



LOCAL LITIGATION

DLA Piper, as a leading international law firm, is able to deliver high quality solution driven local litigation services in the UAE. As one of the first international law firms to provide local litigation services, DLA Piper is breaking the mould by ensuring that its clients receive an exceptional level of service that is characterised by its responsiveness, deep understanding of the local court system and international best practice.

Our objective is to provide a solution driven service which at all times recognises the importance of providing practical strategic advice that delivers the clients' objectives.

We have a highly experienced team that recognises the importance of written pleadings, case management, strategic guidance and, most importantly, the right of audience, appearance and representation before any court in the UAE through our strategic relationship with local advocates, Ahmed Ramadan and Associates, that ensures the level of quality to be expected from the world's largest law firm.



OVERVIEW

Navigating the local litigation legal system across the plethora of courts in the UAE is a complex process and with the rise in corporate entities setting-up across the emirates this is predicted to continue to increase.

DLA Piper offers local litigation advice in the UAE, led by Ghassan El-Daye as Head of Local Litigation Practice and a team of bilingual experienced lawyers. DLA Piper has established a strategic relationship with the local advocate firm that covers all courts in the UAE. This enables the firm to secure the right of audience and appearance on behalf of clients before all courts in UAE, a unique blend of local knowledge and international best practice standards.

The team is experienced in enforcing security and recovering assets through the court processes and bringing and defending civil claims, as well as offering a responsive service in the form of regular updates and reporting. The purpose of local litigation practice is to provide clients a comprehensive range of services and experienced lawyers.

THE TEAM

The local litigation practice is led by Ghassan El-Daye, a distinguished local litigator who has worked with international, regional and local companies, with a successful track record, which includes winning unprecedented landmark judgements.

As Head of Local Litigation, Ghassan supervises and manages a team of experienced senior lawyers who are fluent in Arabic and English and have many years of litigation experience in UAE and the Middle East. The team includes a mixture of linguistics skills, but in all cases includes highly developed Arabic skills, who have been advising on complex cases in UAE for the last ten years.

EXPERIENCE

The team has experience across a number of areas, including commercial, retail, construction and residential property disputes, banking disputes and mortgage enforcement, employment disputes and white collar criminal cases, on local and multi-jurisdictional matters.

Cases of note include:

- Enforcement of mortgages and securities before Dubai Courts for one of the biggest international banks and one of the biggest local banks, amounts exceeding AED 1 billion
- Representing a leading airline based in the UAE in a financial claim against a Kuwaiti company for an amount of AED 250 million
- Representing one of the world's largest technology companies, based in Silicon Valley, regarding a financial and criminal claim for AED 10 million, involving both the UAE and US jurisdictions
- Representing one of the biggest companies in Kuwait in a financial claim, worth AED 100 million, against one of the biggest companies in Sharjah and Dubai
- Multiple jurisdiction complex commercial case involving AED 20 million in Dubai, Qatar and Oman
- Financial claims against one of the biggest banks in the UAE regarding an unpaid performance bond of a substantial amount
- Criminal and civil case for one of the biggest companies in London related to fraud in two jurisdictions, UK and Dubai



Set out below are examples of landmark judgements Ghassan Al-Daye has previously worked on that have changed the legal landscape in the UAE by creating precedents:

- Obtained a favourable judgment for a Trust entity against one of the most prominent developers in Dubai in a case of AED 12 million that marked a new trend for future Real Estate transactions with respect to force majeure clause in Sale and Purchase contracts
- Obtained a favourable judgment by the Court of Appeal in Dubai for a restaurant owner against one of the most prominent local banks in a matter related to internet phishing whereby the Court has ordered the bank to indemnify the owner after his current account was hacked and considered the bank liable. This case marked a first time precedent in the banking sector and practice for what is known as internet abuse
- Obtained a favourable judgment by the Court of Appeal in Abu Dhabi for group of investors against one of the biggest master developers to refund their money which was paid to a brokerage company and not directly to the master developer with compensation due to loss of opportunity and profit. The disputed amount was

around AED 20 million. This case has marked a new trend for Abu Dhabi Courts in respect of compensation concept for loss of profit and opportunity and the liability relationship between a brokerage company and the master developer towards the investors.

LEGAL SERVICES AND OFFERINGS

The team provides the full spectrum of local litigation legal services, including:

- Case management and strategic advice
- Appearance, audience and representation
 - In all courts, whether federal or local
 - All court stages, including first instance appeal, cassation court and enforcement
- Appointment of experts, administrators and receivers
- Legal and expert opinions on local matters
- Precautionary measures, such as attachments, and freezing assets, in both local litigation and arbitration cases
- The full range of court related proceedings



KEY CONTACTS



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