, including syndicated loan facilities, with further proficiency in investment funds. It is also accomplished at cross-border M&A and capital markets transactions.

#### Notable practitioners

**Samer Eido** is now based in Dubai, having previously been managing partner of the firm's Doha office until its closure in 2019. He maintains a strong Qatari practice, advising an array of domestic and international clients on major banking and finance transactions and restructuring and insolvency matters.

### Al Tamimi & Company in association with Advocate Mohammed Al Marri

**What the team is known for** Al Tamimi is a prominent regional law firm with a strong Qatari corporate practice. It assists domestic and international clients with M&A transactions, regulatory advice and corporate restructurings. The team is well versed in acting for banks and insurance companies, in addition to well-known technology clients.

**Strengths** Clients find that the firm is "very proactive, engaging and gets the work done in a timely manner." One highly impressed client states: "It has been a true pleasure to work with each member of the team, who always made themselves available. Their warmth and personality made it easy to work with them."

#### Notable practitioners

**Matthew Heaton** is the head of Al Tamimi's Doha office and has established himself as a go-to lawyer for banking and finance transactions in Qatar. With experience of acting for both domestic and international clients, he demonstrates notable strengths in asset finance and debt restructurings. "Matthew Heaton is a personable and pragmatic lawyer who is very easy to deal with." "Matthew really stands out in my mind – he was on the other side of the transaction but took a very collaborative approach." **Frank Lucente** is an esteemed corporate lawyer based in Doha with experience across the full gamut of transactional work. Of late this has included a number

Foreign Experts (Based Abroad) Banking & Finance
<b>Qatari expertise</b> based in countries listed below
United Arab Emirates Hickman Robin Addleshaw

of corporate restructuring matters, as well as joint venture and corporate governance advice. **Ahmed Jaafir** is based in Doha and leads Al Tamimi's corporate structuring practice in Qatar. He has garnered an enviable reputation for corporate structuring and restructuring matters. "Ahmed is just so good at what he does; he always sets expectations and meets them. It's a pleasure to work with him."

### Arab Law Bureau

**What the team is known for** Arab Law Bureau (ALB) is a leading law firm with an especially distinguished finance practice in Qatar. The firm's Doha office offers broad-ranging corporate capabilities covering acquisitions, group restructuring and insolvency mandates. Furthermore, its banking practice covers significant project finance transactions, especially in syndicated finance. Clients include international financial institutions as well as government-related entities.

**Strengths** One source says: "ALB is certainly one of the firms we will turn to if we ever need to recommend a local law firm. We find them pragmatic, knowledgeable about Qatari law, and extremely courteous and collaborative in their approach."

A client adds: "The firm continues to be the epitome of legal professionalism and excellence in Qatar."

**Work highlights** An ALB team led by Alaa Hamad acted for Qatar Islamic Bank on a QARI2 billion facility agreement to QTerminals.

#### Notable practitioners

**Alaa Hamad** is a distinguished lawyer based in Doha who is noted for his extensive expertise across the full spectrum of transactional matters. He particularly excels in project finance, and has additional experience advising on M&A, corporate structurings and restructurings. "Alaa Hamad's deep understanding of the legal landscape in Qatar and his ability to apply that knowledge to get results for his clients is impressive, though no less impressive is his ability to convey complicated legal concepts to his clients directly and clearly." "He is an excellent lawyer – pragmatic, collaborative and with lengthy experience of operating in the Qatar market." Senior associate **Diane Doumit** is based in Doha, from where she assists with financial restructurings as well as project finance mandates. Her clients include several domestic and international corporations from the oil and gas sector. "Diane is a legal expert who is not only very knowledgeable in the letter of the law but more importantly its practical application. She is always up to date on the latest developments and trends both in the law and in practice." "She is able to provide practical solutions when roadblocks are faced and has been very accommodating to client requests."

### Clifford Chance LLP

**What the team is known for** Clifford Chance is a formidable law firm known for its significant commitment to the Middle East, which includes a regular flow of Qatar work. The firm is often applauded by commentators for its extensive experience in the field of project finance, and possesses further

strength in M&A, banking and capital markets mandates. Clients include both domestic and international corporations and financial institutions.

#### Notable practitioners

Abu Dhabi-based Jason Mendens is a key contact for the firm's Qatari practice.

### Clyde & Co LLP

**What the team is known for** Clyde & Co is a well-established presence in Qatar, and its Doha office provides a comprehensive offering across a variety of sectors and practice areas. The firm excels in the employment sphere, covering a wide range of matters from workplace investigations to immigration. The transactional team offers counsel on joint ventures and outbound infrastructure investments.

**Strengths** A client comments: "They have good local knowledge and are very quick to react. The entire team from partners to juniors are very, very quick to respond."

Another client summarises the firm's strengths as "knowledge of the matters, a to-the-point, explanatory approach and timely response."

**Work highlights** A team led by Lee Keane acted for QTerminals in relation to its acquisition of Akdeniz Port in Turkey from Global Ports Holding.

#### Notable practitioners

**Emma Higham** is an esteemed Doha-based lawyer who is well respected for her robust employment practice. She excels in advising on an array of employee grievance matters, workplace investigations and immigration issues. "I would not hesitate to recommend Emma Higham for advice in this market. She is highly knowledgeable, practical and supportive." "Emma to me is a role model and an excellent labour lawyer in Qatar." Doha-based **Lee Keane** is well versed in corporate and commercial mandates. He regularly acts on cross-border transactions, including sales and acquisitions. "Lee is efficient, easy to get on with and very supportive of our needs. He helped to me navigate between legal and business requirements."

### Dentons

**What the team is known for** Dentons is a respected international law firm with a market-leading office in Qatar. The team is highly respected for its capabilities in relation to M&A, restructuring and commercial agreements. The firm also demonstrates particularly extensive knowledge of finance in the aviation sector. Clients include government and semi-government entities, domestic corporations and international investment companies.

**Strengths** One client found the firm to be "forthcoming, precise and deeply knowledgeable in complex structuring matters. The Dentons Doha team is a strong partner and provides guidance and solutions for complex matters."

Another client notes of the firm's global network that "Dentons has branches all over the world, so in matters that cross many jurisdictions, they have the breadth to handle it and give the best advice."

**Work highlights** A Dentons team led by Safwan Moubaydeen, Andrew Jones and Zaher Nammour provides ongoing support to the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy during the lead-up to the 2022 FIFA World Cup, including advising on commercial agreements, contract drafting, and occupational health and safety matters.

