

Charles  
Russell  
Speechlys

# Our *Middle East* Practice

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## One of the *oldest Law firms* in the world

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The reason for our longevity? Established, trusted relationships with our clients, dedication to client service, and championing client causes.

Our partner-led client service has made us a leader in the world of legal services for dynamic family businesses and the world's leading creators and owners of private wealth. Major corporates and institutions benefit from our personalised approach as we embed ourselves in the teams of our clients, working alongside them and connecting them with the right people across our firm to help them seize new opportunities.

We have a world of experience

Our firm is headquartered in London, with offices in the Middle East, Europe, and Asia. Whether your business operates in a single country or across borders, we will assemble your ideal team, drawing from our sector and geographical expertise.

With over 1,200 employees, each of our offices serves as a gateway to the entire firm, connecting you with the best advisers and addressing your needs from our 13 offices across the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.

No matter where your *international ambitions* lie, we're here to *support you*.



## Award *winning* Middle East law firm

We are a market-leading, award-winning international law firm with offices in three key Middle East locations: Dubai, Manama, and Doha.

We have been working with clients in the GCC region for over 40 years and have operated on the ground in the Middle East for over 20 years. Our experienced Middle East team, comprising both English and Arabic-speaking lawyers, understands your specific requirements and the nuances of each marketplace in the region. We undertake some of the region's highest-value transactions and cases, and our partners in the Middle East are consistently ranked as leading lawyers in their respective fields by independent directories such as Chambers Global and The Legal 500. We are particularly proud of our investment in lawyers with local law qualifications, which brings an important multicultural dynamic to our Middle East team.

Our lawyers work seamlessly across the Middle East offices, servicing clients with a 'one team' approach regardless of geography and leveraging specific expertise from our other international offices as needed. We work with a variety of clients and industries, including government entities and regulators, sovereign wealth funds, multinational and regional corporates, major investors, and high-profile families and individuals.

Whatever your requirements, you will find our partners are very hands-on, delivering practical solutions. We provide partner-led relationship management and are dedicated to developing deep-rooted relationships, enabling us to fully understand your needs and objectives and respond accordingly. All three of our offices are permanently staffed by lawyers with both local and international experience who are actively involved in the wider Middle East business community.

We have been recognised by the legal directories as leaders in our respective fields.

We pride ourselves on our client service and performance and are delighted to have received recognition for this through industry awards and other accolades such as:



Winner of Bahrain Law Firm of the Year | Legal 500 Middle East and North Africa Awards 2025

Ranked Band 1 in all core practices in Bahrain | Chambers Global 2025



Winner of Banking, Finance and Restructuring Team of the Year 2025 | Middle East Legal Awards

Winner of the Bahrain Dispute Resolution Team of the Year | Chambers Middle East Awards 2024



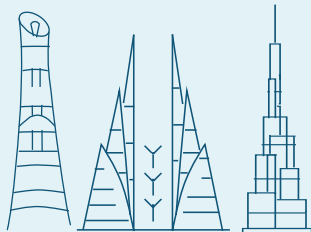
Winner of Law Firm of the Year Qatar 2023 | The Oath Middle East Legal Awards



# Don't just take our word... *we've also got a few numbers*

Admitted to practice in    **+20** jurisdictions

Operating in the Middle East



**+20 years**




**Regionally**  
qualified lawyers

**140+** lawyers are listed as leading individuals 



**Arabic** speaking lawyers across our Middle East office

**+1,200**   
Staff globally



**185** Partners globally



**3 offices**  
in the Middle East with on the ground lawyers



## *Litigation & Dispute Resolution*

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We are one of the largest and most reputable Litigation and Dispute Resolution teams in the Middle East, practising both Common Law and Civil Law across multiple jurisdictions and sectors.

