



LAW FIRM DELIVERING EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

ADG Legal is a full-service law firm based in Dubai. We provide bespoke legal services by combining broad international expertise with in-depth local knowledge



ADG Legal is one of the only UAE law firms to have a dedicated representative London office, it is a full-service Emirati firm, headquartered in Dubai. It also has an offices in Abu Dhabi and Alexandria, Egypt.

ADG works hard to promote and develop Emirati talent. It also employs a collaborative approach, working hard to discover, develop and cement relationships with other high calibre lawyers and professionals worldwide. The firm then combines in-depth local knowledge with international expertise and provides responsive and bespoke legal services and strategic advice directly to both its clients and to foreign law firms.

Established following the 2017 merger of Mohammed Al Dahbashi Advocates and Kingsgrove Partners, the firm is proud of its experienced and diverse team (including Emirati, British, Egyptian Australian, Sudanese, and Kazakhstan members).

ADG aims to continue to develop and connect exceptional local and international legal talent for the benefit of the region and beyond. Both Local and international clients, as well as foreign law firms, regularly commend ADG for its responsive, clear and commercial advice.

ADG offers clients the full spectrum of corporate services and commercial advice, for on-shore and offshore companies, partnerships, sole traders and free zones. By way of example, the firm drafted distribution agreements for a new shopping centre in Dubai, advised the Emirati partner of a major fast-food outlet on renegotiating contracts with the company, and advised a Qatari authority in relation to the acquisition of assets valued at QAR 6.7 bn.

The firm's Dispute Resolution Team is committed to resolving disputes (regional and international) efficiently and practically. The Firm's advocates have full rights of audience before all UAE courts (including the DIFC Court), free zone authorities and tribunals.

Many of the firm's lawyers have substantial experience in dispute resolution beyond the UAE. The firm has also built up a network of leading firms and individuals in numerous other jurisdictions, enabling ADG to provide a seamless dispute resolution service for all clients, regardless of jurisdiction.

In the area of financial crime, ADG effectively assists with internal, forensic and criminal investigations. The firm has particular expertise in obtaining and defending applications for freezing orders in local and foreign jurisdictions. ADG has an in-depth understanding of the regulatory environment and regulatory bodies in the UAE and MENA region.

ADG also provides strategic advice and consultancy services to a wide range of clients, including governments. By way of example, ADG advised the Puntland State of Somalia in negotiations with P&O Ports for the USD 400 m Bosaso Port Project.

ADG's lawyers have extensive experience relating to construction and infrastructure projects across multiple jurisdictions, including the UAE, DIFC, MENA region, Europe and East Africa. Experience ranges from acting for a high-net-worth individual in a dispute with a co-investor in an Abu Dhabi property project to advising a Bahraini bank in litigation concerning a USD 150M real estate development contract in Dubai.

ADG has extensive experience in defending criminal charges in the UAE. Whether a UAE or foreign national, the firm seeks to protect clients' interests and rights and guides them through understandably difficult times with compassion, understanding and sensitivity.

For clients with family-related matters, ADG provides expert advice and guidance. From wealth management and succession planning to inheritance disputes, divorce and custody matters, ADG provides responsive and clear advice.

RECOGNITIONS

ADG Legal has been consistently recognized by the world's leading legal guides and industry awards, including Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500, Legal Era Middle East Law Awards, and Prestige Lawyers. These accolades reflect our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional legal advice, innovative solutions, and client-focused service. Below is a selection of what clients and independent evaluators have said about our work:

"ADG Legal is proactive in its approach, focusing not just on risk mitigation but also on strategising for clients' future growth and stability." - Chambers & Partners

"The quality of legal advice provided by the team is unparalleled. Their deep expertise, comprehensive knowledge and dedication are instrumental in resolving disputes." - Chambers & Partners

"ADG has strong local knowledge and expertise. They have a very strong understanding of the rules and regulations, which enables them to give accurate guidance." - Chambers & Partners

"They show confidence in handling complex matters." - Chambers & Partners

"Their expertise, dedication, and commitment to achieving outstanding results for their clients are truly commendable." - Chambers & Partners

"Their strategic approach, combined with their keen attention to detail, enables them to craft robust arguments and present compelling cases on behalf of their clients." - Chambers & Partners

"Their ability to stay abreast of the ever-changing legal landscape in the UAE ensures that they are well equipped to tackle the most complex and cutting-edge matters." - Chambers & Partners

"A diverse team ... offers the client a blend of experiences from other geographies." - Legal 500

"This practice is unique because they have managed to bring a high standard of communication and responsiveness to an excellent UAE disputes team." - Legal 500

"Excellent knowledge, proactive and easily available." - Legal 500

"The lead partner was very understanding, knowledgeable and available to answer any questions." - Legal 500



PRACTICE AREAS



CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL

We provide bespoke local and international advice for onshore and offshore companies, partnerships, sole traders and free zones.