**Notable practitioners**

**Safwan Moubaydeen** is a widely esteemed lawyer who currently acts as the managing partner of Dentons' Doha and Amman offices. He regularly represents international and domestic clients in a wide array of commercial agreements, corporate governance issues and restructuring mandates. *"Safwan is a veteran corporate lawyer. He is revered and enjoys an impeccable reputation both in Qatar and in the wider region."* *"With very strong leadership and knowledge of complex structuring matters, Safwan has continually provided very strong guidance."* **Zaher Nam-mour** is an accomplished lawyer based in Doha who is praised by sources for his work on high-profile M&A, corporate restructuring and foreign investment transactions. His clientele includes domestic companies, government-related entities and international financial institutions. *"Zaher's knowledge of Qatari law is exceptional, and he is able to provide practical, workable solutions that accommodate the latest market conditions, as well as being able to meet very tight deadlines."* *"Zaher has impressed me. He is always there when you need him."*

**Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP**

**What the team is known for** Eversheds Sutherland fields a long-established team in Doha that regularly advises international clients on cross-border transactions. The team is also greatly appreciated for its in-depth understanding of local law issues, with a remarkable track record in acquisitions, regulatory matters and restructurings. It is equally adept at counselling clients on fund formation, Islamic finance and real estate matters.

**Strengths** One impressed client states: *"Their service is brilliant."*

**Work highlights** An Eversheds team led by Dani Kabbani advised Al Faleh Educational Holding on its listing on the Venture Market of the Qatar Stock Exchange, valued at QAR240 million.

**Notable practitioners**

**Dani Kabbani** maintains a stellar corporate practice and is best known for his handling of M&A, restructuring and private equity mandates. Based in Doha, he is also a skilled adviser in the projects field, assisting with project finance agreements as well as the structuring of a variety of PPPs. *"Dani provides efficient and value-led service, and is well known for his expertise in the region."* **Samer Sarkis** is a Doha-based lawyer who is well respected for his capabilities across the corporate sphere. His skills range from M&A and group restructurings to private equity and real estate transactions.

**K&L Gates**

**What the team is known for** K&L Gates has a highly skilled banking and finance team in Doha that is especially accomplished in Islamic finance. The firm is experienced in advising major international clients on real estate finance, asset finance and restructuring transactions. It frequently acts for regulatory bodies such as the Qatar Financial Centre Authority, and provides a wealth of guidance on corporate structurings. The firm's corporate practice also extends to M&A and regulatory matters.

**Strengths** One client enthuses: *"I think they have the expertise on the ground, they're diligent in the work they do and they're very caring about their clients."*

**Work highlights** A team led by Amjad Hussain represented Masraf Al Rayan in its merger with Al Khaliji Commercial Bank.

**Notable practitioners**

**Simon Chan** is well versed in a wide range of finance matters, acting for both borrowers and lenders. Based in Doha, he is also noted for his skills in fintech and banking regulatory matters. *"Simon is technically strong, very responsive and commercial."* **Amjad Hussain** is a Doha-based lawyer who is widely considered a leader in Qatari finance matters. He is acclaimed by clients for his strengths in Islamic and asset finance, and offers further expertise in M&A transactions and commercial contract work. *"Amjad's diverse knowledge base and ability to quickly understand key issues and distil these into manageable action items is very impressive. His advice is clear, and his experience of local practice makes him stand out."* *"Amjad is very pleasant and collaborative in his approach."*

**Elias Matni** is an experienced Doha-based lawyer who excels in corporate transactions, ranging from joint ventures to regulatory matters. He also demonstrates extensive expertise in banking and finance, most significantly in regard to project finance and M&A transactions within the banking sector. He joined K&L Gates as special counsel in January 2022 after leaving Simmons & Simmons. *"Elias is incredibly knowledgeable when it comes to providing easy-to-follow and practical advice. He's available at any time as well."*

**Sharq Law Firm**

**What the team is known for** Sharq Law Firm is a noteworthy Qatari practice based in Doha with a highly developed commercial offering. The firm is active on a number of high-profile capital markets transactions, M&A, corporate restructuring and Islamic finance mandates. It demonstrates further capabilities in corporate governance and competition law. Clients regularly include companies from the real estate and technology sectors, as well as government bodies.

**Strengths** A client concludes that the firm *"has shown a full knowledge of the field in which they have provided services, with a good awareness of the requirements of the client."*

Another client agrees that *"the advice provided has always been decisive. The Sharq team has always shown expertise in the legal field and come up with effective and innovative solutions to any problem."*

**Work highlights** A team led by senior partner Rashid Al Saad acted as local counsel to Qatar Petroleum on its acquisition of Yara's shares in Qatar Fertiliser Company.

**Notable practitioners**

**Rashid Al Saad** is a Doha-based lawyer who excels in a wide range of transactional work, from capital markets issuances to acquisitions and Islamic finance. His clients include both domestic and international entities from the technology, finance, and oil and gas sectors. *"Rashid Al Saad is an amazing, skilful and smart man."*

**Simmons & Simmons**

**What the team is known for** Simmons & Simmons operates a stellar corporate practice in Doha that has extensive experience advising on high-profile joint ventures, commercial contracts and regulatory matters. The firm also commands a remarkable

offering in Qatari finance matters, being particularly distinguished for its wide-ranging capital markets practice. It acts for an impressive roster of financial institutions, with further experience representing regulatory authorities and international corporations.

**Strengths** One client enthuses: *"They were very responsive and knowledgeable. I personally found them to be very good and they have a strong local reputation."*

Another client says: *"We've had a very good experience with them – the balance of their resources works well for us."*

**Work highlights** A team led by Andrew Wingfield advised the Qatar Free Zones Authority on the formation of a strategic partnership with Google Cloud.

**Notable practitioners**

**Andrew Wingfield** is a highly respected lawyer who is often cited as a market leader in Doha, particularly in the corporate and finance spheres. He is a regular adviser to numerous international corporations, banks and regulatory bodies in regard to high-profile M&A, capital markets issuances and projects matters. *"Andrew is incredibly strong on the details. He's very commercially minded."* *"Andrew's personable approach to mandates makes him very easy to work with. His very precise and prompt feedback allows mandates to move forward speedily and efficiently."* **Maha Lawson** is an increasingly prominent associate who is well versed in a broad array of corporate and finance matters. She is based in Doha and demonstrates particularly extensive expertise in capital markets transactions. *"I'm really impressed by some of the things Maha has done. She's gone above and beyond to ensure everything's done correctly – it's been invaluable."* *"Maha is very energetic. I see a good future for her."*

**Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners**

**What the team is known for** Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners is a pre-eminent Doha-based law firm with an extensive corporate and finance practice. Its lawyers are capable of providing guidance on matters such as restructuring and insolvency, refinancings and joint ventures. The team has considerable expertise in media and telecoms matters, and is also well versed in issues pertinent to the oil and gas sector. Project finance is a further strength.

**Strengths** One source applauds: *"The firm and its teams are extremely responsive and commercial in their approach."*

**Work highlights** A team led by Sultan Al-Abdulla and William Cattan acted as local counsel to Al Khaliji Commercial Bank on its merger with Masraf Al Rayan.

