**For Immediate Release**

**Dubai International Financial Centre welcomes the region’s first legal Chambers from the UK Outer Temple**

* **First of its kind barristers’ chambers in the region will solidify the reputation of DIFC as a specialist hub for international business transactions, dispute resolution and contract enforcement through DIFC Courts**
* **Vote of confidence in the independent legal architecture of DIFC**
* **Move will encourage growth of bespoke new legal services products**

**Dubai-UAE: 7 November 2016 –** Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), the leading financial hub for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region, has today announced the opening of the first specialist barristers’ chambers in the region. The move demonstrates the confidence in the international legal structures of DIFC.

Outer Temple Chambers (OTC), from London, UK, is a leading set of expert, global barristers (lawyers who practise in international and English common law courts and arbitral tribunals). They are specialists in commercial litigation and arbitration, company and employment law-multinational and cross-border law, regulatory issues, Islamic Finance and wealth management, and work in the world’s leading courts, including in DIFC Courts. Their services will benefit the entire regional business community, regardless of whether or not businesses are registered in DIFC, as long as they wish to use the DIFC Courts.

There are many specialist court lawyers and barristers already practising English common law in DIFC Courts, including OTC barristers. They have historically been called on when companies or individuals need representation in Court or on a highly technical legal, niche, issue.

The new Chambers will bring together multiple experts along with a body of legal knowledge, service offerings and knowledge transfer schemes for the benefit of the entire legal profession in the region.

DIFC already hosts more than 1,500 firms and 21,000 professionals, and is home to 56 law firms, mainly solicitors handling commercial transactional law.

This new move from OTC builds on that by providing them, as well as the wider Dubai legal community, with recourse to highly technical and world-leading legal opinion and representation in a court system which is now on a par with the rest of the world.

**H.E. Essa Kazim, Governor of DIFC, stated:** “Having Outer Temple Chambers opening in DIFC is a testament to the credibility of the Centre’s regulatory and legal infrastructure. To date, no chambers exist in the region with such a wealth of specialist expertise. This will help in driving the growth of the legal services sector as well as increase the attractiveness of DIFC as a place to both do, and resolve business.”

**Andrew Spink, QC (Queen’s Counsel), Head of Chambers and Vice-Chair of the Commercial Bar Association, said:** “We are delighted to be a part of DIFC, which is paving the way for so many international businesses to operate successfully and securely and to grow in this part of the world. There are enormous and exciting opportunities and of course some challenges involved in developing DIFC as a regional hub. We are looking forward to contributing to the success of this process, not just by providing sound legal expertise, but also by helping to train the next generation of aspiring lawyers for the benefit of the whole sector.”

OTC is also exploring options for the training and development of barristers and other legal specialists from the Emirati community who can practise international standard law in the UAE’s local court system after training and experience in the UK and in DIFC.

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**About Dubai International Financial Centre**

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) is the financial hub for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, providing a world-class platform connecting the region’s markets with the economies of Europe, Asia and the Americas. It also facilitates the growth in South-South trade and investment. An onshore, international financial centre, DIFC provides a stable, mature and secure base for financial institutions to develop their wholesale businesses.

The Centre offers all the elements found in the world’s most successful financial industry ecosystems, including an independent regulator, an independent judicial system with a common-law framework, a global financial exchange, inspiring architecture, powerful, enabling support services and a vibrant business community. The infrastructure within the district features ultra-modern office space, retail outlets, cafes and restaurants, art galleries, residential apartments, public green areas and hotels.

Located midway between the global financial centres of New York, London in the West and Singapore, Hong Kong in the East, DIFC (GMT +4) fills a vital time-zone gap with a workday that bridges the market and business hours of financial centres in both Asia and North America.

In 2015, DIFC launched its 2024 growth strategy, a blueprint for the next decade of growth of the financial hub. This strategy aims to stimulate trade and investment flows along the South-South economic corridor encompassing Africa, Southern Asia and Latin America.

Currently, 1,539 active registered companies operate from the Centre, with a combined workforce of 21,076 professionals.

DIFC continues to pursue expansion into new services and sectors within the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region, an area comprising over 72 countries with an approximate population of 3 billion and nominal GDP of US$7.8 trillion.

For further information, please visit our website: www.difc.ae, or follow us on Twitter @DIFC.

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**About Outer Temple Chambers**

Outer Temple Chambers (OTC) is comprised of 86 barristers (19 of whom are Queen’s Counsel) based in London and in offices in New York and Dubai. The Chambers provides bespoke legal services to solicitors, in-house counsel, professional clients and private individuals.

With a presence in the UAE since 2008, 19 of the Chambers’ members and associates are listed on Part II of the DIFC Courts Register of Practitioners and accordingly have rights of audience in the DIFC Courts. Additionally, Outer Temple Chambers has a presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

OTC barristers and associates possess the expertise and insight to mitigate or resolve legal problems in the most effective manner. They have experience of advising international and offshore clients, including in jurisdictions where English law, or common law and statutes based heavily on English law, apply, including the DIFC.

The barristers can advise and appear in various jurisdictions and many of them have been called to the Bars of other jurisdictions (including those on the DIFC Courts Practitioners Register) and have solid experience of cross-border work.

Regarded as innovative, well-organised and progressive, OTC is consistently being short listed for individual and Chambers-wide awards and accolades. It was commended in the Financial Times (FT) Innovative Lawyers, November 2014 and was identified as a “Legal Industry Pioneer”. The FT noted that Outer Temple Chambers was the only Chambers that had been restructured to meet the challenges of a changing legal market.

In May 2015, it won the Legal Week Chambers Legal Innovation Award. Legal 500 2016 has recommended Outer Temple Chambers as a TOP-TIER SET in business and regulatory crime (including global investigations).

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