Whether our clients want to enter, operate or evolve within the UAE market or beyond, our strong industry and sector knowledge, combined with local expertise and international experience, means that we provide robust and commercially attuned advice.

Our Corporate and Commercial Team is experienced in drafting and negotiating commercial transactions, implementing corporate structuring and restructuring/reorganization deals and assisting with all aspects of corporate governance.

As business models evolve away from the more traditional structures at a fast pace, our vast experience benefits our clients in the negotiation and implementation of mergers and acquisitions and general transactional work.



DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Our Dispute Resolution Team is committed to resolving disputes (regional and international), most efficiently and practically, whether it be through litigation, arbitration or other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Our team of advocates have rights of audience before all UAE courts (including the DIFC Court), free zone authorities and tribunals. For our clients with international disputes, we have worked hard to build a bespoke network of leading firms and individuals in numerous other jurisdictions. Accordingly, we can provide a seamless service for all our clients, regardless of jurisdiction.

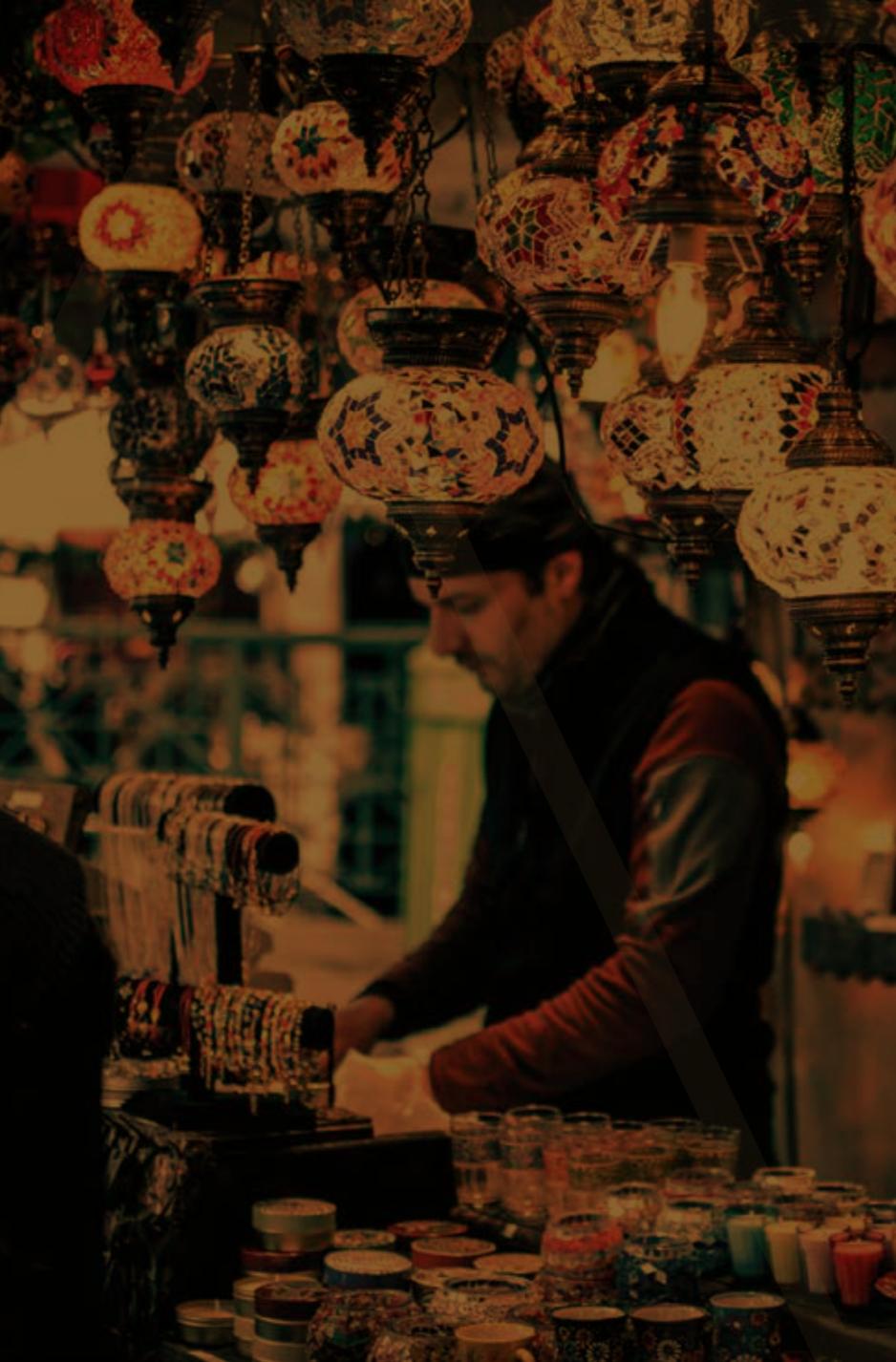
We advise on all types of disputes including civil, commercial, real estate, employment, financial, intellectual property, product liability and criminal disputes.

