

Giants of the Gulf

On *The Brief's* first birthday, Jonathan Ames and Kathryn Young look at 20 lawyers who have helped the Gulf's economic boom

A magic circle law firm held a press reception last month in the heart of political London – the top floor of Millbank Tower in Westminster, just spitting distance from the Houses of Parliament. This type of bash – two a penny during boom times – is designed for the large cadre of legal journalists in the UK to slurp up fizz and canapés at the firm's expense, with the price being that they have to remain fairly silent for a few moments while a couple of the senior partners stumble through their speeches.

In his prepared remarks at the Millbank event, the managing partner made the usual trawl through the firm's worldwide operations, with his fingers crossed that he didn't overlook one of the smaller outposts. And then he referred to the firm's booming Middle East practice. Unfortunately, while some of the Dubai office team had hoped to get to London to schmooze the journalists, he said, "they were far too busy to do so".

That more or less encapsulates the myth – and perhaps the reality – of legal practice in the Gulf region. There is a perception that the pace of business is moving so fast that lawyers dare not blink for fear of missing out on the latest piece of project work, property deal or Islamic finance structuring. And the Middle East has become the region du jour for primarily UK and US law firms looking to expand, whether they are global old hands or relative novices.

Indeed, the very existence of this magazine is a reflection of how the legal profession and legal work in the Gulf has exploded over the last few years. *The Brief* is a year old this month and to mark its anniversary, it has highlighted 20 of the top lawyers in the region. The list is by no means exclusive or exhaustive; it is also

not a ranking or a league table. It is purely a recognition of some of the top players in the region as a way of shining a light on just how much big-ticket work is being done in the Middle East.

Last autumn, international consultancy Hildebrandt produced a comprehensive report on the Gulf's legal profession. While it ran to more than 100 pages, the researchers' overriding message was: "Despite the difficulties and risks of establishing in the region, the opportunities for international [law] firms to build new relationships with powerful clients of global economic significance are huge."

There are problems with any boom, and the practice of law in the Gulf is no different, with concerns over economic sustainability, market saturation, recruitment and human rights issues. But there is no disputing that so far, the legal sector in the region is a success story. And here, we look at some lawyers who have been instrumental in making it so.





Oliver Agha
DLA Piper

After only 11 months, Agha has built a team of 12 Islamic finance lawyers in Dubai and from DLA's Dubai office oversees more than 40 throughout the world, enabling his firm to progress rapidly

towards its stated vision of providing "coherent, considered, responsive and commercially sound Islamic finance counsel to its clients globally".

Agha is the firm's global head of Islamic finance, with his own practice focusing on a revolutionary approach to that field. Rather than replicate conventional deals, Agha is said to have embraced the true spirit of Islamic finance by his committed study of Islamic jurisprudence, hiring lawyers who are also Islamic scholars, developing a truly global Islamic finance practice and giving back to the community in outreaching endeavours.

He studied Shari'a for many years and in addition to project financing deals, he has also advised clients in various other areas of Islamic law such as insurance, environmental and intellectual property within the context of Saudi regulations and circulars. His experience also extends to advising multilateral lenders on projects in Asia in the areas of structured and corporate finance, securitisation, energy and restructuring.

A US-qualified lawyer, Agha is licensed to practice in New York and Connecticut; he has also practised as a foreign lawyer in Hong Kong, Beijing and other Asian capitals.

He is said to combine his "hands-on experience in structuring, documenting and negotiating landmark deals in the region" with "a business-savvy, client-friendly and responsive approach". His firm says: "Oliver Agha's deep understanding of Shari'a principles has enabled advice in structuring novel structures and actively engaging Shari'a scholars to devise constructs that are both Islamically compliant and commercially viable."



Sahia Ahmad
Reed Smith Richards Butler

Ahmad only joined the firm's partnership from her role as general counsel at Dubai World in November last year. Based in RSRB's Dubai office, she brings vast experience in corporate,

commercial, real estate, projects and finance, including Islamic finance, to the practice.

Prior to her time at Dubai World, Ahmad qualified as a barrister in England and then practised at the Dubai office of magic circle firm Allen & Overy for several years.

Since joining Reed Smith Richards Butler, Ahmad has been heavily involved with building up the Dubai office. She has played an active role in advising on a US\$2 billion residential, leisure and sport project in Dubailand, including corporate structuring advice. Ahmad has also advised an American design and development group on its Middle East operations and projects, worked on a power project in India, provided fund advice for an international real estate developer and advised on hotel management agreements for a leading hotel owner.