**Notable practitioners**

Firm founder **Sultan Al-Abdulla** (see p.2070) is widely respected for his handling of corporate transactions and commercial contract matters. He is based in Doha and is particularly experienced in representing clients from the oil and gas sector. *"Sultan is the main partner and has a strong name in the market."* Senior partner **William Cattan** (see p.2070) has considerable experience in project finance and related issues in the oil and gas sector, being greatly adept at corporate restructuring and M&A transactions. He is based in Doha, from where he regularly acts for financial institutions, construction companies and clients in the technology sector. *"Will Cattan is user-friendly, gives clear advice and has got the right*

mindset for M&A transactions.” **Salman Mahmood** (see p.2071) is based in Doha and has wide-ranging experience advising on commercial contracts. This encompasses employment contracts as well as IP and franchising matters. “*Salman is extremely responsive and commercial in his approach. He coordinated the Qatar law aspects of the matter seamlessly.*”

### White & Case LLP

**What the team is known for** White & Case is a highly regarded law firm with a well-established Qatari practice. The corporate team particularly excels in high-profile finance mandates, most notably in the oil and gas sector. It also represents clients in capital markets and M&A transactions and is further skilled in private equity and joint venture agreements, assisting a long and impressive list of clients. The firm demonstrates considerable experience advising on Qatar Stock Exchange listings.

**Strengths** One client notes of the firm’s global network: “*I think the firm’s major strength is the experience of the local team combined with their ability to bring in the experience of worldwide partners, which is very impressive.*”

**Work highlights** A White & Case team led by Chicago partner Gary Silverman and New York-based Michiel Visser advised the Qatar Investment Authority on its participation in a USD140 million financing for Century Therapeutics.

### Notable practitioners

London-based lawyer **Charbel Abou Charaf** (see p.2070) maintains a notable practice focused on Qatar and demonstrates significant expertise in out-bound and domestic M&A mandates. Additionally, he is seasoned in finance, capital markets and investment fund transactions. “*Charbel stands out with his incredible commitment to his clients. His strengths include his ability to promptly address our needs with accuracy and precision.*” “*He has an uncanny ability to reassure clients navigating through complex legal matters in Qatar and on an international M&A transactional front.*” **Michiel Visser** (see p.2071) is a key M&A partner based in the firm’s New York office. He is experienced in handling transactions involving Qatari entities.

### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Brenda Hill** (see p.2070) leads DLA Piper’s Qatar practice from Doha and is well established in the fields of domestic and cross-border M&A, corporate structuring and regulatory matters. She frequently acts for clients in the technology, hospitality and agriculture sectors.

**Rukhsana Khan** recently established Doha-based law firm Westway Law. She is a long-standing lawyer with a considerable track record in asset finance, corporate governance and employment law.

**Charbel Maakaron** joined Crowell & Moring in the second half of 2020 following the closure of Squire Patton Boggs’ Doha office, where he was managing partner. He has an extensive range of transactional experience.

### Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

**Chadia El Meouchi** (see p.1661) is the managing partner of Badri and Salim El Meouchi based in Beirut, and has impressive experience handling Qatari corporate mandates. She assists clients with M&A, capital markets, and banking and finance.

## Dispute Resolution

Dispute Resolution	Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration	Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)
<b>Leading Firms</b>	<b>Leading Firms</b>	<b>Dispute Resolution</b>
<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Qatari expertise</b>
Al Tamimi & Company in association with Advocate Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners	Clyde & Co LLP	<b>based in countries listed below</b>
<b>Band 2</b>	<b>Band 2</b>	UK <b>Bremen</b> James Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP
Al-Ansari & Associates	Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP	UK <b>Walker</b> Matthew K&L Gates
Arab Law Bureau	K&L Gates	United Arab Emirates <b>Massingham</b> Shalagh Eversheds
Sharq Law Firm	Pinsent Masons LLP	United Arab Emirates <b>Turrini</b> Michael White & Case LLP *
<b>Band 3</b>	White & Case LLP	USA <b>Lavaud</b> Floriane Debevoise & Plimpton LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Al Marri & El Hage Law Office	<b>Band 3</b>	
Al Sulaiti Law Firm	Dentons	
Hamad Al Yafei Law	DLA Piper LLP	
Law Offices of Gebran Majdalany	DWF Middle East	
<b>Leading Individuals</b>	Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	
<b>Band 1</b>	<b>Leading Individuals</b>	
Abu Shaikha Sami Sami Abdullah Abu Shaikha (ORL) ◇	<b>Band 1</b>	
Al-Abdulla Sultan M Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *	Collier Jonathan Pinsent Masons LLP	
El Hage Claudia Fares Al Marri & El Hage Law Office	El Hage Claudia Fares Al Marri & El Hage Law Office	
<b>Band 2</b>	Warren Laura Clyde & Co LLP	
Al Naddaf Hani Al Tamimi & Company	<b>Band 2</b>	
Al Saad Rashid Sharq Law Firm	Jones Andrew Dentons	
Al-Ansari Salman A. Al-Ansari & Associates	Vlavianos George DLA Piper LLP *	
Feshawi Ashraf Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *	Williams Thomas Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *	
Hamad Alaa Arab Law Bureau	<b>Band 3</b>	
<b>Band 3</b>	Durrant Kirk DWF Middle East	
Darwish Karbon Ghada Ghada M. Darwish Karbon (ORL) ◇	Qureshi Khawar McNair Chambers (ORL) ◇	
Khoury Elias Law Offices of Gebran Majdalany	<b>Up-and-coming individuals</b>	
* Indicates individual with profile.	McDonald Pamela Pinsent Masons LLP	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Whyatt Alexander Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	<b>Associates to watch</b>	
	El Shafiey Hasan DLA Piper LLP *	

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

### Al-Ansari & Associates

**What the team is known for** Doha-based Al-Ansari & Associates has a noted disputes practice that is recognised by sources for its strength in both litigation and arbitration. The firm regularly handles construction arbitrations, in which arena it often acts as local counsel for international clients. Further areas of strength include disputes relating to intellectual property, employment and insurance.

**Strengths** One client enthused: “*They are very transparent, and all the issues and risks are discussed prior to their engagement.*”

Another client agreed, stating: “*The firm excels at providing a high quality of service by ensuring responses are given in a timely manner and tasks are completed in the most efficient way.*”

**Work highlights** Salman Al-Ansari and Hossam Khamis co-led a team which acted for the GHD Group on a major ICC construction arbitration.

## Notable practitioners

**Salman Al-Ansari** is a highly experienced Doha-based lawyer whose practice encompasses major ICC arbitrations and who also excels in commercial litigation. His disputes work is complemented by his strengths in non-contentious matters. *"He always gives me the right advice and looks after my interests. He is very responsive, friendly and really easy to deal with."* *"Salman is highly skilled in local laws and dispute resolution. He is very hands-on and takes meticulous care in the work product he delivers."*

## Al Marri & El Hage Law Office

**What the team is known for** Al Marri & El Hage Law Office is a well-established Doha-based law firm with a prolific disputes practice. Its litigation team regularly advises on construction and real estate disputes before all levels of the Qatari courts, including the Court of First Instance as well as the Court of Cassation. The firm demonstrates additional strengths in international arbitration, often handling cases under ICC rules.