FINANCIAL CRIME AND INVESTIGATIONS

Clients with any concerns regarding fraud and dishonesty-related issues can have full confidence in ADG Legal.

From money laundering regulations and offences, terrorist financing, insider dealing, market abuse to bribery and corruption, we have the capability to assist with internal investigations, forensic and criminal investigations, as well as police and public prosecution of criminal matters. We also have particular expertise in obtaining and defending applications for freezing orders in local and foreign jurisdictions.

Our in-depth understanding of the regulatory environment and of regulatory bodies in the UAE and the MENA region is second to none. We offer the support that businesses (and individuals) may need in managing stakeholders, law enforcement, regulators and adverse parties. We strengthen our formidable teams by also calling on our trusted network of external advisors and consultants, such as forensic auditing firms and specialists in fraud investigations and asset tracing. Members of our team are often asked to speak at international conferences and events on this subject.



PRIVATE CLIENT

Dubai's wealth is founded upon the family business, both Emirati and international. The city's phenomenal growth has led to it now holding over \$500 billion of private wealth. There are some 30,000 dollar millionaires, hailing from every country in the world and across almost every industry sector. The attraction is not just the low tax, regime, but the security, lifestyle, and networking opportunities that exist.

We are proud to represent some of those families, from long-established Emirati businesses to newly arrived entrepreneurs.

We help people in setting up their new life in the UAE and we help those who have never known anywhere else as home.

Within the UAE, many family businesses are currently undergoing generational transitions and the associated significant structural transformation. Those who have arrived more recently also want to ensure that their structures are private, allow for succession planning and are tax-efficient.

We provide our clients with the full range of services needed to ensure successful evolution and protection of their business interests, often working with partner firms from overseas, including firms in offshore jurisdictions (Jersey, Guernsey, Cayman, and so on) and those from established onshore wealth centers, including London, Geneva, Moscow, and New York.

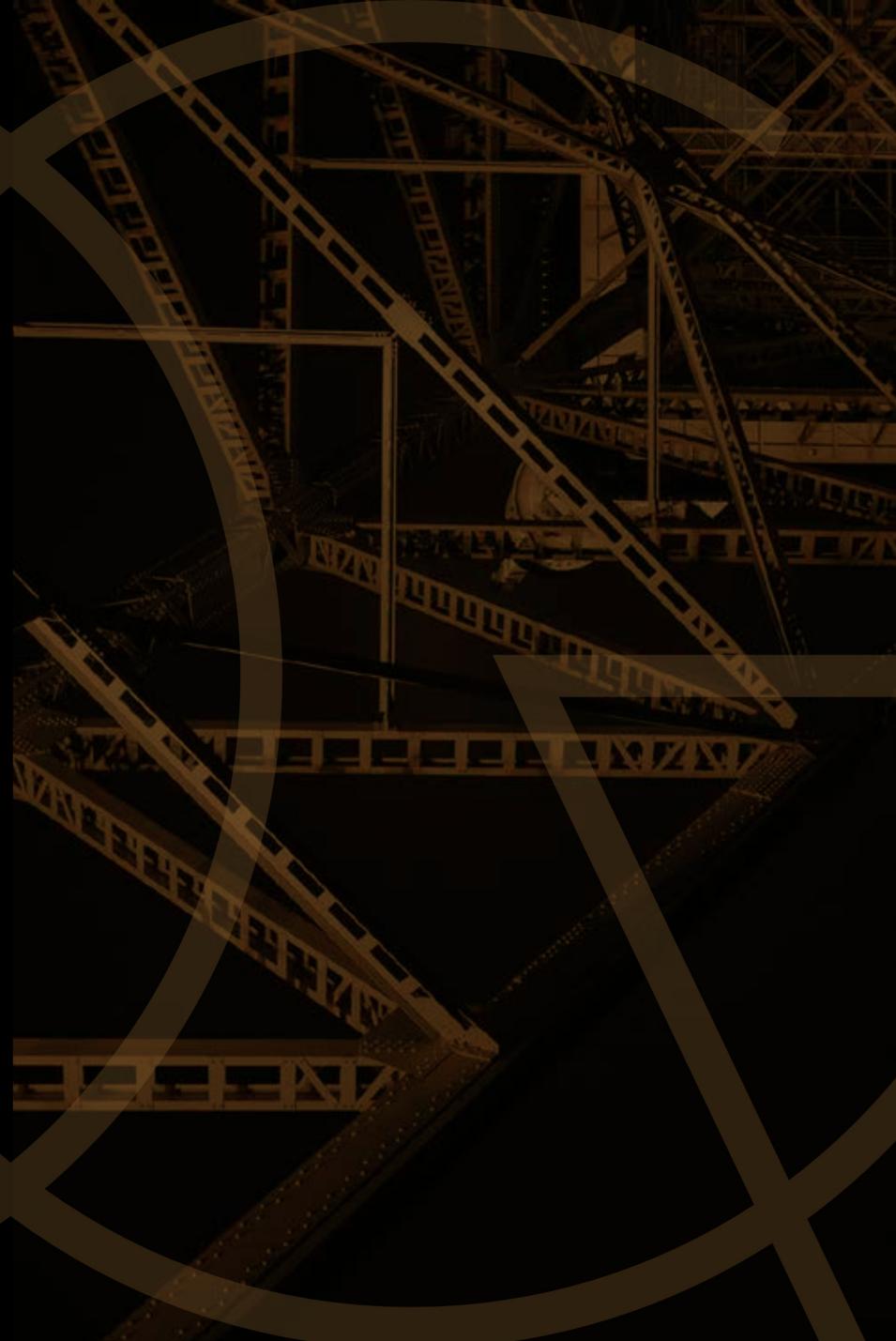
Our family business law offering includes devising formal legal structures and corporate restructuring that accommodates family transitions. We also ensure we manage risks and allow for clear set future family stewardship and sustained growth. For Muslims, we ensure their structures are Sharia-compliant, while for non-Muslims, we guide them on the options available for different rules to apply to their situation.

CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ADG Legal's Construction and Infrastructure Team has considerable experience across all industry sectors, including medium to large-sized residential developments, large-scale commercial projects, public infrastructure and highly complex facilities in the energy and resources sectors.

Our construction and infrastructure projects cross multiple jurisdictions, including the UAE and the DIFC. We have significant experience in East and North Africa and Europe (including the UK).

Our experienced team provides sector-specific advice on all aspects of construction finance, negotiates and drafts bespoke contracts and advises on all the major standard form contracts in the residential, commercial, infrastructure and resources sectors.





EMPLOYMENT LAW

Clients requiring advice on a wide range of employee relations matters are well-served by ADG Legal's Employment Team.

Acting for both employers and employees, the team's work includes developing employment contracts and policy handbooks, immigration and residency law, benefits and incentive schemes and compliance with UAE Ministry of Labour regulations.

Where employment issues arise relating to corporate restructurings, such as termination and design of redundancy programs, our team can assist. They can also provide expert advice on workplace dispute management and resolution and other HR issues including discrimination and disciplinary matters.

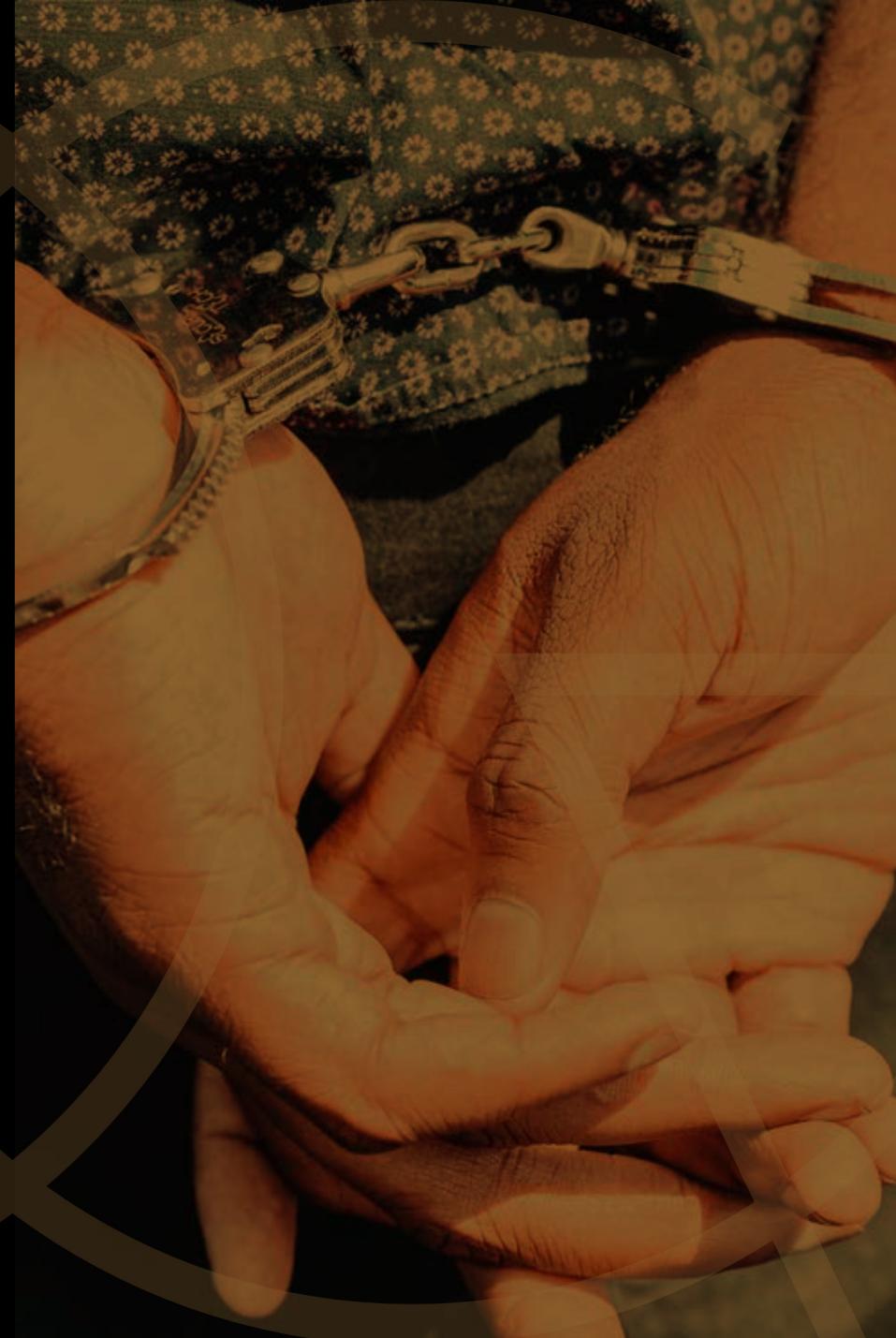
CRIMINAL LAW

When faced with a criminal charge in the UAE, clients are reassured that the ADG Legal team has extensive experience in defending all aspects of criminal law in the UAE.

Whether a UAE or foreign national, we protect our clients' interests and rights, guiding them through this understandably difficult time with compassion, understanding and sensitivity.

We have experience in relation to breach of trust, bounced cheques, fraud, bribery, financial crimes and all criminal offences in general.

As one client recently commented, having been released from custody after being wrongfully imprisoned, *"the ADG Legal team stayed at the police station until I was released at 10.30 pm on a Thursday night. There are not many other lawyers who would show such support for their client".*





PRIVATE EQUITY

We advise our private equity clients on the ideal structural formation and operation of funds in light of the UAE regulations and practices and assist with the successful execution of deals by providing for the legislative needs of financial investors.

We use our local industry knowledge and know-how of international best practices to design structures for PE transactions, including buyouts and growth capital transactions.

REAL ESTATE

The ADG Legal's Real Estate Team advises on all aspects, including UAE land acquisition and asset management.

Our services encompass purchasing, sales, development and leasing. The team works closely with our Construction and Infrastructure Team and our Dispute Resolution Team, which handle property dispute resolution and court litigation.



