

Walid S. Chiniara

Year of Call: 1989 (Quebec), 2023 (DIFC)

Direct Access: No

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Walid S. Chiniara, Esq. is a private client specialist, and a thought leader in the field of governance, its history, and philosophical foundation.

Walid is a Professional Associate at Outer Temple Chambers, based in the Middle East, and has over 40 years of experience practicing law across several jurisdictions.

He has dedicated the last 25+ years to serving families in business, looking to preserve and grow their wealth in the hands of future generations, and has forged a reputation as the go-to person for extremely complex family business succession planning.

Over the years, he has worked alongside over 165 iconic families from around the world, building family offices, managing conflict, and devising family-specific tools, tailored to address their needs and those of their next generation.

He is credited with the development of the 7-Step Methodology™, a tried and tested innovative and systemic approach to family business succession planning, he shared in a book published in 2020.

Walid is an accredited Mediator and a member of the Quebec Bar. He is also a fellow at the Institute for Corporate Governance, ESCP Business School, Paris, France, and a member of the Family Firm Institute (FFI), the Society of Trust and Estate Planners (STEP), and The International Academy of Trust and Estate Law (TIAETL).¹

Areas of Expertise

Private Wealth

Acting for the family of the founder, and business leader, of a large Saudi Family Conglomerate who passed away unexpectedly. The heirs to the business required support with respect to decentralizing the decision-making structure and introducing new collegial decision-making mechanisms to accommodate for the new wider contingency of shareholders.

Supporting families in devising an investment strategy to ensure the long-term security and sustainability of their wealth.

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Offering support to various business owning families looking to consolidate their investments and assets under a Single-Family Office to ensure easier management and oversight of their assets, particularly for the purpose of succession.

Planning for the ownership and management succession of a third-generation family business as well as coaching the next generation of family business entrepreneurs, ensuring they are ready to assume their impending roles.

Acting for a second-generation Saudi business owning family with various branches were concerned at the loss of control they were facing based on the fact that each of their businesses and investments operated as independent business units. As such they wished to introduce an efficient corporate structure.

Acting for a family after differing view-points and diverging interests had started to cause conflict and disruption in the family business. The family members sought outside help to prevent the conflict from developing into a serious ongoing dispute on the one hand and helping the parties to successfully resolve any such disputes together on the other hand.

Memberships

- Member of the Quebec Bar
- Fellow at the Institute for Corporate Governance, ESCP Business School, Paris, France
- Member of the Family Firm Institute (FFI),
- Member of the Society of Trust and Estate Planners (STEP)
- Member of The International Academy of Trust and Estate Law (TIAETL).¹

Languages

- French
- English
- Arabic

Publications

Dynastic planning: a 7-Step Approach to Family Business Succession Planning and Related Conflict Management.

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