Rahail Ali
Lovells

Rahail Ali is a partner at Lovells and while based in the Dubai office, is the firm's global head of Islamic finance.

Widely considered to be in the elite top-tier of Shari'a finance practice, Ali has worked on some

of the region's most innovative and high-value deals, including many of the landmark sukuk issues. In the last 18 months, his team has completed Islamic financings with an aggregate deal value in excess of US\$18 billion.

Ali has the distinction of being the only lawyer in the region to be included in this year's "Hot 100" published by the London-based weekly newspaper, *The Lawyer*. Specifically, some of the deals he has been involved in reads like a list of landmark financings. He acted on the Nakheel sukuk (thought to be the largest ever), as well as sukuks for the Jebel Ali Free Zone, Ras Al Khaimah, Qatar Alaqaria and property company, Dar Al Arkan sukuk, which was one of the first such from Saudi Arabia.

Comments one colleague: "Clients speak glowingly of his technical excellence, commercial acumen and refreshingly unstuffy, solution-oriented, approach."



Hadeef Al Dhahiri
Hadeef Al Dhahiri & Associates

One of the region's most renowned local lawyers, Hadeef Al Dhahiri completed his LLB in Shari'a and law at Kuwait University in 1980 and later received an LLM from Harvard University,

in the US, followed by a PhD in Constitutional Law from the UK's Cambridge University.

In 1980, Al Dhahiri launched the firm Hadeef Al Dhahiri & Associates and today it is widely considered to be among the oldest and largest full-service business law firms in the UAE, with large offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. The firm has more than 70 lawyers who were mainly educated and have practised in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as a number of Middle East jurisdictions. The firm combines in-depth regional knowledge and experience with international standards and expertise.

Al Dhahiri retains his role as the firm's senior partner and has been the legal adviser to the government of Abu Dhabi. He continues to hold many governmental and non-governmental posts and serves on the board of directors of a number of governmental organisations.

He is also the vice-chancellor of the UAE University, a trustee of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, and is fully licensed to appear before the UAE Supreme Court and all other federal courts.

Al Dhahiri continues to be active in the education of law, and his research interests include regional organisations, the legal status of foreigners in the UAE and civil liberties.

Hadeef Al Dhahiri – Hadeef Al Dhahiri & Associates

"Launched in 1980, the firm is now considered among the largest and oldest full service business law firms in the UAE"



Amna Al Jallaf **Ince & Co**

An aviation law specialist – she is known as the “queen of aviation” across the region – Amna Al Jallaf is one of the few female UAE national lawyers to have been appointed as a partner in an

international law firm.

She is one of only three women appointed by Dubai’s ruler, Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to the board of directors of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Al Jallaf is also the chairwoman and founding member of the professional standards body, the UAE Lawyer Group, and a licensed advocate.

The senior partners at Ince heap praise on Al Jallaf: “The fact that we identified Amna to become our partner in preference to all the other various possibilities that were open to us when we were looking to establish an office here demonstrates our evaluation at the time. Having now worked closely with her for almost two years she has more than vindicated our initial assessment.”

Al Jallaf advises a range of aviation clients including major passenger airlines, cargo airlines, VIP clients, executive aircraft operators, corporate and private purchasers, start-up businesses and a variety of clients in related air travel sectors.

Those in the field note that Al Jallaf has made a significant impact in what is – both in the region and around the world – a male-dominated practice area.

Comments one lawyer: “This is not something she makes any fuss about, and I am not sure that it particularly occurs to her, but it is the reality.”

She has a reputation for standing firm in difficult negotiations with seasoned players in the field. “She succeeds and she earns respect through her commitment to the client’s cause and abilities in her areas of expertise,” is the analysis of one colleague.

Amna Al Jallaf – Ince & Co, Dubai

“Amna has a reputation for standing firm in difficult negotiations with seasoned players in the field”



Essam Al Tamimi **Al Tamimi & Co**

A UAE national, Essam Al Tamimi has for many years been one of the leading figures of the Middle East’s legal community. He has specialised in commercial law and related litigation

around the GCC for the last two decades.

Having founded Tamimi & Co in 1989, he remains to this day the firm’s senior partner and spearheads all aspects of the practice’s operations. His large diversified client base includes individuals and local and multinational corporations.

Today it is one of – if not the – largest law firms in the Middle East, employing more than 100 lawyers and a total of 250-plus staff.