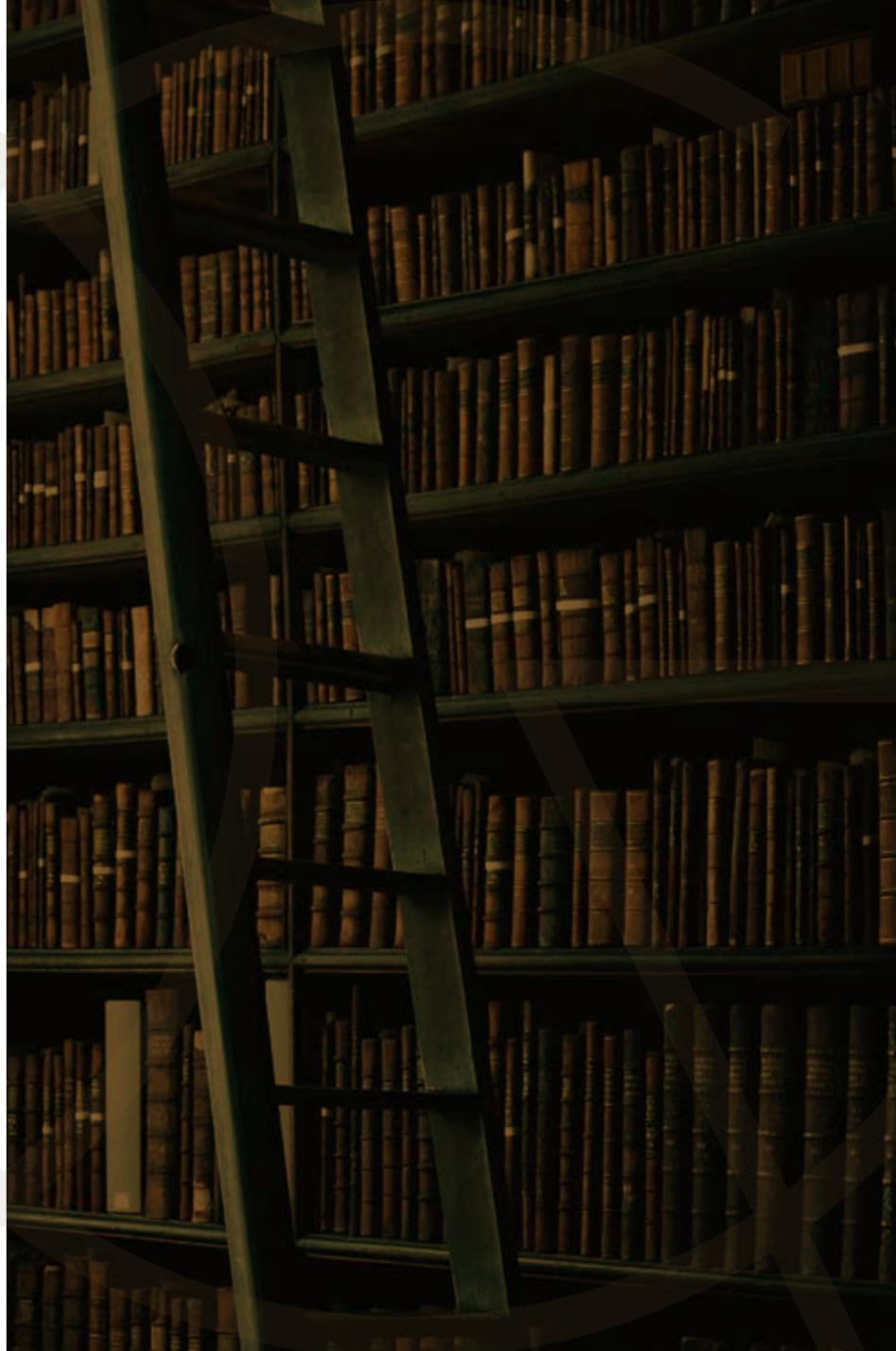
AFRICA PRACTICE

Many of our lawyers are African, and most have extensive experience in the continent.

Thanks to its excellent transport links and business environment, Dubai is a hub for many African-focussed businesses. A significant part of the continent is only 4 hours from Dubai with the most distant locations less than 10 hours by air. As such, we frequently travel to, and around, the continent. Indeed, our lawyers visit the continent annually on average twenty times or more and frequent regions including Somalia and Somaliland, as well as Ghana, Uganda and Zambia.

We are regularly asked to advise on Africa-related matters by governments, companies and individuals. We work both with international firms, for sector advice, and with leading local firms across the continent. Our mandates have varied from a \$1m gold dispute to a \$300m new ports project.

In many cases, a focus on black letter law is not the answer. Most clients want to avoid any court, let alone a local one. Rather, we take a practical approach to getting things done - leveraging our relationships both to create new investment opportunities and seeking to resolve disputes in existing ones.





GENERAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT REGULATION

We keep track of the latest governmental laws and regulations that impact the market, so that our clients are kept fully informed. Our lawyers also assist and advise various government sectors and authorities in passing laws and regulations.

JEBEL ALI FREE ZONE (JAFZA) REGISTERED AGENT

As a JAFZA Registered Agent, we carry out the full service of setting up offshore companies within the jurisdiction of JAFZA and act as the Registered Agent for such companies, ensuring that they are in line with the relevant legislation and regulations. We also advise our clients on how to best utilise their offshore company to maximise their interests, such as parking excess liquidity, establishing an offshore bank account in Dubai, formation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) and setting up representative/ branch offices in the UAE.

TRADEMARKS AND REGISTRATION

We guide our clients on all aspects of brand protection and UAE trademark laws. We are registered with the Trademark Office of the Ministry of Economy in the UAE giving us the capability to assist our clients with filing trademark applications for examination by the authorities and assisting throughout the entire trademark registration procedure. In the event of opposition, our team handles the necessary appeal process.

