



Oliver Agha

Year of Call: 1994 (Connecticut) 1995 (New York)
Direct Access: No

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Oliver Agha is a Professional Associate at Outer Temple Chambers based in the Middle East.

Oliver has had a 28-year legal career span during which time he has served as a lawyer/partner/equity partner at top AmLaw 100 firms, including at DLA Piper (Dubai), Clifford Chance (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Office) and Fulbright & Jaworski (now Norton Rose Fulbright) (in USA and Hong Kong). During his tenure at the large American and English firms, his practice areas focussed on international corporate & finance/projects law, including cross border M&A, project finance, Islamic finance, banking, asset-based securitizations, international restructurings, JVs, *et al* in China, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

He specialises in the interplay between Common Law, Civil Law and Islamic Law as these different legal systems intersect in the MENAT Region. He has advised clients, including governments/quasi-governmental bodies/entities, quasi-regulators, financial and Islamic financial institutions, corporates and high net worth individuals on cross border M&As, JVs, project finance, Islamic Law, Islamic Finance, corporate/commercial and complex cross-border disputes including those that impinge on Islamic/Regional Laws. He has also advised high net worth Islamic individuals with assets spread across the World on intestate planning. He has had experience working on deals in the MENAT Region alone aggregating well over US\$50 billion and has been featured in leading lawyer publications, as well as in print and broadcast media.

Oliver has been recognized as an authority on Islamic Law/Finance – being the first Western trained lawyer to sit on the board of an Islamic Finance Regulator (Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI)) and having established the first Islamically compliant law firm with its own *Shari'ah* Board in 2008 (and which was recognized at one point as the leading Islamic Law Firm practice, globally). He has been published on Islamic Law and Finance topics including in leading Law Review Journals, given talks at prominent Universities, served as an expert witness on Islamic Law/Finance topics and issued Islamic legal opinions (where required with additional scholarly endorsement) based on analyses of Quranic text, *Hadith* (saying and actions of the Prophet (pbuh)) and leading scholarly perspectives.

Areas of Expertise

London (Main Office)

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Abu Dhabi

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Dubai

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Private Wealth

Islamic/Shari'ah Law

Corporate Law

Finance and Islamic Finance

Restructuring

Real Estate

Saudi and UAE Law

Languages

English

French (working knowledge)

Mandarin (basic knowledge)

Publications

- Oliver Agha, Dubai Faces Towering Challenges, Gulf News, March 2014
- Is the Islamic Finance Ship Headed for Dangerous Waters? The Oath, Sept. 2013
- Is Islamic Finance a Failure? Reuters, Jan. 2012
- Islamic Finance: When Things go Wrong, Global Islamic Finance Report/GIFR 2011
- UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law: Tabarru in Takaful: Helpful Innovation or Unnecessary Complication? Vol. 9, No. 1, Dec. 2010
- Legal Spotlight: Sukuk – When is a Default Not Really a Default? Credit Magazine, Jan. 2010
- An Instrument on the Rise, Islamic Finance, Dec. 11, 2009
- Islamic Finance: Principle before Profit, Berkeley Journal of Middle Eastern Islamic Law, Vol. 2, No. 1, Nov. 2009
- Islamic Finance Dispute Resolution, Islamic Finance News, Aug. 2009
- The Fate of Tawarruq Going Forward, Islamic Finance News May. 2009
- Islamic Finance in the Gulf: A Practitioners Perspective, Berkeley Journal of Middle East Islamic Law, Vol. 1, No. 1, Jan. 2008
- Crisis: What Crisis? America's Sub Prime Mortgage Crisis: Could it happen In A Shari'ah Compliant System? Islamic Banking & Finance, Dec. 2007
- Saudi Arabia: Emerging Trends in Islamic Project Finance, Nov 1, 2007

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Awards

- Notable Law Firm in the area of Banking and Finance: UAE, International Financial Law Review, 2014
- Recommended firm in the area of Banking and Finance: UAE, The Legal 500, 2010-2014
- Notable Lawyer in the area of Banking and Finance, International Financial Law Review (IFLR) 2013
- DealMakers Country Awards 2013 for the Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year: UAE
- 2012-2013 Acquisition International Legal Awards for the Islamic Finance Law Firm of Year: UAE
- Global Islamic Finance Award for the Best Islamic Finance Law Firm of 2011 awarded at the Oman Islamic Economic Forum (OIEF)
- The Global Recognition in Islamic Finance for a Law Firm Award (promoting excellence in Islamic finance) by the International Islamic Finance Forum, 2010
- The Legal 500: Recommended firm in the area of Banking and Finance, 2010-2013
- The Expert Guides: "World's Leading Banking Finance and Transactional Lawyers," 2010-2013
- "Emerging Markets Practitioner 2010," "Islamic Finance Practitioner 2010," "The Best of the Best 2009" and "The Best of the Best 2008"
- The Arabia 500: Top 500 Companies (on-track for exemplary success), 2012 and 2011
- Who's Who Legal, 2010
- Asia Legal Business Hot 100 Lawyers in 2009, January 2010
- Chambers & Partners Global Guide, 2009
- Islamic Finance News: "Leading Lawyers: Takaful, Securitization & Structured Finance, Dispute Resolution, Real Estate Finance, Transportation Finance, Project Finance, Banking & Finance," 2009
- The Brief Magazine: "Top 20 Lawyers That Have Helped the Gulf's Economic Boom," 2008

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