Many describe the firm’s success as being Al Tamimi’s ability to create a local firm with international standards of practice. His colleagues cite his belief “in creativity and flexibility while still maintaining quality and being selective and he has always applied this to everything he does”.

Having launched as a single office firm in Sharjah, Al Tamimi & Co’s development since its founding has been considerable. It is now one of the largest non-affiliated law firms in the Middle East. And Al Tamimi himself has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the firm has consistently and strategically placed itself directly in alignment with regional economic growth sectors.

Comments one colleague: “From the very beginning, Essam has had one vision and that is to be the ultimate Middle Eastern law firm.”



Ewan Cameron **Linklaters**

The managing partner of the Dubai office of magic circle firm Linklaters, Cameron has been based in the emirate for more than 11 years and is a frequent speaker at international conferences on capital

markets, privatisations and energy and utilities projects in the Middle East. He is a member of the listing panel/practitioners committee of the Dubai International Financial Exchange.

Cameron is considered one of the leading mergers and acquisitions, and capital markets specialist practitioners in the region.

He has more than 21 years’ experience of working in London and the GCC. His practice addresses all aspects of corporate finance, cross-border M&A, private equity, equity and debt

capital markets, financial market regulation, funds and energy transactions.

He pioneered the early privatisation programmes across the Middle East and Africa in multiple sectors (Saudi Telecoms, Omantel, Royal Jordanian, Malta Freeport, Omani Airports, Air Tanzania, Tanzania Water, Industries of Qatar) and has a record of leading the ground-breaking large scale M&A transactions and capital markets deals across the region.

Cameron’s highlights for last year included acting in relation to the Borse Dubai US\$5 billion hostile takeover of the Scandinavian stock exchange group, OMX, and subsequent transactions involving a share exchange with Nasdaq, as well as the DP World US\$5bn initial public offering on the DIFX exchange, the first major listing on that exchange and regional/international offering – representing the joint global coordinators/underwriters Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, Millennium and Shuaa.



Justin Connor **Director of legal and regulatory affairs at Emirates International Telecommunications**

A highly sought-after expert in the legal and regulatory environment for telecommunications, Justin Connor has received several commendations

for his work from governments, international bodies and professional associations.

He has worked throughout the Middle East, as well as in the US and Europe, and has represented interests in all aspects of the telecommunications industry, including fixed and mobile operators, government entities, Internet service providers, satellite operators, associations and advocated for new market entrants as well as incumbent operators. Connor is the head of the legal department for a leading Dubai Holding company. Previously, he headed the telecom practice at the prominent local law firm, Al Tamimi & Company, and prior to that he was senior attorney and Middle East advisor to the US Federal Communications Commission in Washington DC, the oldest telecommunications regulatory agency in the world.

Connor also advised the FCC on international trade and World Trade Organisation matters, and represented the US before the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva. In 2004, he was awarded a Fulbright fellowship to teach at La Sagesse University Faculty of Law in Beirut.

Connor is a leader in his field and a strong advocate for the in-house legal profession in the region, having launched the Dubai Corporate Counsel Group last year.



Dean Ferris
Chief legal officer
at the Dubai
International Financial
Centre Authority
(DIFCA)

In his capacity with the DIFCA, Ferris serves the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) in various capacities

and functions, among them general counsel, registrar of companies, registrar of security, chairman of the registration review committee, of the DIFCA legislative committee, and of the DIFC court users' committee, as well as secretary to the DIFCA board of directors.

These roles involve Ferris centrally in the development of DIFC legislation and company formations, as well as the range of activity normally associated with the role of senior corporate legal adviser and corporate secretary.

Prior to joining the DIFCA in April 2004, Ferris spent 15 years as an international energy industry lawyer with oil field technology project management company, Schlumberger Group, where he held various positions throughout the group's global operations, the last of which was general counsel – North/South America, based in Houston.

A US-qualified attorney, Ferris is admitted in New York and Washington DC, and he has also been in private practice with law firms in New York, St Louis and Saudi Arabia.



Jasamin Fichte
Fichte & Co

Jasamin Fichte is the founding and managing partner of Dubai-based Fichte & Co, an international shipping law firm that has managed to carve a niche among the leading global maritime

practices in the UAE since it was launched in 2004. Last November, the firm was named as the "best maritime law firm of 2007" by the Seatrade Middle East and Indian Subcontinent Awards international panel of judges.

