Middle East & North Africa Practice

Quinn Emanuel's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) practice group represents both regional and international clients on their business interests across the Middle East and North Africa. Our experience extends to jurisdictions such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Oman, Tunisia and Yemen among others.

BREADTH OF PRACTICE

The breadth of our disputes expertise in the region is unparalleled. Over the years we have developed strong relationships with key government entities, government owned companies, and regulatory bodies across the region. Due to this combination, we are frequently instructed to act on high value intra-region and outbound disputes.

OUR PRACTICE AREAS INCLUDE

- International Arbitration
- Bilateral Investment Treaty Claims
- Construction Disputes
- Sovereign Wealth Fund Disputes
- International Litigation
- Regulation and Investigations
- Energy Disputes
- Competition and Antitrust Disputes

The broad scope of our expertise is reflected in the wide range of clients whom we represent in the region. We have developed deep relationships with a broad range of clients, both government related and private sector. By way of example, we have represented the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia (the "PIF") and PIF owned companies, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Capital Markets Authority of Saudi Arabia, administrators of NMC Healthcare, DP World, Agility, and Mubadala.

While we have represented clients successfully in dozens of arbitrations, civil litigation and criminal matters that are not public, the information below displays some of our notable, public representations related to MENA.

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RECENT REPRESENTATIONS

INVESTOR STATE ARBITRATIONS

- Represented two Lebanese shareholders of FBME Bank as claimants in an ICC arbitration against the Republic of Cyprus.
- Acted for Lebanese businessman Abed El Jaouni and ImperialJet in an ICSID arbitration worth over USD 1.2 billion against Lebanon arising out of the Germany-Lebanon bilateral investment treaty.
- Acted for Jordanian entrepreneur in three ICSID arbitrations against Egypt arising under the Jordan-Egypt bilateral investment treaty. Our client's investments were focused on the container shipping, port and logistics sectors.
- Advised the Saudi government in connection to a construction arbitration case filed by DSG Yapi Sanayi Ticaret Anonim Sirketi before an ICSID arbitral tribunal.

OTHER ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

- Represented Etihad Etisalat Company (Mobily) against Mobile Telecommunications Co (Zain) in a USD 500 million arbitration concerning claims for breaches of a commercial agreement.
- Successfully represented an international financial institution against a Saudi company in an arbitration case concerning financing agreements with claims totalling more than USD 70 million.
- Successfully represented an Islamic international bank against a Saudi company in an arbitration case involving claims exceeding USD 30 million.
- Represented two large corporations against a group of Saudi companies in an ICC arbitration case.

INTERNATIONAL LITIGATION

- Secured a $5 billion fraud judgment for the Joint Administrators of NMC Health against its founder, Dr B.R. Shetty, and former CEO, Prasanth Manghat, in the ADGM Courts. The result advances the administrators' effort to recover value for NMC's creditors, following a $600 million settlement with Bank of Baroda in July 2026.
- Represented the Joint Administrators of NMC Health and secured a USD 600 million mid-trial settlement from Bank of Baroda in ADGM fraud proceedings, one of the largest insolvency settlements ever in the UK and the largest ever in ADGM.
- Acting for UAE companies in relation to High Court proceedings involving

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allegations of fraud in excess of USD 200 million.

- Acting for a Saudi family conglomerate in relation to a dispute adverse to a former JV partner involving allegations of bad faith.

- The firm represented Privinvest, one of the world's leading shipbuilding firms, and its CEO and majority shareholder, Iskandar Safa, in connection with criminal proceedings and investigations into contracts that Privinvest executed in order to supply fishing and other naval vessels to Mozambican state-owned entities.

- The firm secured the first administration order in the UAE for the NMC Healthcare Group, which resulted in a successful restructuring of approximately USD 7 billion in creditor debts.

- PCP Capital Partners in a £700 million claim against Barclays Bank relating to claims arising out of investments made by Abu Dhabi and Qatari investors in Barclays in October 2008.

- Acting for a Swiss ultra-high net worth individual in connection with the collapse of *Abraaj Holdings*, at the time the biggest private equity firm in the Middle East, in civil and criminal proceedings, with claims of more than USD 1 billion.

- Acting for a UAE bank following allegations of fraud relating to the collapse of Abraaj.

- Acting for senior members of the Saudi royal family in English High Court proceedings against a former consultant who is alleged to have misappropriated assets.