OFFICES

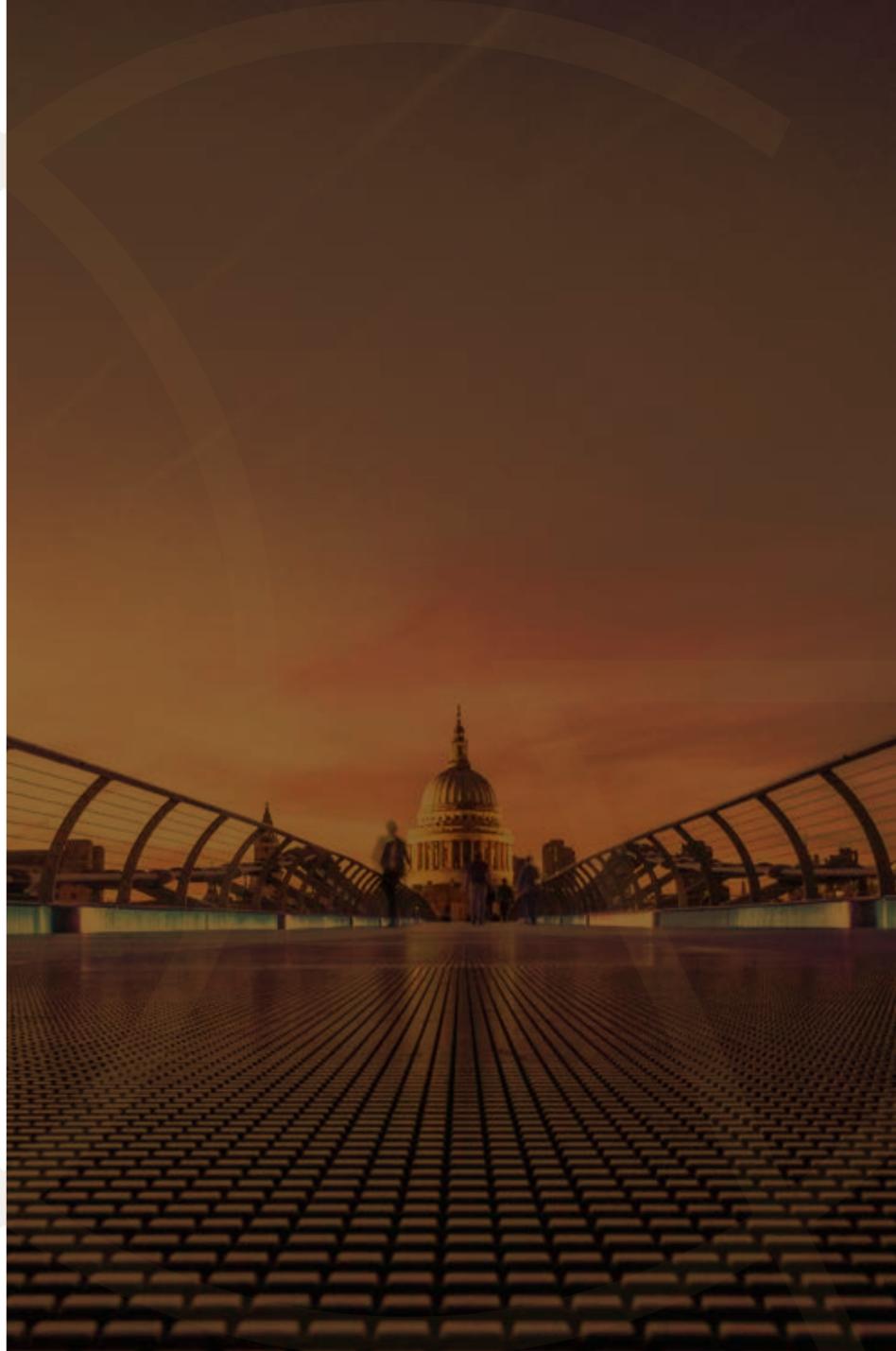
From our headquarters in Dubai, ADG Legal is perfectly placed to offer comprehensive legal services to clients in the UAE, The Middle East and Africa.