Fichte's commitment to extending comprehensive quality legal services to the Gulf region is highlighted by the firm opening an office in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Both the UAE government and others in the region have instructed the firm in maritime-related matters. Similarly, the firm is routinely asked to tender for major maritime policy formulating projects in the UAE by Dubai Maritime City, the Dubai International Financial Centre and the Abu Dhabi Ports Company.

In addition, the final touches are currently being made to a proposal by the Dubai Courts Department that Fichte & Co conduct a maritime law course for the local judiciary.

Comments a colleague: "Jasamin has always endeavoured to utilise her strong professional relationships with the various governmental departments to create awareness of international maritime practices in the region. Jasamin's commitment to maritime development is seen from events such as the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code training seminars for Dubai Port Police Security Officers and UAE Port State Control, Marine Insurance and cargo claims seminar with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry."

Fichte is renowned for almost campaigning zeal in maintaining what the firm describes as "European client commitment standards". Says one colleague: "Jasamin's insistence of adherence to European law society standards – efficient client care and follow up, constant updating of information and research along with 24-hour access to associates – allows us to service our clients better."

The Dubai Courts Department has recently approached the firm in relation to the drafting of a "lawyers' law", which implies official acknowledgement that lawyers in the region need regulation and supervision to adapt to international standards.



Dominic Harvey
Norton Rose

As managing partner of the firm's Bahrain office and head of banking and projects across the Middle East, Harvey is considered to be "a key figure in Bahrain".

Active in the region for more than a decade, he concentrates on project finance and emerging market work.

Harvey has advised a variety of banks, government entities and private equity institutions across the Middle East and is well known for his strong relationship with the Bahrain government. He continues to advise the Bahrain ministry of finance in respect of a number of aspects relating to their ongoing privatisation programme generally and some of the initial privatisations.

He has been in the managing partner slot in Bahrain for the last three years and has overseen the continued growth of both his office and the regional banking practice in recent years. Indeed, Harvey was instrumental in setting up the firm's recently opened Riyadh office in association with the Abdulaziz Al Assaf Law Firm.

His main areas of focus are utilities and energy project finance, and he has additional experience in acquisition finance, sovereign debt, export credit agency and emerging market work, as well as in Islamic finance structures.

Harvey has been involved in some of the region's most significant project finance deals, such as the Al Waha Petrochemical Project in Saudi Arabia where he led the team advising lenders on the US\$1 billion Shari'a-compliant financing. He also recently advised the Islamic lead arrangers on the US\$1.4bn financing arrangements for the KPPC Aromatics Project in Kuwait.



Joseph Huse
Freshfields
Bruckhaus Deringer

The managing partner of the major global law firm's Dubai office, Huse is also head of the firm's Middle East and North Africa (Mena) practice group.

Huse is at the forefront of major developments

for the firm and is helping to drive Freshfield's success, leading on some of the most significant matters in the Mena region. He has considerable experience in corporate-related acquisitions and specialises in all aspects of project financing relating to infrastructure, transport, oil and gas and power projects, and has extensive experience on such projects worldwide.

His experience includes advising Emaar on the King Abdullah Economic City Project, the Bahrain government on the proposed Al Dur IWPP project and the US\$360 million Al Hidd independent water power project, which was named Middle East IWPP Deal of the Year 2006 by *Project Finance Magazine*.

Huse has also acted in the development of the US\$503m Al Ezzel power project, the negotiation of a long-term gas supply contract in Qatar. And he has advised Sama Dubai on agreements with the Moroccan government for real estate projects totalling US\$12bn, including the US\$500m Marina de Casablanca development.



Tahir Jawed
Maples & Calder

The Cayman Islands-based firm's Dubai office managing partner is renowned for having top-drawer experience in the offshore structuring of Islamic finance products. Jawed

acted in the first sukuk issue by a Cayman company to be listed on Dubai International Financial Exchange (DIFX) as well as inaugural sukuk issues listed on other worldwide exchanges.

Jawed's expertise covers swaps/derivatives, general corporate and investment and private equity funds, including funds that comply with Islamic principles. He has advised on the region's first multi-billion dollar private equity funds, the first real estate investment trust and the first distressed property fund.

He was responsible for opening the Maples & Calder Dubai office in 2005, making the firm the first offshore legal practice to have a presence in the emirate, and making him the first offshore lawyer in the jurisdiction.

An English-qualified solicitor, Jawed practised first at Clifford Chance in the global firm's London, New York and Dubai capital markets departments.