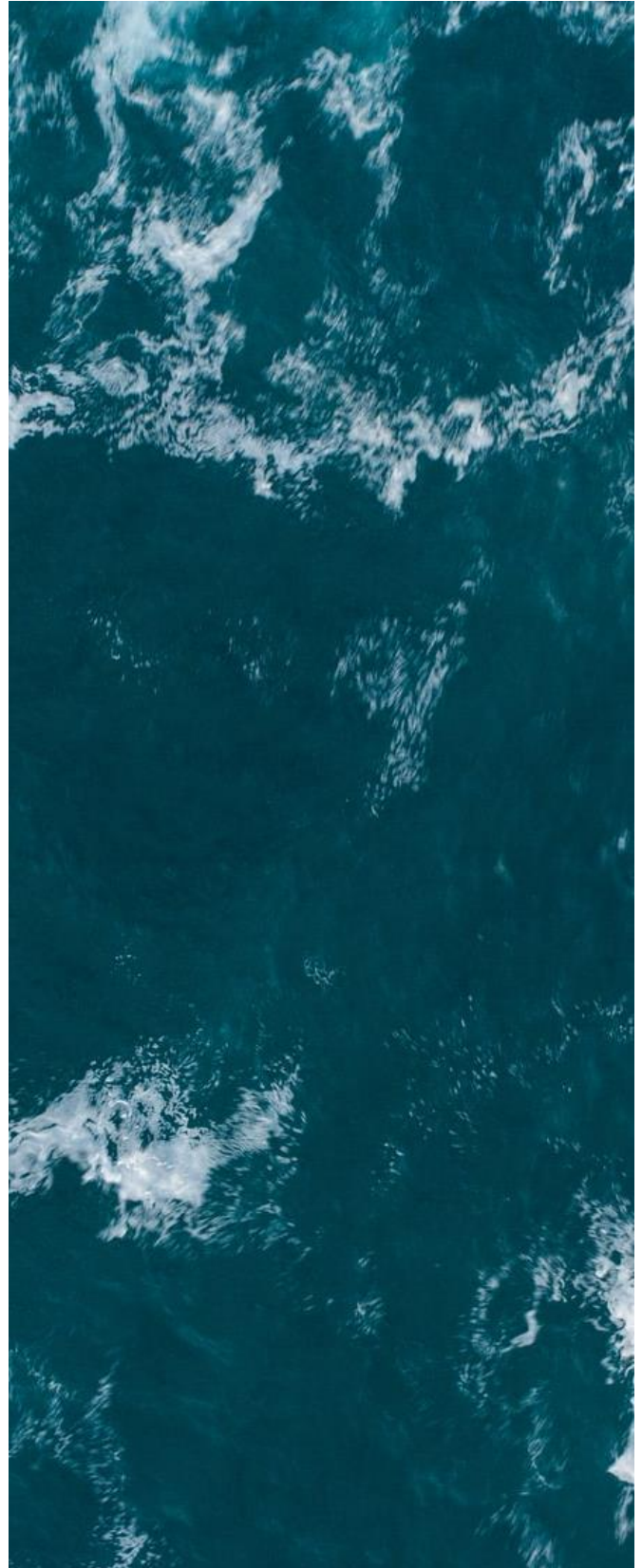
We are committed to managing and resolving your disputes as swiftly as possible. Our experienced, partner-led teams work closely with you to fully understand the issues you are facing, focusing our energies on achieving the best possible outcome for you and your organisation using the most appropriate dispute resolution techniques.

We work with governments, regulators, sovereign wealth funds, multinational corporations, major companies, and family businesses. Our team includes experts across a range of industries, from media to medicine, telecoms to trusts, manufacturing to insurance, and property to professional negligence.

Our expertise spans the Middle East, where we advise on banking and corporate litigation, insolvency, arbitration, mediation, and negotiation, handling some of the most complex, sensitive, and high-value claims in the region. We also specialise in addressing financial crime, providing guidance on fraud investigations, anti-money laundering compliance, and regulatory enforcement actions.

With the capability to handle both Common Law and Civil Law litigation, arbitration and investigation matters, our operations cover the entire Gulf region, offering comprehensive legal solutions. Our team comprises locally and internationally experienced lawyers, ensuring a broad spectrum of expertise. A significant number of our team members are bilingual in Arabic and English, enabling us to provide advice on local, regional, and international matters.

Our team has been recognised as leading in Bahrain and the UAE.



## Employment

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Employment regulations and workplace cultures are something that varies considerably across jurisdictions worldwide and has been affected by recent technological and cultural shifts.

For global businesses, it is crucial that you understand these variations and adapt your employment practices to suit these changes and trends. You need an international legal partner able to support you in both remaining compliant, and ensuring your business is structured to attract the best global talent.

