

HFW LITIGATION

**OUR LOCAL LITIGATION EXPERIENCE
IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

“The team is exceptionally courteous and experienced. They are also accommodating and represent their clients in the best possible manner.”

Chambers and Partners 2019



58 lawyers in the Middle East, including **18** partners and **31** Arabic speakers

One of very few international law firms in the Middle East who run and manage litigation before local courts through their in-house local team.

Operational in the Middle East for over

25
YEARS

INTRODUCTION TO HFW

HFW have over 600 lawyers working across the Middle East, Europe, the Americas, Asia and Australia. We take a progressive approach to our roles in commercial business – thinking creatively and pragmatically to support our clients.

We are one of the largest international law firms operating in the Middle East with 18 partners and over 50 lawyers in offices across Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Riyadh and Kuwait City.

Our regional offering is unique and sets us apart from our competitors.



Extensive experience
of working in other jurisdictions in the region where we do not have offices, including Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.



103 staff across the Middle East
with over **80** members of staff
across two offices in the UAE



**Only international
law firm in Kuwait**



WHY CHOOSE HFW

HFW is one of the world's leading litigation-focused law firms. We represent clients before local courts through our in house legal teams in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and our local advocates in the UAE who have right of audience.

Our locally qualified team of highly qualified and skilled litigation lawyers have a wealth of experience in handling complex local litigation matters. We handle matters at international standards in order to meet the expectations of both local and international clients.

Our local litigation team of 15 bilingual litigators are skilled in handling complex litigation matters at the highest level of expertise. We provide litigation services in both Arabic and English. Our clients rely on us to handle their litigation matters with special care and attention to meet their reporting, and compliance obligations.

Our team combines a broad range of practice with geographical reach and capability to handle cases ranging from personal injury and criminal matters to high-value complex cross border disputes. We have handled a large number of cases in other states in the GCC region and Middle Eastern countries. We also regularly handle local disputes and litigation in other states across the GCC region where we do not have offices through working with our local corresponding law firms.

WHAT WE DO

- Providing pre litigation advice.
- Handle and manage local litigation up to local supreme courts.
- Precautionary attachment / freezing orders / applications of law.
- Enforcement of local, international arbitral awards and foreign judgments.
- Real estate disputes.
- Local criminal litigation matters including: corporate fraud and embezzlement, white collar crime, workplace fatalities and criminal investigations, breach of confidentiality, cybercrime, extradition proceedings etc.
- Labour and employment disputes.
- Personal injuries litigation.



LOCAL COMMERCIAL AND CIVIL LITIGATION

We represent clients in commercial and civil litigations before local courts. Recent examples include:

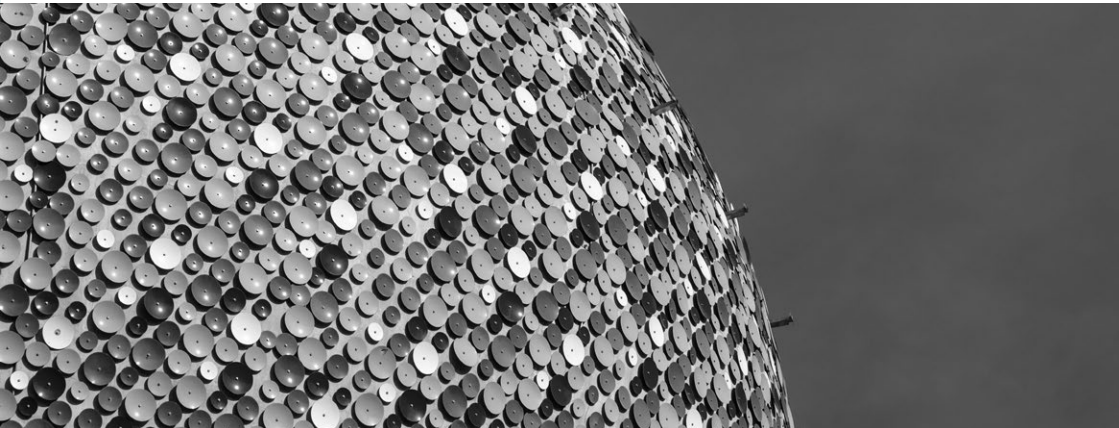
- Acting for an international bank in a breach of facility agreement dispute valued at US\$ 30 million.
- Acting for a leading international company in a substantial claim arising out of government tender in Saudi Arabia and UAE .
- Advising and acting for a Middle Eastern client in a local recourse action under bank guarantees and shareholders disputes.
- Acting for a major Middle Eastern client in various recovery claims arising out of unpaid invoices and breach of settlement agreements valued at US\$ 31 Million.
- Acting for an international investor in relation to US\$100 million property sale and development dispute in the UAE.
- Enforcing a substantial value promissory note against local borrowers.
- Representing and acting in a local shareholders restructuring dispute.
- Acting and handling a substantial number of local and civil litigations involving breach of contracts and tort across the Middle East.