Apart from his landmark Islamic finance deals, Jawed's list of transactions in the Middle East contains some of the region's biggest deals. This includes major projects such as establishing the US\$2 billion private equity fund managed by Abraaj Capital, advising on the listing of Kingdom Hotels' shares on the DIFX, advising on the acquisition and financing of the Egyptian Fertilizer Company, advising on the offshore aspects of the Nakheel sukuk issuance, and advising on the offshore aspects of the Dubai Holding US\$5bn MTN programme.

Anzal Mohammed – Allen & Overy

“Mohammed closed five high-profile capital markets transactions in the region, including the first UAE dirham-denominated sukuk”



Graham Lovett
Clifford Chance

The managing partner of the Dubai office of the world's largest law firm, Lovett is the practice's head of litigation and dispute resolution for the region. He was based in the London office until coming to Dubai in 2004

where he specialises in commercial litigation, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

His expertise is wide ranging, including general commercial litigation and arbitration, fraud cases (freezing/disclosure orders and asset tracing), joint venture deals, partnership and shareholder disputes, banking and finance (including fraud, trade finance, foreign exchange and fixed income), insurance, regulatory (investigations and disciplinary/enforcement), foreign assistance in civil and criminal claims, information technology and construction. He has vast experience of litigation and regulatory investigations in a variety of jurisdictions, as well as cross-border disputes. And he is experienced in dispute avoidance, including mediation.

Lovett has experience of multi-jurisdictional litigation and arbitration (involving the London Court of International Arbitration and the UN Commission on International Trade Law, among others). He has acted in jurisdictions around the globe ranging from the US, Russia, Italy, Germany, Hong Kong and Singapore. He is part of the firm's international arbitration group and also a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.



Zubair Mir
Herbert Smith

Based in the London firm's Dubai office, Mir is an international corporate finance lawyer specialising in cross border mergers and acquisitions, privatisations, investment funds,

private equity and Islamic corporate finance.

He has acted in several high-profile transactions in Europe, the Middle East and Australasia. A well-recognised market leader in private equity and investment funds, Mir has worked on the largest and most significant transactions in the Middle East, including for Millennium Finance Corporation/Dubai Islamic Bank, Investcorp and EFG-Hermes.

Mir also advised on a number of “market firsts” such as the first professional vehicle for management buy-out investment into the Gulf region, the first investment fund ever to invest

into Iran and the first of their kind Shari'a-compliant family of private equity funds. On the mergers and acquisitions front, he regularly acts on complex cross border transactions for private equity funds and has also a strong expertise in telecoms M&A. He regularly advises Abu Dhabi-based telecommunications company Etisalat on its international acquisitions.

In 1997, Mir qualified as a barrister and solicitor in Australia and was admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales two years later. While at previous firms, Zubair has practised in Australia, London, Bahrain and Dubai. He joined Herbert Smith in early 2007.



Anzal Mohammed
Allen & Overy

Currently based in Dubai as head of Allen & Overy's international capital markets group in the Middle East, Mohammed has been at the forefront of international Islamic sukuk transactions

and international debt offerings in the Middle East in recent years. He also specialises in Shari'a-compliant finance structures, equity offerings (including hybrid capital issues), debt issuance programmes, convertible securities, securitisation and derivative securities.

In the last quarter of 2007, he closed five high-profile capital markets transactions in the region, with an aggregate nominal value of US\$14 billion, including the first UAE dirham-denominated sukuk and the largest non equity-linked sukuk ever, the first Islamic capital markets issue in Ras Al Khaimah and the largest debt issuance programme in the region.

Mohammed's other notable deals in 2007 included the Tamweel Islamic residential mortgage-backed securitisation, the DIFC sukuk, the debut issuance of global bonds by Abu Dhabi and the first convertible sukuk issue in Kuwait. Last month, he advised Tamweel on its debut convertible sukuk issue, which was oversubscribed within hours of its launch in December.

He also has a leading capital markets practice involving Pakistani issuers, having advised on the last three international capital markets issues by the Pakistan government.

Mohammed has spent his entire legal career at Allen & Overy, having trained with the firm in London and qualified in 1999. Prior to his move to the Middle East, he was based in London from where he undertook a short-term client secondment with a leading European investment bank in Amsterdam and spent two years in Allen & Overy's Frankfurt office.



David Nicholson
General counsel and secretary at property developer Nakheel

Having joined Nakheel in his current role in 2006, Nicholson is responsible for the company's legal and corporate governance functions.

Before that, he was a legal director with Emaar Properties and prior to that, head of the legal department at Dubai-based aluminium company Dubal. He has spent the last 17 years in the Middle East.

