

Strength to strength

Eversheds Sutherland continues to make the Middle East a priority with its unique footprint, comprehensive legal experience and depth of resources.

As a global top 15 law practice and a recognised force in the Middle East region with an increasing number of legal directory rankings, Eversheds Sutherland continues to make the Middle East a priority. Our unique footprint in the region, comprehensive legal advice, depth of resource and experience, enables us to deliver top quality support to clients. We believe the key to our success in the region is to work together to promote our Middle East practice as an important part of our international operations. We act for some outstanding regional and global brands in the Middle East, with broad and deep strength across the full range of transactional, contentious and advisory work.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

In February 2018, Tawfiq Tabbaa succeeded Nasser Ali Khasawneh and was named Middle East managing partner. Tawfiq has joined the International Leadership Team. Tawfiq also serves as Iraq managing partner. Nasser Ali Khasawneh was appointed as co-head of the Global Technology, Media and Telecoms (TMT) Sector. This is a significant move – for the first time in the firm (and a first for other regional firms), such a role has been appointed outside of the UK and the US. Khasawneh also serves as the Middle East chairman and UAE managing partner.

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO TALENT AND GROWTH

We continue to make progress in a challenging and tough market. We have had significant growth in the region in the last 12 months in terms of revenue, expansion of practices and the calibre of clients we are working with. In addition, as a sign of our continued success and to accommodate for current and projected growth, our offices in Amman and Abu Dhabi have moved to new premises. Our offices in Dubai, Doha and Riyadh are currently either expanding in

size and or being refurbished.

Management pursued a strategy-focused on building on our quality of service and strengthening our regional full service offering through external lateral hires and internal transfers with a primary focus on arbitration, construction and engineering, energy and infrastructure, and real estate.

» **Arbitration/construction and engineering:** Earlier this year, our regional practice was bolstered with the strategic hire of Paul Taylor (partner), Roberta Wertman (legal director) and Kristine Kalnina (principal associate) from Reed Smith; all are based in the UAE. The team advises employers, contractors, subcontractors and consultants across a range of domestic and international construction and engineering projects in litigation, arbitration and all forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), as well as non-contentious projects and procurement. The team have had a busy start with more than ten arbitrations worth multi-US\$m in various jurisdictions, all under the main institutional rules, including five final hearings. Taylor's primary focus is expanding the arbitration practice across our regional platform. Over the last two months, legal director Ana Cristina Muñoz joined the team in Doha, and senior associate Matthew Ashforth transferred from Manchester to Dubai.

» **Energy and infrastructure:** As the MENA region continues to cement its position in the global energy market, we relocated two senior partners to expand the Energy and Infrastructure practice in the region. With a growing trend to develop renewable energy schemes in the Middle East and Africa, Iwan Walters was appointed head of Clean Energy and Sustainability MENA in April 2018. As one of the firm's leading clean energy and sustainability lawyers, he has advised on the development of renewables work in the MENA region, including Egypt,

Oman, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. With over 25 years of experience, Karim Mahmud was appointed head of Conventional Energy and Infrastructure MENA in July 2018. He will focus on the development of major energy and infrastructure projects in the O&G, conventional power, transport and social infrastructure sectors. Mahmud has advised project sponsors, governments (including national energy companies) and major engineering companies on multi-US\$b projects in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe.

» **Real estate:** In October 2018, our regional real estate team was further developed with the addition of Andrew Thomson (partner and head of Real Estate for the Middle East), Melissa Younan (principal associate) and Hala Haddad (paralegal) who all joined from Gowling WLG; all are based in Dubai and will work with real estate senior associate Kevin Fidler to expand the global real estate practice's offering in the region. As one of the region's most prominent real estate lawyers, Thomson represents clients across all major jurisdictions. He advises investors, funds, financial institutions and developers in sectors including retail, education, logistics and residential. Thomson also advises local and international clients in sub-Saharan Africa. His clients include some of the most prominent real estate funds, family offices and international real estate corporates operating in the Middle East.

We have more exciting news to share over the coming months. 📰



Nasser Ali Khasawneh



Tawfiq Tabbaa



Paul Taylor



Iwan Walters



Karim Mahmud



Andrew Thomson

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST

Coverage:

7 offices across 5 countries – Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE; Amman, Jordan; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Mohammed AlDhabaan & Partners in association with Eversheds Sutherland); Doha, Qatar; and Baghdad and Erbil, Iraq. *Eversheds Sutherland has 66 offices across 32 jurisdictions in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and the US; and 200 relationship law firms around the world as well as formalised regional alliances in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America.*

Numbers: 22 partners and over 100 lawyers

Strengths:

» Banking and finance

- » Capital markets
- » Commercial
- » Construction
- » Corporate crime and investigations
- » Corporate/M&A
- » Employment and labour
- » Energy and infrastructure
- » Financial services
- » Government public policy/ regulatory reform
- » Intellectual property
- » Litigation and dispute management
- » Real estate
- » TMT