Our firm's expertise covers both UAE Federal Law and Free Zone regulations. We have a particular focus on the DIFC and ADGM legal systems, where we serve a diverse range of clients across various industry sectors including all types of financial services, technology, consumer businesses and those backed by private capital. We also represent and advise executives across the lifecycle of their employment in the region, including where relationships breakdown and litigation ensues.

Our advice is holistic across the employment relationship: we also offer tailored support to high-net-worth individuals seeking UAE relocation options or advising local businesses on global immigration law options.

We are here to help you with:

- Employment documents
- Internal processes
- Contentious matters
- Investigations
- Audits
- Training
- Immigration matters



## Real Estate

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Our Real Estate team believes in cutting through the red tape and making things happen.

We understand that Real Estate matters can often involve complex legal issues, which is why we are committed to providing you with a jargon-free, practical approach. Our team delivers a comprehensive range of property-related services both locally and regionally to a diverse clientele, including occupiers, corporates, major investors, developers, contractors, consultants, charities, government entities, and high-profile families and individuals across the Middle East.

Our on-the-ground Real Estate practice serves the region from our offices in Bahrain and Dubai. We believe in working proactively with our clients to understand their legal requirements and objectives, helping them achieve their goals. We pride ourselves on providing practical, commercial, and innovative advice that adds value and offers our clients a competitive advantage.

Additionally, we have extensive experience advising our local clients, both corporates and individuals, on investing in both commercial and residential property in the UK.

We are here to help you with:

- Urban development & regeneration
- Acquisitions and disposals
- Investment and property management
- Property finance
- Hotels & hospitality
- Real estate investment trusts
- Low-cost housing/infrastructure projects and PPPs
- UK residential property investment



## Construction *Engineering* & Projects

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Our award-winning construction team delivers pragmatic, commercial advice geared towards timely, cost-effective completion of projects.

Our regionally based Construction, Engineering & Projects team can serve you from our Bahrain, Dubai, and Qatar offices.

We provide a comprehensive range of construction-related services both locally, regionally, and globally regularly advising on contentious and non-contentious issues relating to construction contracts and development, engineering, and projects. Our projects span various industries and sectors including residential, commercial, marine, infrastructure, healthcare, education, hotels, and leisure. Being the only 360-degree Construction, Real Estate and Development team on the ground in Bahrain, our team has provided unparalleled advice throughout the cycle of projects from inception to completion and beyond both on contentious and non-contentious matters.

Our team services both public and private sectors and acts on behalf of government and regulatory clients, project developers, lenders and investors, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants. The team is experienced in drafting all forms of construction and engineering contracts including FIDIC, NEC and JCT.

We advise clients on contentious matters and disputes, including use of ADR strategies, adjudication, expert determination, local and international construction litigation before local and the courts of DIFC and ADGM, and arbitration.

### We are here to help you with:

- Bespoke and standard form construction and engineering contracts
- Procurement and tendering
- Project forms, consultancy agreements and security documentation
- Contract and claims management
- Local and international litigation and arbitration



## Banking and Finance

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The global banking and finance markets are becoming increasingly complex.

Our team can advise on a whole range of domestic and cross-border financing transactions including both conventional and Islamic structures and products, and restructuring existing facilities.

Working with both lenders and borrowers alike, such as major clearing banks, commercial and private banks, non-bank lenders, investment funds, institutional investors, corporate borrowers, hedge funds and family offices and leading banking regulators in the region, our team is highly experienced and ready to guide you through your most pressing challenges.

With a Partner-led service and international relationships across the Middle East, UK, and Europe, we are equipped to assist you with complex transactions, providing the hands-on, practical, and tailored support you require. We pride ourselves on long-standing client relationships and are committed to working alongside you as your trusted adviser.

In response to the growing significance of Islamic finance, we have developed a team of specialists with expertise across key jurisdictions and practice areas, including banking, corporate finance, real estate and private client capital.

The team specialises in structuring, documenting, and negotiating transactions compliant with Shari'ah principles.

We are here to help you with:

- Islamic banking
- Islamic offshore products
- Asset management structuring
- Conventional banking agreements
- Loan and security agreements
- Risk management and derivatives



## Corporate

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### Our Corporate lawyers give pragmatic and commercial advice.

