

## Nabil A. Issa

Partner  
Corporate, Finance and Investments

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Nabil A. Issa is a partner in the Corporate, Finance and Investments Group of King & Spalding, working from the Dubai and affiliated Riyadh offices. Mr. Issa's experience includes work in the areas of *Shari'ah*-compliant funds, joint ventures, foreign investment, private wealth, private equity, privatizations, venture capital, healthcare and real estate industry transactions. He is particularly known for his development of innovative *Shari'ah*-compliant CMA funds and investment structures for real estate and private equity investments in Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E.

Nabil is regularly cited by independent legal directories and client-based surveys. *Chambers Global 2020* highly ranks Nabil for his corporate and investment funds work (Band 1) in the Middle East and recognizes him as an expert in Saudi corporate and capital market matters. *Chambers Global*, identifies Nabil as a “renowned M&A and investment funds practitioner who splits his time between Dubai and the firm's associated office in Riyadh”. Clients describe him as an “excellent business lawyer” and commend him for “his knowledge and understanding of the business environment in Dubai and Saudi”, mentioning that this “makes him one of the most valuable mentors for business managers in the region.”

Moreover, Nabil is listed as a “Leading Individual” for his corporate work in the Middle East region by *Legal500 EMEA 2019*. He is listed among the “Leading Lawyers” by *Islamic Finance News* and *IFLR1000* for his work in both Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Nabil is also included in the inaugural editions of *Euromoney's "Guide to the World's Leading Islamic Finance Lawyers"* as well as *Euromoney's "Guide to the World's Leading Emerging Markets Lawyers"*.

Following graduation from the University of Pennsylvania, Nabil was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to UAE University to study the effects of membership in the World Trade Organization on the financial laws of the United Arab Emirates. Nabil was a founding member and senior editor of the *Journal of Constitutional Law* at the University of Pennsylvania. Nabil is proficient in Arabic as well as being fluent in English.

## Matters

### Private Equity/Venture Capital

*Western Union* – counsel in relation to structuring and acquisition of a minority stake in stc Pay,

creating the first Unicorn in Saudi Arabia and the first fintech Unicorn in the Middle East (awarded “M&A, Equity & IPO Deal of the Year” for 2020 by *Islamic Finance News*).

*Gateway Fund I* - counsel in relation to acquiring a stake in the Tim Horton’s franchise throughout the GCC (awarded “Cross Border Deal of the Year” for 2020 by *Islamic Finance News*).

*Gulf Capital* – counsel in relation to the sale of a chain of radiology clinics in Saudi Arabia to Mediterranean Capital through a fund structure and restructuring of the same (shortlisted for *IFLR* “M&A Deal of the Year” in 2020).

*Soliman Fakeeh*- counsel in relation to acquisition of a stake in Saudi Arabian Airline’s medical center resulting in the first healthcare privatization in Saudi Arabia under the Vision 2030 program.

*NMG* – counsel in relation to acquisition of a stake in a Saudi Arabian company through a sukuk mudaraba (named *Islamic Finance News*’ “Most Innovative Deal of the Year” for 2019).

*Jabal Omar Development Company* – counsel in relation to sale and leaseback of various hotels in Mecca for SR 6 billion to a public fund managed by Alinma Invest and advice on potential restructuring.

*NMC Healthcare plc* – counsel on formation of a fund, structure and investments in multiple hospitals and medical centers in Saudi Arabia.

*Saudi Aramco Entrepreneurship Ventures (Wa'ed)* – counsel on the structuring and acquisition of various early stage companies in Saudi Arabia.

*Mizuho Gulf* – counsel in relation to formation of a fund and majority acquisition of a food & beverage company in the GCC.

*Wadi Makkah* – counsel in relation to a structure through ADGM and multiple acquisitions of early stage companies in Saudi Arabia.

*Ikcon* – counsel in relation to its Series A round.

*Geidea* – counsel in relation to sale of a stake to Gulf Capital utilizing a unique DIFC structure, which was the largest fintech deal at the time.

*Investcorp* – counsel on acquisition of a stake in Bindawood Group, which own one of the largest chains of grocery stores and related businesses in Saudi Arabia, which is Investcorp’s largest investment in the Middle East to date.

*Emirates College of Technology* – counsel in relation to sale of a stake to a leading Saudi Arabian family group.

*Saudi Aramco Investment Management Company* – counsel in relation to various investments in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, and counsel on a wide range of regulatory and corporate issues.

*Malaz Capital* – counsel in relation to the sale and leaseback of two BAE compounds in Saudi Arabia and eventual sale of the Salwa compound.

*NBK Capital* – counsel on its exit from Hanco, a leading fleet leasing and rental company in Saudi Arabia (awarded “The Deal of the Year” by *The Banker* in May 2012).

*Jadwa Investment* - counsel to consortium regarding successful bid and acquisition of a stake in the Saudi Aramco Lubricating Oil Refinery Company (Luberef) in Saudi Arabia (awarded “Most

Innovative Islamic Finance Deal of the Year 2008” at the 7th Annual *Euromoney’s* Islamic Finance Awards 2009) and documentation of a *Shari’ah*-compliant CMA fund (awarded “Best New Private Equity Fund” by Private Equity World (MENA) November 2008).