**Strengths** One client observed: *"They are well equipped to handle complex litigation and arbitration matters in both Arabic and English."*

Another client noted that *"they understand the arbitration process well."*

## Notable practitioners

**Claudia Fares El Hage** is often cited by sources as a leading lawyer in the litigation arena. She regularly works alongside international law firms on litigation matters within the Qatari courts. Based in Doha, she also has a distinguished track record in international arbitration, with considerable experience in construction disputes before bodies such as the ICC. *"Claudia has impressed us at so many levels: she orchestrates arbitration hearings and pleads impeccably, she draws remarkable strategies for the cases and she manages her teams very efficiently."* *"She's very, very good – very capable and very cooperative. She understands how to manage a construction dispute very well."*

## Al Sulaiti Law Firm

**What the team is known for** Al Sulaiti Law Firm is an increasingly prominent Qatari law firm which is based in Doha and regularly handles high-value disputes for domestic and international clients. The firm is highly capable in both litigation and arbitration. It regularly acts on cases arising from construction projects, with further experience representing clients from the banking, real estate, and oil and gas sectors.

## Notable practitioners

Amr Hossam El-Din is a key contact for the firm's disputes practice.

## Al Tamimi & Company in association with Advocate Mohammed Al Marri

**What the team is known for** Al Tamimi operates a highly acclaimed dispute resolution team in Doha with skills across the gamut of contentious matters. The firm is especially well regarded for litigation, including through the appellate courts. It fields a strong combination of internationally qualified lawyers and lawyers with deep domestic expertise. Recent cases include construction and project-related disputes, ICC arbitrations and debt recovery claims. The firm has acted for a number of high-profile multinationals from the financial services sector.

**Work highlights** A team led by Hani Al Naddaf defended Siemens in proceedings relating to construction of a transportation project in Education City Qatar.

## Notable practitioners

**Hani Al Naddaf** leads Al Tamimi's disputes practice in Qatar and is highly praised for his skills representing international clients in construction arbitrations and debt recovery claims. His litigation practice covers trade mark infringement cases as well as real estate matters and general commercial disputes.

## Arab Law Bureau

**What the team is known for** Arab Law Bureau is a leading Qatari law firm based in Doha. It has considerable experience in dispute resolution, ranging across litigation, mediation and arbitration. The team demonstrates extensive experience appearing in domestic litigation up to the Qatari Court of Cassation, and it is also adept at handling commercial disputes before the courts of the Qatar Financial Centre. Clients include international banks, insurance companies and construction contractors.

**Strengths** One client praised the way in which *"they update us and provide good insight and advice on legal strategy in Qatar."*

A fellow lawyer noted: *"If we're conflicted with a direct engagement, they are at the top of my list for referrals."*

## Notable practitioners

**Alaa Hamad** possesses broad expertise in dispute resolution, assisting with contentious issues stemming from construction projects as well as employment cases and debt recovery matters. Based in Doha, he is equally skilled at handling litigation and arbitration. *"Alaa Hamad's deep understanding of the legal landscape in Qatar and his ability to apply that knowledge to get results for his clients is impressive, though no less impressive is his ability to convey complicated legal concepts to his clients directly and clearly."*

## Clyde & Co LLP

**What the team is known for** Distinguished international law firm Clyde & Co continues to field a formidable team in Doha and regularly appears on cutting-edge disputes. Its Qatar group offers expertise in a variety of areas, including intellectual property and debt recovery matters. It is also frequently identified by sources for its experience representing contractors in construction arbitrations. Other major clients originate from the insurance sector.

**Strengths** One client said that *"their willingness to guide us and lay out options, discuss and take decisions on the strategy moving forward – that's their main strength."*

## Notable practitioners

**Laura Warren** is based in Doha and is widely considered to be a leader in the field of construction arbitration, particularly when representing contractors. Her expertise also extends to employment disputes and matters brought before the Qatari Court of Appeal, in which capacity she is well versed in acting alongside domestic Qatari advocates. *"Laura is very knowledgeable of the law and extremely detail-oriented. She likes to go above and beyond for her clients and is a very nice person to work with."*

## Dentons

**What the team is known for** Dentons fields a well-respected dispute resolution practice from Doha which maintains a high level of expertise in construction arbitration. The team also regularly handles litigation matters before the courts of the QFC. It often acts for construction employers as well as clients in the insurance sector.

## Notable practitioners

**Andrew Jones** is an esteemed Doha-based lawyer who acts for a range of international clients on construction and engineering disputes relating to infrastructure and energy projects. He has further skills in several alternative dispute resolution methods, including mediation.

## DLA Piper LLP

**What the team is known for** DLA Piper's Doha office is home to a highly experienced team of dispute resolution lawyers who are noted for their considerable experience in construction arbitrations. In these matters, the team regularly appears in ICC and QICCA proceedings. It is also well versed in disputes relating to energy, infrastructure, and oil and gas.

**Strengths** One client calls DLA Piper *"an excellent firm. Their main strengths are their professional knowledge, teamwork, minute study of all aspects of the case and unbiased approach."*

## Notable practitioners

**George Vlavianos** (see p.2071) is based in Doha and is a seasoned lawyer in international arbitration. He has extensive experience in disputes arising from oil and gas, construction and infrastructure projects. *"He understands exactly what we are looking for and anticipates our next question. He is very reassuring and calm."* *"George impressed me a lot with his approach to many critical issues, with no compromise on quality."* Doha-based **Hasan El Shafiey** (see p.2070) has notable strengths in international arbitration. With particular experience in construction disputes, he is also well regarded for his capabilities in mediation and other forms of ADR. *"The advice Hasan provides is always solid and reliable. One of the advantages he has is that he's able to provide overviews of both common and civil law."*

## DWF Middle East

**What the team is known for** DWF maintains a noteworthy disputes practice from its office in Doha. The firm is especially adept at handling construction disputes, with experience acting on arbitrations conducted under both ICC and QICCA rules. Other areas of expertise include asset recovery and disputes in the technology sector.

**Strengths** One source described the firm as *"flexible in accommodating client requests and available for discussions when required. Another considerable strength is their global reach and presence."*

## Notable practitioners

**Kirk Durrant** leads the Doha office of DWF and has a growing reputation among his peers. He demonstrates strong skills in construction arbitrations, with an especially good track record in ICC cases. *"Kirk is a great communicator. He is organised, focused and results-oriented, with construction industry expertise."* *"Kirk is clear in his advice and analysis, offers alternative solutions to the problems at hand and provides a good service overall."*

## Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

**What the team is known for** Eversheds Sutherland is a well-reputed international law firm which is often highlighted for its longevity in the Qatari market. The Doha-based disputes team represents a wide variety of international and domestic clients in high-stakes arbitrations. The team is also capable of acting on Qatari court litigation proceedings. Clients include well-known oil and gas and construction entities.

**Strengths** One client summarised that the firm's "strengths are its understanding of local laws, and of mediation and arbitration cases, as well as its delivery of requirements."

Another client appreciated that "the advice provided by the firm was accurate and helpful. The main strength is the quality of its service."