CRIMINAL LITIGATION

- Acting for an international oil trading company in criminal actions in respect of oil valued at US\$ 7 million.
- Handled criminal proceedings relating to high profile bus crash accident that occurred in Dubai. The crash resulted in 17 fatalities and injuries to 13 other passengers when the bus collided with an overhead height restriction barrier.
- Acting for a Middle Eastern client in a criminal complaint for blackmail and cybercrime. This complex matter involved a criminal action and an electronic investigation by the concerned local authorities to identify the accused.
- Representing an international bank in respect of an incident involving embezzlement of Euro 15 million through investment facility agreement.
- Acting for an international bank in criminal proceedings involving dissipation of collaterals and securities to the value of US\$32 million.
- Acting for a general trading company in a criminal process involving a scheme valued at US\$ 22 million.
- Acting in a number of substantial criminal matters including: breach of trust, fraud and bounced cheques, enforcement of red corners notices with the region.
- Acting on a number of substantial matters involving international arrest warrants.

ATTACHMENT OF ASSETS

Our Middle East litigation team has regional experience in attaching assets including bank accounts, trade license, movable assets, shares, real estates and vehicle goods. The team possesses full legal expertise in relation to the local laws requirements and process of each Court in the Middle East. Such experience was gained from our long-standing expertise in commencing recovery claims with precautionary measures across the region. Our team file attachment applications regularly and therefore our regional litigation team can provide outstanding advice on the prospects of success in relation to the practice of each court in the region. We have an outstanding record of accomplishment in assisting clients in releasing attached assets as well.



ENFORCEMENT OF LOCAL, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRAL AWARDS, AND FOREIGN JUDGMENTS

We have enduring expertise in enforcing local and international arbitral awards and foreign judgments in GCC countries and various jurisdictions in the Middle East. The enforcement actions are normally filed as per the local Civil Procedures Law of the country where the judgment of award is to be enforced or under the relevant regional treaty or international conventions on the enforcements of awards. We successfully defend enforcement proceedings filed against various local and international clients.



LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT LOCAL COURTS LITIGATION

- Advising clients on any exposure arising out of the termination of the employment contract
- Representing clients in defending high profile employment local litigation cases.
- Acting for clients in labour disputes involving claims from the employees for profits of the company. HFW regional local litigation team has successfully defended a number of cases in this area.
- Acting for clients in disclosure of confidentiality obligation by employees.
- Acting for clients in labour cases involving claims for unfair dismissal and other employees' entitlement.
- Acting for clients in labour cases involving claims for employees' entitlement arising out of work related injuries.



PERSONAL INJURIES

The law protects people who are harmed by negligent parties and allows the injured to seek compensation for any damage resulting from negligence or intentional harm. Our litigation team has experience in representing claimants and defending claims for damages. We have expertise in advising clients about the type of evidence required to either establish the damages by the claimant or defend claims for damages by assessing the legal requirements and connections between the alleged fault and damage before the regional courts or experts appointed by the courts.

REAL ESTATE DISPUTES

Our litigation team has experience in providing our clients with legal advice in relation to various real estate disputes. HFW has been successful in obtaining judgments and court orders in litigation matters involving commercial leases, damages for breach of contract, enforcing bank guarantee against the relevant party before different regional local courts.



OUR TEAM

For more information about the capabilities of our Middle East Litigation team, please contact:



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