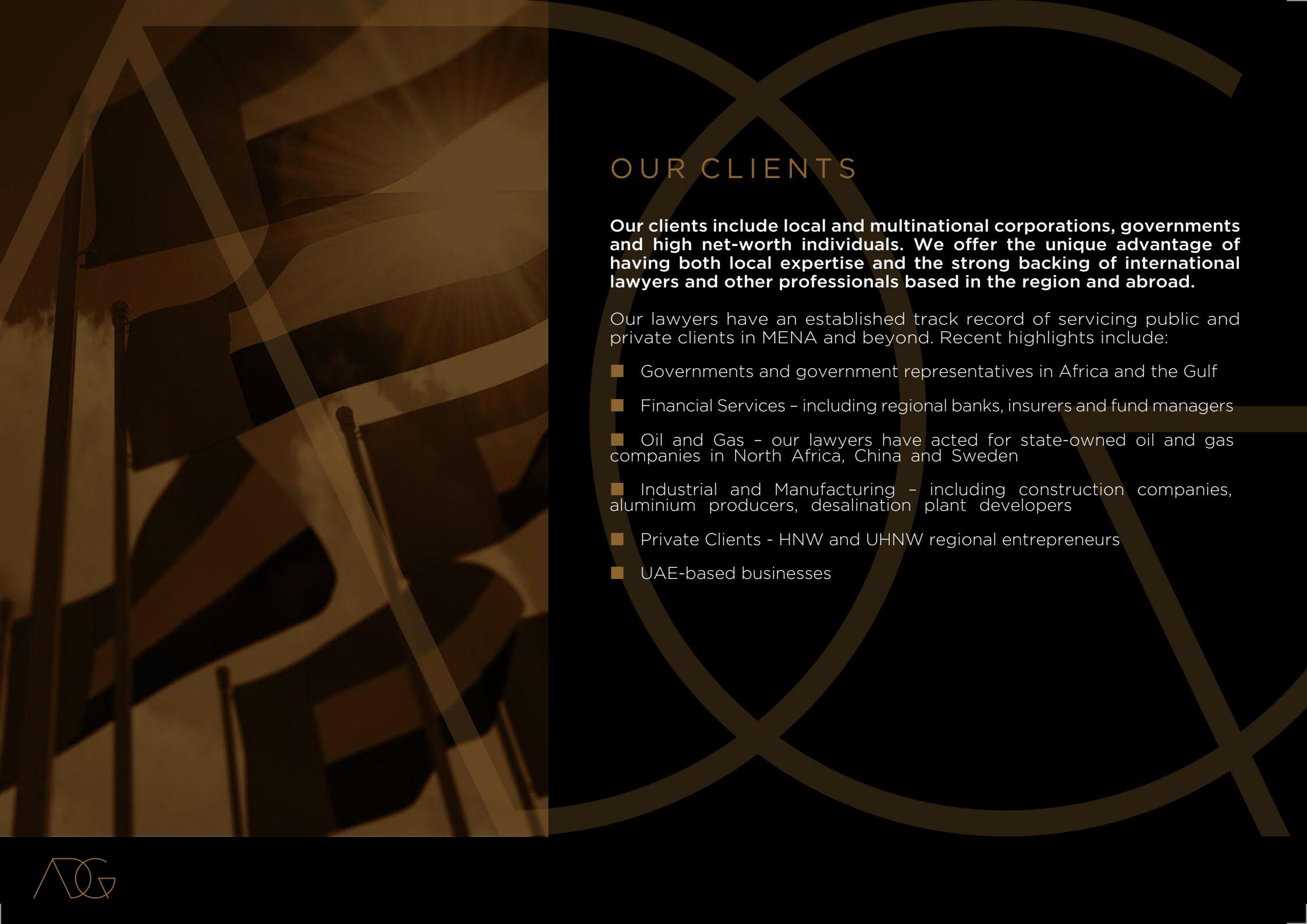
Beyond the UAE, we are also one of the only UAE law firms to have a dedicated representative London office, from which we can specifically service European clients and give them immediate access to UAE expertise within their own time zone and working week. Our London office in St James' is not a regulated solicitors' firm and if clients require local regulated services, our team works closely with carefully selected partner firms and individuals.

We have also recently extended our practice to Egypt with Ahmed Ragab AlKotby Law Firm. With a full disputes team, we are delighted to now provide all our clients with specialist and expert Egyptian law advice and guidance directly from Alexandria, Egypt.

Our global offices work seamlessly together, and with our network of bespoke global partners, to provide both UAE legal assistance to international clients, and international assistance to local clients.

We are committed to growing the ADG Legal team. We are in talks with various potential partners and will soon announce new offices.





OUR CLIENTS

Our clients include local and multinational corporations, governments and high net-worth individuals. We offer the unique advantage of having both local expertise and the strong backing of international lawyers and other professionals based in the region and abroad.

Our lawyers have an established track record of servicing public and private clients in MENA and beyond. Recent highlights include:

- Governments and government representatives in Africa and the Gulf
- Financial Services - including regional banks, insurers and fund managers
- Oil and Gas - our lawyers have acted for state-owned oil and gas companies in North Africa, China and Sweden
- Industrial and Manufacturing - including construction companies, aluminium producers, desalination plant developers
- Private Clients - HNW and UHNW regional entrepreneurs
- UAE-based businesses

OUR APPROACH