## **Investment Funds**

*Sovereign Wealth Fund* – counsel on the formation of a fund of funds over SR 4 billion focused on venture capital and private equity in the GCC.

*Various CMA APs* – counsel on the unwinding of various funds.

*Various CMA APs* – counsel to multiple CMA APs in relation to forming CMA regulated REITs.

*Solidere International*– counsel on on the formation of a CMA fund and investments over SR 2 billion in Saudi Arabia in addition to advice in relation to a DIFC holding company.

*Riyad Capital and Taqnia* – counsel in relation to forming a venture capital fund and related financing.

*Al Rajhi Capital and Arcapita Bank* – counsel regarding formation of a Saudi Arabian property income fund and acquisition and sale-lease back of a warehouse from Savola, in addition to sale of the fund’s assets.

*SHUAA Capital Saudi Arabia* – counsel regarding documentation for a *Shari’ah-Compliant* SR2 billion hospitality fund in Saudi Arabia and related agreements with Rotana Hotel Management LLC, in addition to acquisition of various properties to develop hotel properties in Jeddah and formation of new sub-funds.

*SEDCO Capital*– counsel regarding formation of a *Shari’ah*-compliant Saudi Arabian property income fund and a related REIT in Saudi Arabia.

*CMA Authorized Person* – representation in Saudi Arabia in connection with its proposed SAR 400 million *Shar’iah*-compliant CMA real estate development fund focused on middle income housing.

*Shari’ah-Compliant Fund* – counsel regarding \$110 million acquisition of a majority stake in a building in the Dubai Investments Park and leveraged *Shari’ah*-compliant financing.

## **Corporate/Restructurings**

*SME Authority* – counsel on potential revisions to laws and regulations in relation to private equity and venture capital industries in Saudi Arabia.

*Various Family Groups* – counsel in relation to restructurings in the UAE and Saudi Arabia and various private wealth mandates.

*Diaverum* – counsel in relation to the structuring and successful bid for the privatization of dialysis centers in Saudi Arabia.

*Al Borg Laboratories* – counsel in relation to restructuring prior to partial acquisition by Investcorp.

*ShawCor* – counsel in relation to joint venture in ADGM and establishment of an entity to conduct pipe manufacturing in Saudi Arabia and sale of a stake in an entity in Abu Dhabi.

*Gleeds* – counsel in relation to restructuring of operations in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

*Laureate Education* – counsel on a wide range of corporate, joint venture and structuring issues for

operations in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

*Saudi Arabian Airlines Corporation* – counsel for the proposed privatization of its Prince Sultan Aviation Academy.

*Various major U.S. defense contractors* – counsel in relation to their sales and joint ventures in Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.

*Al Noor Hospitals Group PLC* – counsel on the restructuring of its Abu Dhabi operations, resulting in its £221m initial public offering (IPO) on the London Stock Exchange.

## Credentials

### EDUCATION

J.D., University of Pennsylvania

B.A., University of California-San Diego, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

### ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

New Jersey

New York

### ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association

### LANGUAGES

Arabic

## Recognition

Band 1: Investment Funds in the Middle East

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2014–2019

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Leading Individual: Corporate—Saudi Arabia

LEGAL 500 EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA, 2019

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Band 2: Corporate—Middle East

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2019

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Corporate: United Arab Emirates

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2019

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Leading Corporate Lawyer

THE BEST LAWYERS SAUDI ARABIA, 2016-2018

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Corporate and Funds: Middle East/Saudi Arabia and UAE

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2008–2019

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Leading Lawyer: All 15 categories

ISLAMIC FINANCE NEWS

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Guide to the World's Leading Islamic Finance Lawyers

EUROMONEY

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Guide to the World's Leading Emerging Markets Lawyers

EUROMONEY

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## Insights

### ARTICLE

October 4, 2021 • Source: *The Asset Management Review - Edition 10*  
The Asset Management Review - United Arab Emirates

October 4, 2021 • Source: *The Asset Management Review - Edition 10*  
The Asset Management Review - Saudi Arabia

### CLIENT ALERT

June 15, 2021

Changes to the UAE Foreign Ownership Laws

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)

## Events

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

June 8, 2021

Jawad Ali, Nabil Issa, James Stull, Mike Rainey, Zaid Al-Farisi, Asal Saghari, Sayf Shuqair, Dora Chan, Hamzeh Al Rasheed to Host Virtual Training for ICD

### WEBINAR

March 31, 2021

The Evolving Funds Landscape - the Saudi, Regional and International Perspective

October 22, 2020

Africa Webinar Series: COVID-19: Opportunity in Crisis Part Two

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)

## News

### IN THE NEWS

March 18, 2021 • Source: *Global Legal Chronicle*

Nabil Issa, Mohammed AlAmmar, Simon Rahimzada, Hamzeh Marwan Al Rasheed and Adnan Doha advise Samsung C&T Corporation on its sale of a minority interest in QIC to Qurayyah Project Company

### RECOGNITION

October 8, 2021

King & Spalding Earns Multiple Practice and Individual Rankings in 2021 IFLR1000 Guide

*April 15, 2021*

Legal 500 EMEA 2021 Recognizes King & Spalding among the Top Firms in Europe, the Middle East and Africa

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