We fully understand our clients' needs and objectives from the outset, integrating closely with their teams and forging strong, trust-based relationships.

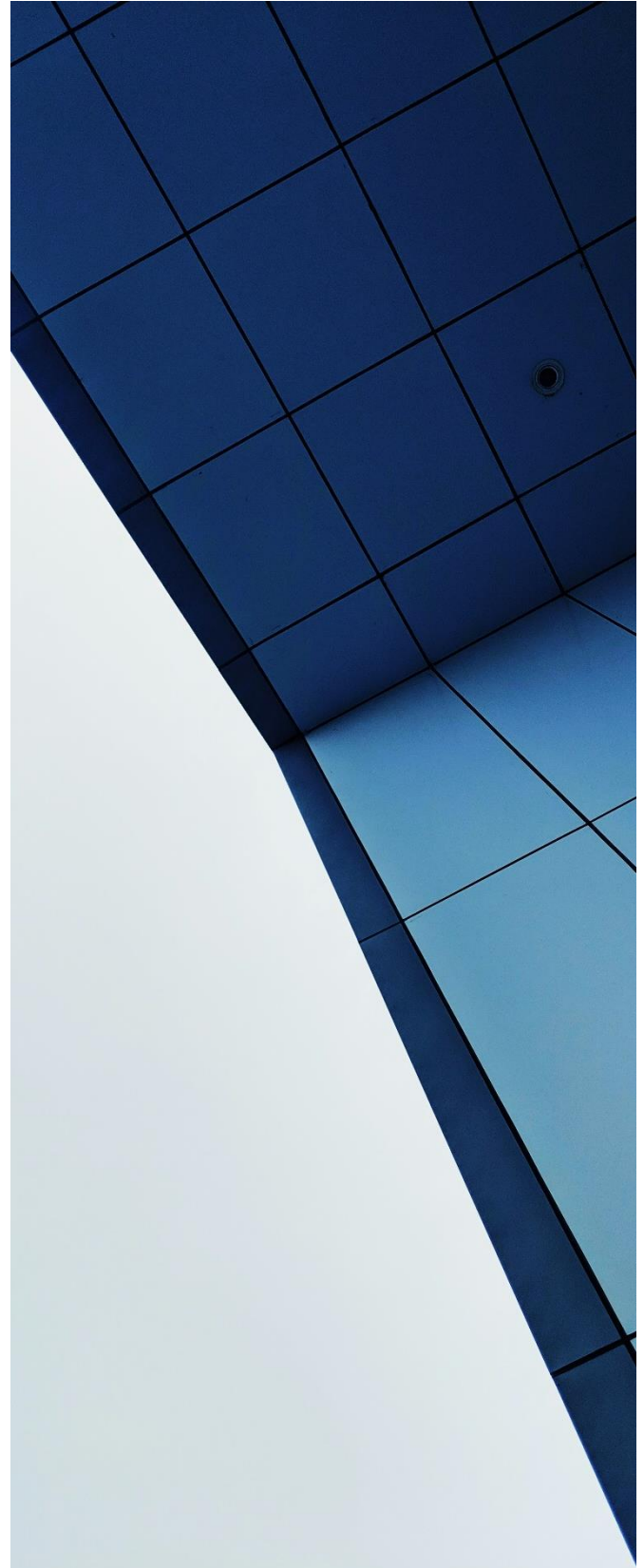
We act for some of the largest corporates in the Middle East and are well-versed in the region's unique challenges, constantly advising clients on evolving governance.

Whether working with a global brand or a regional entrepreneur, our team is committed to setting you up for success. We provide hands-on support for growing businesses through major deals, advising investors or management teams on private equity transactions, management buy-outs and buy-ins, and assisting global businesses on the acquisition trail. Our corporate team provides tailored expert advice that enables scaling up, brand development, market share growth, and new investment attraction.

Our expertise covers a wide range of sizes and types of transactions in multiple sectors, covering all aspects of investment, M&A, and corporate transactional work and joint ventures, including cross-border and domestic acquisitions, divestitures and equity/debt investments.