- Acting for a Middle Eastern sovereign wealth fund in litigation involving fraudulent activity by a limited partner and its insiders. The litigation currently is pending in the US and offshore and follows our total victory in critical and nearly unprecedented discovery proceedings offshore.

    - Representing Iraq Telecom, a Middle Eastern telecommunications joint venture, in applications where the firm successfully argued that U.S. discovery under 28 U.S. Section 1782 should be granted in the foreign proceedings, including in the Dubai International Financial Center and ICC Arbitrations.

- Representing a high net worth Middle Eastern private client in connection with matters arising out of ongoing proceedings in the GCC Courts.

- One of our lawyers represented (at a previous firm) a group of international banks against the Saudi conglomerate company, Ahmad Hamad Algosaibi and Brothers, before the Saudi Enforcement Court in relation to claims exceeding USD 133 million.

- One of our lawyers acted (at a previous firm) for a government entity in the bankruptcy proceedings in relation to the liquidation of Saudi Ogier. The government entity's claims against Saudi Ogier exceed USD 7 billion and involve requests for enforcement against pledged securities, including pledged real estate.

- Acted for a Saudi food company in a dispute with Pizza Hut/Yum! concerning

termination of our client's franchise agreement and closure of 150 stores in Saudi Arabia, and allegations of breach of franchise agreements to operate the Pizza Hut brand in Turkey, Tunisia and Morocco.

- Represented a projected new city in Saudi Arabia that is organizing major sporting events, which as part of "*Saudi Vision 2030*"
- Represented the General Sports Authority of Saudi Arabia in contentious matters regarding the Olympic Charter.
- Represented the World Boxing Super Series, which organized the first professional boxing match in Saudi Arabia, in a number of contentious matters in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.
- Acted for the Receiver and Manager of certain claims of the Libyan Investment Authority against Goldman Sachs and Société Générale.
- Represented a Kuwaiti businessman in an ICC arbitration worth over USD 3 billion involving a dispute between billionaire brothers over the division of family assets, and ancillary civil and criminal proceedings in several jurisdictions in relation to various alleged fraud committed by the other side in the arbitration.
- Acted for Viceroy Hotel Group arising out of a dispute over management of its property in Dubai.
- Represented a multinational computer technology corporation in a number of tax cases. Those cases involved objections to tax assessments issued by the Saudi Tax Authority in relation to income tax, and claims for refund concerning withholding and income taxes.
- Represented the Japanese corporation, Sumitomo Corporation, against the former exclusive Komatsu agent in Saudi Arabia, Abdullah Saeed Bugshan & Bros (ASB), concerning the sale of Komatsu heavy equipment.
- Successfully represented a Fortune 500 corporation before the Saudi Enforcement Court to enforce one of the first international arbitral awards in Saudi Arabia, an arbitral award that awarded our client more than USD 58 million.
- Successfully represented a Swedish corporation and Saudi company against a Saudi limited liability company, Saudi National Establishment Company Limited, concerning payment default on sales contracts. The case was fought before the First Instance Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Enforcement Court.

SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND DISPUTES

- Represented DP World subsidiaries in LCIA arbitration proceeding against the Djibouti Ports and Free Zone Authority and the Republic of Djibouti.
- Represented DP World in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration against a General Partner of a Fund in which DP World was the anchor investor, involving issues of fraud and breach of contract.
- Represented Dubai world in a lawsuit against China Merchants, a Chinese government owned company based in Hong Kong. In the suit, Dubai World alleges

that China Merchants interfered with a number of contracts between Dubai World and the republic of Djibouti.

- Represented Abu Dhabi wealth fund in an ICC arbitration against a Maltese company relating to an overdue debt and interests in an Egyptian group.

- Represented Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth funds, IPIC and Aabar in a multi-billion dollar lawsuit against Goldman Sachs.

REGULATION AND INVESTIGATIONS

- Leading Middle East-based logistics company in contract disputes with the United States worth nearly $100 million.

- Leading Middle East-based logistics company in connection with an internal review relating to the awards of port concessions in South America and a related investigation by a multilateral development bank.

- Mubadala in the DOJ's largest ever forfeiture case against co-investors alleged to have embezzled funds from Malaysian sovereign wealth fund 1MDB.