### Notable practitioners

**Alexander Whyatt** has a rising profile in construction arbitration, with experience acting for a number of prominent clients. He is based in Doha and regularly appears in ICC, LCIA and QICCA arbitration proceedings. "Alex understood our needs very well and provided the best solutions." "He is a very impressive lawyer: extremely intelligent and commercial, and he writes superbly." **Shalagh Massingham** is based in Dubai and maintains an extensive practice handling Qatar-related disputes. She is experienced acting on construction arbitrations under ICC, DIAC and DIFC-LCIA rules and is also capable of advising clients on cases brought before the domestic Qatari courts, including the Court of Cassation.

## Hamad Al Yafei Law

**What the team is known for** Hamad Al Yafei Law Firm is an ever-more noteworthy Qatari law firm which is based in Doha and excels at commercial litigation. The firm's recent experience includes appearing before the Civil Court and the Court of Appeal. It also maintains a significant arbitration practice, most often acting for contractors in cases relating to construction projects.

**Strengths** A highly impressed client said: "I am really happy to work with them – they provide us with high-quality service and immediate follow-up."

**Work highlights** A team led by Hamad Al Yafei represented Trans Gulf International in a QAR290 million arbitration relating to payment for work it undertook as a subcontractor in regard to the construction of new headquarters for the Qatari Ministry of Interior.

### Notable practitioners

Hamad Al Yafei is the founder and managing partner of the firm.

## K&L Gates

**What the team is known for** The Doha office of K&L Gates fields a capable disputes team which possesses noteworthy expertise in arbitration, especially in regard to cases held under ICC rules. The team also regularly assists with litigation proceedings, including at the Qatari Court of Appeal and before the QFC courts. It represents a number of engineering and construction clients as well as real estate developers and hotel groups.

**Strengths** A client found the firm to be "very organised, very prompt in their communications, very thorough in their approach and detail-oriented."

Another client said that "their written and oral pleadings are always of a high quality."

### Notable practitioners

**Matthew Walker** is based in London and is a highly regarded construction disputes lawyer with many years of experience in ICC and QICCA arbitrations. He is also well versed in litigation proceedings as well as mediations and adjudications. "Matthew has a great legal brain. He gives practical advice." "He does a very good job managing the relationship and providing reliable, value-added counsel."

## Law Offices of Gebran Majdalany

**What the team is known for** The Law Offices of Gebran Majdalany is a long-standing, well-established Qatari law firm with considerable expertise in acting for both domestic and international clients on litigation. Based in Doha, the team also demonstrates strengths in arbitration, including with regard to construction cases.

### Notable practitioners

**Elias Khoury** is a well-regarded lawyer based in Doha. He maintains an extensive contentious practice, with complementary expertise in company set-up and intellectual property matters.

## Pinsent Masons LLP

**What the team is known for** Pinsent Masons is a highly regarded law firm whose Doha team possesses extensive expertise in Qatar-based disputes. Globally the firm is well known for its comprehensive understanding of construction disputes, and its team in Qatar has acted on arbitrations stemming from a variety of major infrastructure, oil and gas, and real estate projects. It is adept at representing international clients in ICC arbitrations and is also capable of overseeing Arabic-language litigation before the Qatari courts, working alongside domestic Qatari advocates.

**Strengths** A client sums up: "Their strengths are high-quality professional services, a global network of lawyers, and their considerable experience with both construction projects and international arbitration proceedings."

Another source praised the firm for its "in-depth knowledge of the legal landscape for construction across the wider Middle East."

### Notable practitioners

**Jonathan Collier** is a distinguished construction disputes lawyer who is praised by clients for his abilities in arbitration. Based in Doha, he typically acts for international engineering and construction companies, with further experience representing project lenders and hotel brands. "He is well respected in Qatar for construction disputes. He has a civil engineering background so is able to grasp technical issues relatively quickly." Doha-based **Pamela McDonald** is a rising star who is widely recognised for her skills in ICC construction arbitrations. She also has a significant track record in disputes relating to infrastructure projects. "Pamela provides fantastic service." "She is a well-respected speaker on key construction, energy and legal issues in Doha."

## Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

**What the team is known for** Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan has an acclaimed international team which frequently handles disputes arising from major Qatari construction and infrastructure projects. The firm is experienced in commercial arbitrations, including ICC proceedings. Its client list features government entities and well-known players in

the oil and gas, education and transport sectors.

### Notable practitioners

**James Bremen** is based in the firm's London office, from where he maintains a notable construction disputes practice with a strong focus on Qatari matters. In this field, he has a wealth of experience representing both contractors and employers.

## Sharq Law Firm

**What the team is known for** Sharq Law Firm offers a seasoned disputes team with considerable experience representing both contractors and employers in high-value construction disputes. Its Doha-based lawyers are well versed in Qatari litigation proceedings, regularly handling cases before the Court of Cassation and Court of Appeal. The firm also has additional capabilities in arbitration, with its recent caseload including notable matters under QICCA and ICC rules.

**Strengths** Sources regard Sharq Law Firm as "very strong on the local litigation side."

**Work highlights** A team led by Rashid Al Saad and Abdelrouf El Bekei represented Al Manaa Motors in proceedings before the Court of First Instance concerning its attempt to terminate a sales agreement valued at QAR100 million.

### Notable practitioners

Founder and senior partner **Rashid Al Saad** acts as the first port of call for the firm's clients, and is a popular choice among both domestic and international companies in connection with construction and project disputes. Based in Doha, he oversees matters at all levels of the Qatari courts, as well as QICCA and ICC arbitrations.

## Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners

**What the team is known for** Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners is an accomplished Doha-based law firm that is often cited as a market leader in contentious matters. Its litigation team is highly experienced in handling cases up to Court of Cassation and Court of Appeal level, most notably in relation to construction disputes. The arbitration team excels at acting for international clients on cross-border disputes, including cases brought before the Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA). The firm's leading lawyers are widely recognised for their contributions to Qatari legislative developments.

**Strengths** One client rated this team as "the best in Qatar, no doubt," emphasising that "they have a strong pool of legal minds." Other sources add that "they clearly differentiate themselves with their very high standards in relation to communication, the services they render, their positive approach and their solution-driven mentality."

Another client said: "They've been operating in Qatar for a long time. They know a lot of the local customs and the issues you can get in the region, particularly in a dispute that goes to the local courts."

**Work highlights** A team led by Ashraf Feshawi represented a major Qatari bank in a more than QAR527 million claim before the Court of First Instance arising from the terms of its loan agreement with a well-known construction company.

### Notable practitioners

Firm founder and managing partner **Sultan Al-Abdulla** (see p.2070) is distinguished for his capabilities in litigation at all levels of the court system, including the appellate courts. Based in Doha, he is also expe-

rienced in arbitration matters and regularly acts for clients from the real estate and construction sectors. *"Sultan is one of the best-known figures of the disputes field in Qatar. He is a humble guy with great experience."* **Ashraf Feshawi** (see p.2070) is a Doha-based lawyer who commands considerable respect for his wide-ranging disputes practice, which covers both litigation and arbitration. He frequently acts for real estate and construction clients in litigation matters up to the appellate level, as well as arbitrations conducted under a variety of institutional rules. *"Ashraf is an experienced litigator who provides reliable representation."* **Thomas Williams** (see p.2071) heads up the firm's international arbitration practice in Doha. With a background as an English barrister, he has particular strengths in construction and project-related disputes and a considerable track record in both ICC and QICCA proceedings. *"Thomas has now established himself very well in the market. The primary reason he is now in demand is because of his easy approach in understanding and taking up matters."* *"He's first class. He's got really good soft skills and knows what to say. He's highly recommended."*

#### White & Case LLP

**What the team is known for** The Doha office of White & Case fields a skilled disputes practice with capabilities across a wide variety of matters. It is well respected for its strong track record when it comes to advising government and quasi-government entities on high-profile disputes. The firm is a major presence in the field of construction arbitration, often acting for real estate developers.