#### We are here to help you with:

- Mergers, acquisitions, and dispositions
- Joint ventures, partnerships, and strategic alliances
- Private equity investments and exits
- Venture capital funding and related transactions
- Equity and debt financing arrangements
- Fund formation and the regulation of financial institutions
- Listing and public market issues
- Corporate governance and company secretarial matters



## Commercial

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Successful businesses identify opportunities, exploit gains, and assess and minimise associated risk in order to thrive.

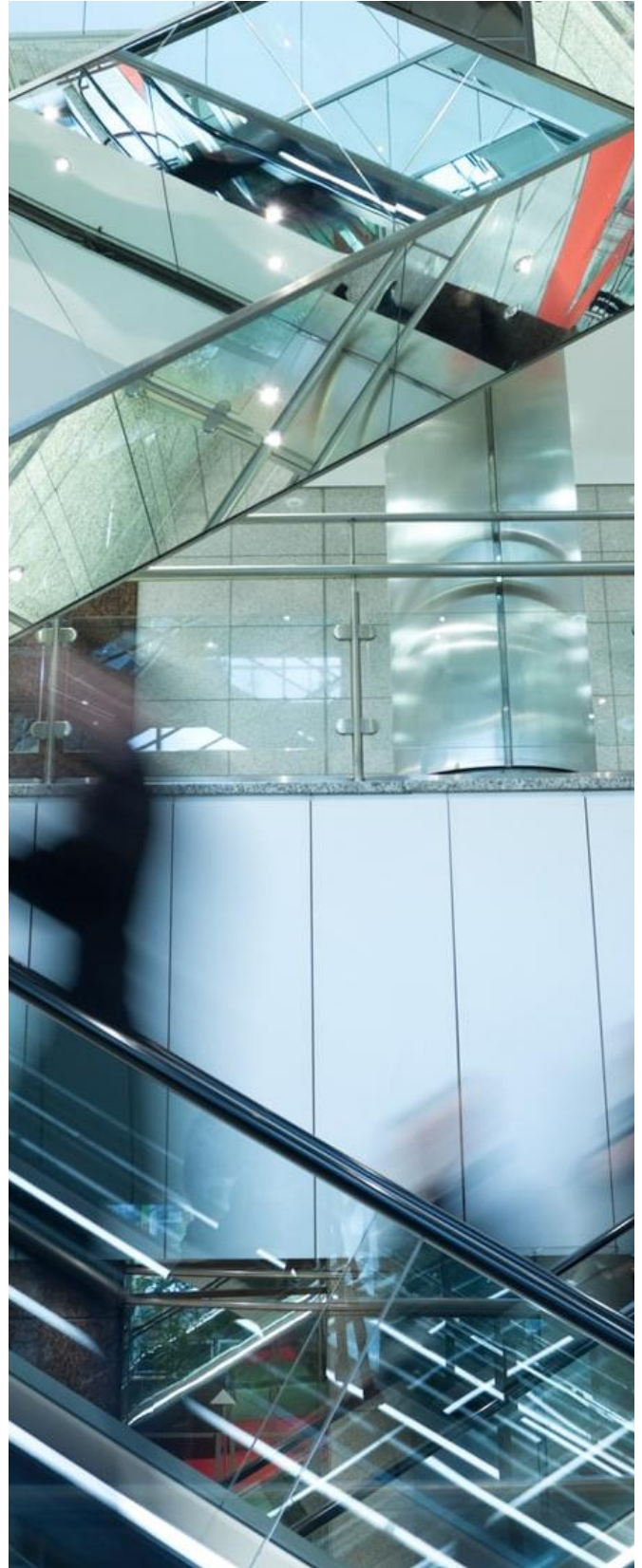
Whether you are a global brand or entrepreneurial venture, we will take the time to understand your long-term goals as a business to ensure that we offer strategic, legal and commercial advice that sets you up for success.

We have extensive experience advising international clients across all the firm's key sectors, particularly in Technology, Retail and Financial Services.

As we are currently doing for some of our regional clients, we can act as an extension to your in-house legal team, partnering with your staff, tailoring legal services to support your specific needs and objectives.