- Agility Public Warehousing Company in the largest government contracting fraud case ever brought by the US government. Agility, the former prime vendor of food to US troops in the Iraq war zone, resolved a six count felony indictment involving the nearly $10 billion prime vendor contract by agreeing to enter into a single count misdemeanor plea in connection with one invoice valued at $551 million.

CONSTRUCTION DISPUTES

- Quinn Emanuel secured a critical arbitration award for a Middle East state-related charity in a multi-billion dollar arbitration arising from the construction of a landmark social infrastructure project in the Middle East, confirming that the termination of the construction contract for the project as a result of the contractors' delays was valid (the quantum phases of the arbitration, worth over US$ 1 billion are continuing). We also successfully defended two challenges to two of the arbitration awards in the High Court of England & Wales.

- A Middle East state energy company in an ICC arbitration against the EPC contractor responsible for the construction of a USD 1 billion polysilicon production plant.

- A major Gulf-based sovereign petrochemical company in an ICC arbitration against two international construction contractors in connection with the tank farm for an integrated petrochemical plant under construction in Qatar

- A GCC government in a locally seated ICC arbitration related to the termination of a USD 2.5 billion construction contract, based on the FIDIC Yellow book, for the construction of two major railway stations associated below and above ground rail infrastructure.

- One of our lawyers successfully represented (at a previous firm) an international company in a construction arbitration case in relation to an infrastructure project

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in the western province of Saudi Arabia with claims exceeding USD 130 million.

- A Jeddah based development company in relation to disputes arising from the construction of a number of hotels at Mecca.
- The Capital Market Authority of Saudi Arabia in relation to a number of construction related issues arising from the King Abdullah Financial district in Riyadh, KSA.
- Successfully represented an international company in a construction arbitration case in relation to an infrastructure project in the western province of Saudi Arabia with claims exceeding USD 130 million.

ENERGY DISPUTES

- One of our lawyers successfully represented (at a previous firm) an energy company in a USD 250 million construction arbitration case concerning the installation of natural gas pipelines.
- One of our lawyers successfully represented (at a previous firm) an energy company against claims totalling over USD 500 million brought by a Saudi energy-listed company, SARCO, before the Saudi Administrative Supreme Court, concerning a shareholder dispute.
- European oil and gas company in a dispute notably against a middle eastern country regarding its exit from an oilfield block.
- International oil and gas company in a dispute notably against Yemen regarding its exit from an oilfield block in Yemen.
- An Algerian government owned company against a European energy company in an ICC arbitration regarding the revision of the contractual price of two long-term LNG contracts. The amount in dispute exceeded USD 750 million.
- An Algerian national electricity company, and two of its subsidiaries, in proceedings initiated by the majority shareholder of an Emirati company in a dispute regarding a long term electricity conversion agreement. The dispute revolves around the method of calculation of the price of electricity produced by a power plant in Algeria.
- Defended an energy company in an arbitration case brought by a security establishment concerning the termination of three security contracts. The claims in question exceeded USD 110 million and included allegations of payment delay and a counterclaim for the cost to complete the original scope.
- Successfully represented an energy company in a construction arbitration case concerning a crude oil pipelines project with claims of the value of more than USD 13 million.
- Defended one of the international energy companies in three separate arbitration cases concerning vessels where the value of the claims in question was over USD 186 million.
- Acted for an energy company in bankruptcy proceedings filed by the construction

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company, Azmeel Contracting Company (Azmeel), before the Commercial Court. The energy company's claims were in relation to the cost to complete five major construction projects that Azmeel has failed to complete.

- Successfully represented an international energy company against a Saudi company before the Administrative Supreme Court concerning breaches of an energy agreement. One of the main claims was whether the international energy company breached the agreement based on the prices applied to the kerosene supplied to the Saudi company. This case was successful litigated before the Supreme Court where we convinced the Judges that our client applied the right kerosene prices and to award our client USD 224 million for unpaid kerosene supplied to the Saudi company.

- Successfully defended an international energy company in a real estate case brought by the owner of a residential compound, Qitaf Al Ardh Real Estate Development Company, before the Saudi General Court.

- Successfully acted for an energy company in a construction arbitration case concerning a residential project in the western province of Saudi Arabia.

"I rate our lawyers at Quinn Emanuel very highly. They do a good job on our arbitration matters while working under constant pressure."
Client Testimonials, ***Chambers and Partners***