**Strengths** Clients view White & Case as *"a trusted and long-standing legal adviser which is excellent in providing sound legal counsel to us in an efficient and highly responsive manner. They always adopt a strategic and commercially sensible approach."*

#### Notable practitioners

**Michael Turrini** is primarily based in Dubai but also spends a significant amount of time in White & Case's Abu Dhabi and Doha offices. He continues to act on a number of Qatari construction arbitrations and is particularly adept at advising employer-side clients on disputes relating to infrastructure projects. His experience also includes acting for government entities and contractors.

#### Other Ranked Lawyers

**Sami Abu Shaikha** is a well-established leader in the Qatari disputes arena and is very widely respected for his prowess in litigation. Based in Doha, he is especially well recognised by sources for his strengths in criminal law.

**Ghada Darwish Karbon** is an increasingly prominent disputes lawyer based in Doha. She is the founder and managing partner of her law firm, and her expertise encompasses disputes in the oil and gas sector, as well as administrative law and sports law.

**Khawar Qureshi QC** is head of McNair Chambers in Doha and also has a tenancy at Serle Court in London. He has broad-ranging disputes expertise encompassing both litigation and international arbitration, with noteworthy specialisms in judicial review and public international law.

#### Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

**Floriane Lavaud** (see p.2070) splits her time between the New York and Paris offices of Debevoise & Plimpton. She has considerable experience representing the State of Qatar in high-profile public international law disputes, including before the ICJ. *"She has a strong knowledge of public international law, in addition to being very practical and strategic in responding to her clients' needs."* *"She is so flexible and knows how to convince others of her point of view."*

## Projects & Energy

Projects & Energy
Leading Firms
<b>Band 1</b>
Arab Law Bureau
Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
White & Case LLP
<b>Band 2</b>
Dentons
K&L Gates
Pinsent Masons LLP
Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners
Leading Individuals
<b>Band 1</b>
Cattan Jr E William Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners *
Hamad Alaa Arab Law Bureau
Kabbani Dani Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
<b>Band 2</b>
Piotrowski Pawel K&L Gates
Prescott Paul Dentons
Williams Matthew Arab Law Bureau
Associates to watch
Clark Benjamin Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

#### Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)

##### Projects & Energy

##### Qatari expertise

##### based in countries listed below

UK Allen & Overy LLP  
USA Shearman & Sterling LLP

#### Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

##### Projects & Energy

##### Qatari expertise

##### based in countries listed below

France Depierreffe Arnaud LPA-CGR avocats (ORL) ◇  
UK Inglis John Shearman & Sterling LLP \*  
UK Nizzola Adrian Simmons & Simmons LLP (ORL) ◇  
UK Stopford Philip White & Case LLP \*  
United Arab Emirates Eido Samer Allen & Overy LLP  
United Arab Emirates Iqbal Mohsin Habib Al a (ORL) ◇

#### Band 1

#### Arab Law Bureau

**What the team is known for** Arab Law Bureau (ALB) is a leading domestic law firm based in Doha with an especially distinguished projects practice. The firm demonstrates significant expertise in project

financing and all aspects of PPPs and energy projects, acting for notable international clients. Its expertise also ranges across oil and gas, infrastructure and renewables.

**Strengths** Sources agree that in the projects market, *"Arab Law Bureau is the most active local player."*

**Work highlights** An ALB team led by Alaa Hamad acted as lenders' counsel to JBIC in regard to the Facility E project.

#### Notable practitioners

**Alaa Hamad** is based in Doha and is noted for his extensive expertise across the full spectrum of transactional matters. He particularly excels in project finance, and has additional experience assisting with development issues in the context of energy and PPP projects. **Matthew Williams** is well versed in project finance, in which arena he is especially prolific with regard to power, water and renewables matters. He is based in Doha and also acts on acquisitions and corporate structuring mandates. *"Matthew is a first-rate lawyer who has been working in Qatar for many years."* *"Matthew provides quick responses and flexible arrangements."*

## Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP

**What the team is known for** The Doha office of Eversheds Sutherland has a long-established and eminent projects and energy practice advising on both financing and development issues in regard to oil and gas, renewable energy and PPP projects. The team regularly advises international clients on cross-border transactions and is also greatly appreciated for its in-depth understanding of local law issues. It is equally adept at counselling clients on fund formation, Islamic finance and real estate matters.

**Strengths** A client recalls: “Eversheds were approachable, flexible to market requirements and forthcoming with their legal opinions.”

Another client found Eversheds to have an “excellent understanding of the Qatari environment,” adding that the lawyers “always give you confidence that they have things under control.”

**Work highlights** An Eversheds team led by Dani Kabbani acted for the Public Works Authority of Qatar (Ashghal) on the structuring and negotiation of a wastewater treatment plant through a PPP.

### Notable practitioners

**Dani Kabbani** is a skilled lawyer in the projects field in Qatar, assisting with project finance agreements as well as the structuring of a variety of PPPs. He is based in Doha and also excels in advising government entities on infrastructure projects. “Dani is very well versed in the Qatari legal requirements for PPP transactions and managed the overall transaction in a smooth manner.” “He has a deep understanding of Qatari laws, customs and procedures. He is always available when needed.” **Benjamin Clark** is a Doha-based senior associate who has established a significant practice in energy and infrastructure project development. He has a notable track record in PPPs and is also well versed in IWPPs. “Ben is a strong and confident lawyer. He is a clear communicator who is responsive to requests and keeps clients updated.” “He has always been available to provide advice in a timely manner. His knowledge of contractual matters and drafting was imperative in taking the transaction forward successfully.”

## White & Case LLP

**What the team is known for** White & Case is a highly regarded law firm with a well-established Qatari practice. The team particularly excels in high-profile project finance mandates, most notably in the oil and gas sector. It also represents oil and gas clients in capital markets and M&A transactions. Its lawyers are further skilled in private equity and joint venture agreements, assisting a long and impressive list of clients. The firm has considerable experience advising on Qatar Stock Exchange listings.

**Work highlights** A team led by London partner Philip Stopford advised Qatargas on the implementation of the USD10.3 billion Barzan Gas Project.

### Notable practitioners

**Philip Stopford** is a London-based partner who has considerable experience in Qatari projects. He is best known for his skills in gas and LNG projects, and regularly acts for sponsors and lenders on project financings. “Philip is very seasoned, especially when it comes to Qatar-related project finance work. He is also very pragmatic and understands the bigger picture.”