We can help you with:

- Commercialisation of IP
- International supply chain contracts
- Logistics and procurement
- Specialist manufacturing and maintenance agreements
- Outsourcing and facilities management
- Competition law compliance
- Sponsorship contracts and agreements
- Merchandising agreements
- Property management
- Marketing and advertising contracts



## Private *Wealth*

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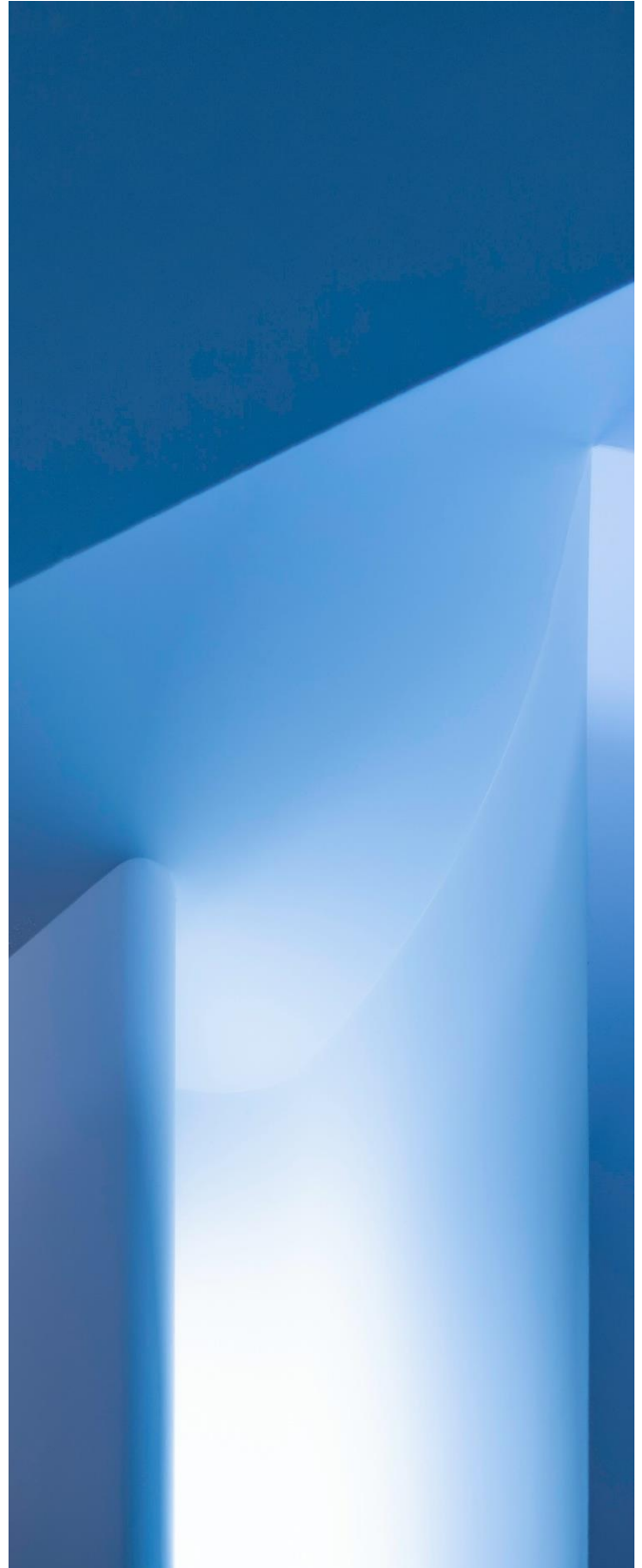
We are one of the leading Private Wealth law firms in the world. We have been specialising in this area for over 250 years. Our private clients have shaped our business.

At all times we speak to draw on our long history and experience of acting for international private clients in relation to protecting, holding and structuring their assets and wealth. Our role is to enable people to make the most of their wealth now and in the future.

With a full-service legal team, our advice is offered in the context of your succession planning, your marriage, your family life and values, your property and your assets. We are deeply embedded in the world of private wealth, advising private banks, trust companies and family offices.

We are here to help you with:

- Estate planning and succession
- Wills and inheritance
- Trust establishment, administration, and restructuring
- Charities and philanthropy
- Matrimonial and family law
- Immigration law
- Personal tax and asset planning
- UK tax and tax compliance
- International tax and trust planning
- Family office structuring and operations
- Pre-IPO, and Post-IP trust planning
- Probate and estate administration
- Property (local and international)
- Reputation management
- Trust and estate litigation
- Business planning
- Art and luxury



## Your Partners

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