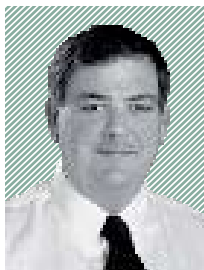
Initially qualified in the Australian state of Victoria where he ran his own law firm, Nicholson moved to London in 1988 where he joined the commercial property and banking and finance teams at the law firm, Nabarro Nathanson.

He now heads a team of some 20 lawyers engaged in various disciplines across the company's business units, including mixed use property development, construction, asset management, major retail malls and brands development, hotel and leisure, funds management, company commercial and general commercial work.

Nicholson prefers to embed Nakheel's in-house lawyers within the various business units of the company to promote quick reaction time, efficiency, a fuller understanding by the lawyers of the businesses' requirements and greater individual commitment and responsibility. He is credited with establishing the benchmark internal property transfer and financing registration procedures that regulated property and financing transactions for foreigners prior to the implementation of the Dubai Real Estate Law of 2006.

Jonathan Silver – Clyde & Co

“He is described as the firm's big gun; an excellent commercial lawyer and a true Dubai institution”



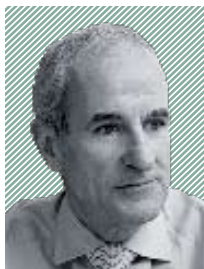
Andrew Rae
Trowers & Hamblins

The resident managing partner of the Abu Dhabi office of one of the region's longest-standing global law firms, Rae is a member of the international department and has been based in the region

for the past eight years, specialising in Middle East project development and corporate and project finance.

He has extensive experience in large scale projects, involving ports, pipelines, petrochemical, oil and gas and energy. Recent projects on his books include his role as co-lead partner to the US\$10 billion development of the Khalifa Port and Industrial Zone in the UAE capital.

Rae's past experience has also involved privatisation and corporate structuring, including dealing extensively in the capital markets arena.



Jonathan Silver
Clyde & Co

With more than 28 years' experience working in the Middle East in the areas of international banking and finance, corporate, commercial, mergers and acquisitions, private equity and project

work, Silver is one of the longest standing legal practitioners in the Middle East.

He has been involved in a multitude of regional and local transactions that have covered most sectors of commercial activity including international trade, energy, construction, shipping, property, commodities and insurance.

Silver is a leading lawyer in the UAE in the fields of banking and finance, corporate/mergers and acquisitions, as well as company and corporate transactions.

He is described as the “firm's big gun... and one of the most experienced partners in Dubai; an excellent commercial lawyer and a true Dubai institution...”.

He trained and qualified as a solicitor with a City of London law firm, working first in London and later in the UAE. In 1981, Silver started his own practice in the UAE, ultimately merging with Clyde & Co in 1989. He has headed Clyde & Co's operations in the region since then, overseeing a period of dynamic and continued growth.



Paul Taylor
HBJ Gateley Wareing

Having moved over from Berrymans at the end of last year, Taylor is a partner and head of construction at the newly opened offices of HBJ Gateley Wareing in Dubai and is widely

considered to be one of the region's leading construction litigators.

Taylor came to the UAE in 2005 and – based on his experience in the Far East, Middle East and UK markets – he has been active in bringing a greater understanding of alternative dispute resolution methods in the UAE construction and engineering sector by encouraging clients to use alternatives such as mediation, conciliation and expert determination, rather than more traditional forums.

He has also actively promoted the use of adjudication and dispute boards, as well as advising clients across the UAE to adopt these procedures in their contracts. Taylor participates in and advises on these alternative forums on a day-to-day basis and is actively involved in fora such as the local UAE branch of the Society of Construction Law, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in the UK and the Adjudication Society.

Taylor has also used and promoted the more formal tiers of dispute resolution, namely arbitration and litigation and regularly gives seminars and writes for the local construction press on the benefits to the UAE construction industry of adopting procedures to help avoid, manage and resolve disputes.

He specialises in construction disputes, litigation, arbitration, and alternative dispute resolution, acting for national and international development companies, construction and engineering companies, international and local main contractors, subcontractors and professional consultants (architects, engineers, QS) on a variety of construction and engineering projects in the UAE including reclaimed islands, multi and single tower blocks, infrastructure, process and power facilities, hotels and resorts, and residential and office developments. ●

CONTRIBUTORS

Jonathan Ames is the editor and Kathryn Young is the deputy editor of *The Brief*