## Band 2

### Dentons

**What the team is known for** Dentons is a respected international law firm with a market-leading Doha office. The team possesses a significant projects practice with strengths in construction, oil and gas, and PPPs. Clients include government and semi-government entities, domestic corporations and international investment companies.

**Strengths** A client says: “They have a very strong team of lawyers who are experts in construction and engineering law.”

**Work highlights** A Dentons team led by Zaher Namour represented Marubeni subsidiary Axia Power Holdings as lender’s counsel on the 800 MW solar photovoltaic IPP in Al Kharsaa.

### Notable practitioners

**Paul Prescott** is a prolific projects lawyer who is well regarded for his skilful representation in PPPs and construction projects. He is based in Doha and is also adept in renewable energy and real estate projects. “He gives me timely, practical advice. His knowledge of the market stands out, as does the quality of his advice.”

### K&L Gates

**What the team is known for** The Doha office of K&L Gates fields an experienced projects team capable of handling finance and development mandates. The firm demonstrates significant strengths in PPPs, particularly in the power, water, and oil and gas industries. Clients also stem from the education and real estate sectors.

**Strengths** One client notes: “Their main strength in my experience is that they’re commercial.”

Another client adds: “The support I get from K&L Gates is outstanding.”

**Work highlights** A K&L Gates team led by Matthew Walker provides ongoing advice to Spanish utility company Iberdrola in relation to several energy-related research projects in Qatar.

### Notable practitioners

**Paweł Piotrowski** has established himself as a go-to lawyer for Qatari PPPs, offering considerable experience in procurement-related issues and contract drafting. Based in Doha, he also advises on construction and infrastructure projects.

## Pinsent Masons LLP

**What the team is known for** Pinsent Masons operates a well-regarded projects practice best known for its capabilities in construction matters. A compact team in Doha is ably supported by partners based in Dubai and London. Its recent experience encompasses power and water projects as well as PPPs in the education sector. The firm is also well versed in advising government entities and international contractors.

**Strengths** Clients say Pinsent Masons has “a well-respected team with an in-depth knowledge of the construction legal landscape in the wider Middle East.”

**Work highlights** A team led by Dubai-based Tim Armsby acted for an international consortium of contractors as bidding sponsors of the Qatar PPP Schools Development Program issued by Ashghal.

### Notable practitioners

**Jonathan Collier** is head of the Doha office and a key contact for the firm’s Qatari projects practice.

## Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners

**What the team is known for** Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners is a high-profile domestic law firm with a robust projects team that is acclaimed for oil and gas and renewable energy projects. The team is based in Doha and is best known for handling contracts and providing structuring advice. It is also very experienced in handling arbitrations resulting from project disputes.

**Strengths** Clients praise the firm for its “very well-experienced advisers, and being timely, responsive and accommodating.”

### Notable practitioners

Senior partner **William Cattani** (see p.2070) has considerable experience in project finance and related issues in the oil and gas sector. He is based in Doha, from where he regularly acts for both international and domestic clients on the contracting, structuring and due diligence of projects.

## Foreign Desks (Based Abroad)

### Allen & Overy LLP

**What the team is known for** Allen & Overy is a stellar international law firm which assists with a broad range of Qatari matters, most frequently from its Dubai office. The firm is highly acclaimed in project finance, in which field it has advised on major construction and real estate projects.

### Notable practitioners

**Samer Eido** is now based in Dubai having previously been managing partner of the firm’s Doha office until its closure in 2019. He maintains a strong Qatari practice, advising an array of domestic and international clients on major project finance transactions.

### Shearman & Sterling LLP

**What the team is known for** Shearman & Sterling is a notable law firm with an impressive roster of Qatar-based clients that it services from its London and Abu Dhabi offices. The team is especially well regarded for its capabilities in the projects space, most significantly in IWPPs. It has further strength in outbound financings and investments. Key clients include the Qatar Investment Authority, as well as major financial institutions, government entities, and corporations in the oil and gas sector.

**Strengths** A client acknowledges that “Shearman & Sterling is a pre-eminent law firm advising on energy and natural resources transactions,” adding that “it is very much the go-to law firm for these transactions in emerging and frontier markets.”

### Notable practitioners

**John Inglis** is based in London and maintains a significant project finance practice covering Qatar and the Middle East. He has considerable experience acting for lenders in regard to IWPPs and is equally well versed in matters relating to major oil and gas and mining projects. “John is a standout lawyer. He is widely regarded as an exceptional senior project financier with gravitas and commercial acumen.”

## Other Ranked Lawyers

### Foreign Experts (Based Abroad)

**Arnaud Depierrefeuf** divides his time between the Paris and Dubai offices of LPA-CGR avocats, having previously been based at Simmons & Simmons in

Doha. He continues to represent several notable European clients in Qatari projects, including mandates in the energy and oil and gas sectors. "Arnaud is very accessible and reactive. He understands what the goal of the company is." "He has the ability to react very quickly. He's very often available for calls, and that's highly appreciated."

**Mohsin Iqbal** is based in Baker McKenzie's Dubai office and possesses considerable expertise in pro-

ject finance, most significantly when pertaining to Qatar. He is also well versed in Islamic finance and capital markets, including sukuk transactions.

**Adrian Nizzola** is based in London and maintains a notable Qatari practice which sees him act on a number of high-profile power projects. Commentators also laud his strengths in renewable energy matters.

## Leaders' Profiles in Qatar

### ABOU CHARAF, Charbel

White & Case LLP, London  
(+974) 44 42 4315  
charbel.aboucharaf@whitecase.com

*Featured in Corporate/Commercial (Qatar)*

**Practice Areas:** To read more, visit: [whitecase.com/people/charbel-aboucharaf](http://whitecase.com/people/charbel-aboucharaf)

### AL-ABDULLA, Sultan M

Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners, Doha  
+974 44 42 0660  
alabdulla@qatarlaw.com

*Featured in Corporate/Commercial (Qatar),  
Dispute Resolution (Qatar)*

**Practice Areas:** Dispute Resolution – Litigation / Arbitration Corporate / Commercial

**Career:** Sultan M. Al-Abdulla is the founding member of Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners and a current member of the Board of the Qatar Lawyers Association. In his private practice, Sultan focuses on litigation and arbitration matters. As a litigator, he is ranked in Band 1 and Tier 1 by major directories. As part of his arbitration practice, Sultan Al-Abdulla has represented numerous entities in local and international arbitration matters. In addition, he frequently sits as a sole arbitrator or as part of a tribunal. Moreover, he is frequently called to appear as a Qatari law expert before international arbitral tribunals. Sultan Al-Abdulla was designated as an arbitrator on the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators for a period of six years with effect from May 2019. He was elected as a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration for a three-year term starting on July 1, 2021.

**Professional Memberships:** Sultan has an LLB degree from Beirut Arab University in Lebanon and an LLM degree in International and Comparative Law from Southern Methodist University, USA.