Our priority is our client's objective.

From the outset, we engage with clients to understand the real issues and discuss a realistic outcome.

We devise a strategy that is both targeted and cost-efficient, bringing together a team of skilled experts where necessary.

We avoid wide-sweeping investigations which are often aborted and are simply a waste of precious resources.



LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

- We create bespoke teams of investigators, forensic accountants and local counsel when necessary. We are not constrained to a panel of the “usual suspects” – each client is unique and so is each team.
- We work hard to find and develop relationships with leading professionals across the globe. We extract better value due to these established relationships with them.
- We investigate “facts on the ground” in a targeted manner.

STRATEGY FIRST

- Our strategic nous is our prime asset: we combine traditional and creative methods to form bespoke strategies that few can match. We consider all civil and criminal options, locally and abroad.
- Preservation of evidence is key – we prepare a targeted forensic report and prioritise the location of key assets.
- We can open communication channels with regulators, shareholders, investigators and all stakeholders to gain traction that may have seemed impossible.

CONTROL OF COSTS

- We carry out targeted investigations, with defined parameters and a unified strategy, that addresses the legal, political, commercial and PR issues that arise.
- We discuss desired and likely outcomes with clients right from the outset and seek early, commercial resolutions by our innovative approach. We actively seek to control costs, with full visibility.
- Aware of the financial implications, we are always happy to consider alternative pricing. We are not wedded to the billable hour and provide our clients with regular status updates and costs forecasts.



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