Construction, Engineering & Projects

Non-Contentious, Middle East
The team is said by sources to be "exceptionally competent and responsive."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2021
Construction Expertise

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

Having advised clients in the Middle East for almost two decades, we understand our clients’ unique needs in the construction and engineering industry with three offices in the Middle East, we are able to service clients efficiently and understand local business culture and best practice in the region. We provide a full range of legal services for clients involved in construction and engineering projects (including project procurement, transactional, project advisory services and dispute resolution); as well as legal services for businesses operating in the construction and engineering industry such as real estate, planning, employment issues, health and safety, corporate transactions, financing, technology, corporate restructuring and insolvency) enabling us to support you across large and small-scale projects, across the GCC region.

Our Aim

Whichever role you fulfil in the construction and engineering industry, our collective aim is always the same: guiding you to ensure projects are completed on time, within budget and in accordance with the specification.

Having a clearly defined risk allocation and risk management mechanism within contracts, together with the right procurement choices, play an important part in ensuring you to achieve your project objectives. Our team will assist you across the full spectrum of legal issues that need careful consideration and coordination, which include advising on:

- Procurement options and best practice
- National and international procurement compliance and challenges
- Construction and engineering contract documentation, including amendments to all types of national and international standard form contracts
- Consultant appointments
- Collateral warranties, novations, and use of third party rights
- Financial security documentation (such as bonds, guarantees and letters of credit)
- Building regulations

We represent employers, major contractors, specialists and leading engineering consultancies, architects, suppliers, and purchasers. Our team includes dual qualified barristers and solicitors, engineers, and accredited mediators and adjudicators, enabling you to access the full range of our skills and expertise, all in one team.

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:

- Ranked Tier 1 in all of our core practices in Bahrain | The Legal 500 EMEA 2021
- Highly Commended for Construction Team of the Year 2021 | The Middle East Legal Awards 2021
- Winner of the Bahrain Law Firm of the Year The Oath Middle East Legal Awards 2018 and 2019
- Winner of the Bahrain Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the year | Chambers Middle East Awards 2019
Van Vliet (Qatar EPC) - Barzan Gas Project, Ras Laffan Industrial City, Qatar
Advising a Government backed Oil/Gas Entity in respect of the failure of an active gas pipe recently installed at Ras Laffan. After expert analysis it was ascertained that the pipe failed due to the fact that it did not comply with the agreed specification and therefore could not handle the acidity level of the gas being transported. Completed a detailed review of the EPC Contract and related specifications before providing a comprehensive report on strategy moving forwards.

The matter had been complicated by the extensive remedial works to multiple pipes that had been carried out after the failure to the one specific pipe. In respect of this work the original Contractor had refused to accept liability and undertake the required work.

CMEC: East Sitra City, Bahrain Social and Affordable Housing project, China Machinery & Equipment Corporation
Advising CMEC since 2017 in its liaisons and negotiations with Ministry of Housing in relation to the finance and construction of 40,000 housing units to meet with the Bahrain Strategic Vision housing target. Our work to date includes:
- Strategic advice as to the adoption of tiered subcontractor construction management procurement for the project
- Advice as to foreign investment security provision, insurances etc.
- Drafting the construction contract (FIDIC Red Book 1999 First Edition as amended), subcontracts and associated security documents
- Assisting with the establishment of the corporate Bahrain project company

Al Sahel
Advising long standing client in respect of its dispute with the main contractor on the Al Sahel Resort Project being developed under a FIDIC 1999 Red Book. The Project was due to be completed in August 2020 but as yet it is unclear as to when the Project will be completed. We have advised Al Sahel in respect of the drafting of the original suite of contracts and have since provided contract and claims administration advice including termination of the Main Contractor.

Development Project, Bahrain
Our client has instructed us in relation to their new headquarters building located in the iconic mega project, Bahrain Bay. The plot has been split into two phases to include an office tower (the headquarters) as well as other businesses including a range of food and beverage outlets and a second phase which is likely to be developed into a hotel complex. Our Construction team are advising in respect of reviewing, amending and negotiating the documentation pertaining to the utilities provision for the two phases which therefore has to take account of the future development of phase 2 which will require an undefined amount of utilities depending on the final agreed usage.

Manateq Economic Zones Company (Manateq), Qatar
We are the key advisor to Manateq and have been working with them for a number of years. We advise across a wide range of real estate projects and infrastructure, corporate/commercial advisory services, as well as disputes. We have advised Manateq on matters such as:
- Standard form leases and land allocation letters for use in all of Manateq’s logistics parks and industrial zones in Qatar
- BOT Lease Agreement for 4 warehousing parks in Qatar, each 500,000 sqm in size
- Concession Agreement and Lease for 1 warehousing park in Qatar with a size of 1.5 million sqm

Casino Project, Cyprus
Advising a major Greek contracting company in respect of the ongoing construction of a €130 million luxury development in the Republic of Cyprus under an amended FIDIC 1987 Red Book which consists of a marina, two high-end residential towers and a shopping mall.

The firm provides ongoing claims and contract administration advice on various issues including design changes, changes of sequencing and claims relating to delays and disruption.
"Paula is well regarded as an 'amazing construction lawyer'."

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