### CATTAN JR, E William

Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners, Doha  
974 44 42 0660  
wcattan@qatarlaw.com

*Featured in Corporate/Commercial (Qatar),  
Projects (Qatar)*

**Practice Areas:** Corporate / Commercial

**Career:** William Cattan has been active in Qatar since 1995 when he worked in Doha on the original RasGas project financing. He has lived and practiced law in Qatar for the last 15 years. His clients have included the Ministry of Energy and Industry,

Qatar Petroleum, Tasweer, Muntajat, and Q-Chem. Mr. Cattan spent more than a year on assignment to the Legal Department of Qatar Petroleum working on RasGas long-term LNG sales agreements. William Cattan also has substantial experience on international project finance, equipment finance, and bank finance transactions. He has worked on power, port, petrochemical and telecommunications projects in the Middle East, Asia, the US and Europe. William Cattan is ranked at the highest level -- "Band 1, Projects and Energy - Qatar" -- in the Chambers Guide to The Legal Profession.

**Professional Memberships:** William Cattan is a member of the New York and District of Columbia bars.

**Publications:** William Cattan authored the Qatar chapter in Chambers and Partners' first edition of a practice guide on global "Energy: Oil & Gas" law. Recently, he completed an updated version of the Qatar chapter of "Energy: Oil & Gas" law which is published by Chambers.

### EL MEOUCHI, Chadia

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### EL SHAFIEY, Hasan

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*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Qatar)*

**Career:** Hasan El Shafiey has a deep understanding of Middle Eastern legal systems and jurisprudence and has a wealth of experience in the field of dispute resolution across the Middle East. Hasan has significant experience in handling international commercial arbitration and cross-border litigation matters for local and multinational corporations, international contractors, government entities and engineering consultants. He also advises on mediation and other ADR proceedings. Hasan has conducted arbitrations under ICC, LCIA and other institutional arbitration rules, and has a particular focus on construction and energy related disputes. He also has experience advising clients on complex litigation and prelitigation strategies in relation to general commercial disputes, including real estate, shareholders, employment, trademark and other IP related disputes,

and public procurement and tender, anti-trust and anti-bribery regulations.

### FESHAWI, Ashraf

Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners, Doha  
*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Qatar)*

**Practice Areas:** Dispute Resolution – Litigation

**Career:** Ashraf Feshawi's previous practice involved reviewing cases, preparing legal briefs and memoranda and submitting written and oral arguments before commercial, civil, criminal and Sharia courts in Egypt. His practice with Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners focuses on litigation and arbitration matters. Ashraf appears before the courts in Qatar and prepares and reviews pleadings, legal briefs, memoranda and written reports and statements. He also advises in relation to litigation strategy and represents clients in settlement negotiations and mediation of disputes.

**Professional Memberships:** Ashraf Feshawi has an LLB degree from Cairo University, an LLM degree from Al-Munofia University and PhD in Law from Ain Shams University in Egypt. He is a member of the Egyptian Bar Association.

### HILL, Brenda

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**Career:** Admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in England and Wales in 2002, Brenda Hill has a range of commercial legal experience in Asia, the UK and the Middle East including contentious and non-contentious corporate and commercial matters. Brenda has been practicing in Qatar for 15 years and advises foreign entities looking to do business in Qatar and advises on joint ventures, M & A, corporate and commercial advisory, and regulatory matters in Qatar.

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### LAVAUD, Floriane

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**Practice Areas:** Floriane Lavaud is a member of Debevoise's International Dispute Resolution Group in New York and Paris. Her practice focuses on public international law and international arbitration, in particular in the Middle East. She is admitted to the New York and Paris Bars, in addition to being a solicitor in England & Wales. With over fifteen years of experience, Ms. Lavaud has represented states and multinational companies in a variety of jurisdictions and fora on issues of civil and common law, public international law, and treaty and contract interpretation. For example, she recently represented the State of Qatar before the International Court of Justice and the International Civil Aviation Organization, in addition to representing Qatari entities in both treaty and commercial arbitrations. She sits as arbitrator, including on the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal, and serves as counsel in a broad range of international matters. Ms. Lavaud maintains a very active pro bono practice, working closely with international organizations to defend the interests of individuals who have been subject to human rights violations around the world. Most recently, she has worked with Legal Action Worldwide to seek justice for the Rohingya before the International Criminal Court and for the Tigrayan people before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. She has also worked with the Clooney Foundation for Justice on a number of high-profile cases seeking the release of unlawfully imprisoned journalists. Prior to joining Debevoise in 2007, Ms. Lavaud worked at Total, one of the world's leading oil and gas companies. As a member of Total's Exploration & Production legal division, Ms. Lavaud gained in-depth experience in the energy sector. Ms. Lavaud is also among the few civil-law-trained attorneys who served as a federal law clerk in the United States, and has therefore strong experience in U.S. litigation. Ms. Lavaud currently serves in a number of leadership positions, including as Co-Chair of the International Arbitration Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) and a Member of

the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) Advisory Board. Ms. Lavaud regularly speaks and publishes on international law-related issues. She speaks French, English, Spanish and Dutch.

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**Practice Areas:** Corporate / Commercial

**Career:** Salman Mahmood has been practicing law since 1996. He started his practice in Pakistan where he advised a number of international and domestic energy companies in the power and upstream oil & gas sectors. Early 2007, Salman Mahmood joined Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners and has focused on commercial disputes including construction arbitrations, energy, infrastructure, syndicated finance, debt restructurings, capital markets and TMT. Salman assists a diverse range of corporate and institutional clients in projects, dispute management and negotiations, public tenders and awards, taxation and special economic zones.

**Professional Memberships:** Salman Mahmood is licensed as an Advocate of the High Court by the Punjab Bar Council in Pakistan and is authorised to practice law in Qatar.

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*Featured in Dispute Resolution (Qatar), Dispute Resolution (Canada)*

**Practice Areas:** George Vlavianos has a vast experience in dispute resolution with a focus on energy and constructions

disputes. He has considerable experience advising owners, contractors and engineers on a wide range of complex, multi-party construction disputes and arbitrations across the Middle East, Europe and the North America, including insurance claims arising out of large-scale construction projects. In addition, George has a significant experience in handling energy-related disputes for national and international energy companies. He regularly conducts arbitrations under various ad hoc and institutional rules.

#### WILLIAMS, Thomas

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**Practice Areas:** Dispute Resolution –

International & Domestic Arbitration

**Career:** Thomas Williams is an English qualified barrister and partner and leads the firm's arbitration practice. He specialises in domestic and international arbitration and litigation. Prior to joining the firm, he was head of arbitration and commercial dispute resolution at the London office of an international law firm. He is an experienced advocate in arbitrations under all of the major institutional rules, and in ad hoc arbitrations, and has also appeared regularly as an advocate

in the English High Court (including the Commercial Court), and the Court of Appeal. He has particular experience in complex commercial disputes arising in the fields of energy, oil & gas, banking and financial services, and construction and engineering. Much of his work involves cross-jurisdictional issues and the conflicts of laws, such as asset-tracing and the enforcement of judgments and arbitral awards. He has substantial experience in international cases and frequently works with overseas lawyers in common law and civil law jurisdictions.

**Professional Memberships:** Thomas Williams is a graduate of Cambridge University and was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 2002.