

SPEAKERS' PROFILES

MR. OLIVER AGHA

Mr. Oliver Ali Agha, a founding partner of Agha & Shamsi, has a long history in Islamic finance and served as Global Head of Islamic Finance and Head of the Saudi Arabian practice at a major international law firm before founding Agha & Shamsi as a *Shari'ah* compliant law firm.

Mr. Agha is recognized as a leading Islamic finance authority; Mr. Agha is on two committees of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), the leading standard-setting body for the Islamic finance industry. Mr. Agha led the Islamic finance team that won a Sheikh Maktoum endorsed global recognition in Islamic finance award in 2008, and is recognized as a top Islamic finance lawyer by numerous publications including Legal 500, Chambers & Partners, Who's Who Legal (UAE Special Edition 2008), IFLR magazine (as one of the world's leading Islamic finance lawyers in the "Recommendation of their Peers" article), International Who's Who, Expert Guides: Best of the Best Islamic Finance Lawyers 2008, 2009 and as one of the top 20 lawyers that helped the Gulf's economic boom by the Brief Magazine in 2008. He is the author of published papers and articles and has given presentations regarding salient Islamic finance topics in the GCC, U.S., Europe and Asia and is a frequent expert commentator on television and radio.

Mr. Agha brings a deep knowledge of *Shari'ah*, acquired after years of continuing study, coupled with hands-on experience in structuring, documenting and negotiating landmark deals in the region with a business-savvy, client friendly and responsive approach. Mr. Agha routinely advises on devising innovative yet compliant and commercially practical Islamic finance structures in *ijara*, *murabaha*, *mudaraba*, *takaful*, *musharaka*, *istisna'a*, *wakala* and *sukuk* among other specialized Islamic vehicles. Mr. Agha's practice covers a number of sectors including Islamic project finance (petrochemicals, power, transportation, real estate and infrastructure), Islamic banking, Islamic capital markets (*sukuk*) and Islamic private equity, Islamic real estate financing and Islamic insurance (*takaful*).



MR. REUBEN BUTTIGIEG

Mr. Reuben Buttigieg is Chairman of MIM Training and Development Limited, the training arm of the Malta Institute of Management. The company represents amongst others Edinburgh Business School and the University of Birmingham. Until recently Mr. Buttigieg was Hon Treasurer of the Malta Institute of Management and acted as a Membership Services Committee Chairman. Mr. Buttigieg currently chairs the Investments Committee of the Institute. He has been a council members for the last 6 years.

Mr. Buttigieg has been the pioneer in the discussions on Islamic Finance in Malta and has prepared various papers and articles on the subject. Mr. Buttigieg is a regular speaker in International Islamic Finance conferences. Mr. Buttigieg acts as consultant on various Islamic Finance transactions in Malta and abroad. Mr. Buttigieg is the first Islamic Finance Advisor in Malta.

Mr. Buttigieg is an experienced business, management and financial consultant who has worked with two of the Big Four accountancy and audit firms, namely, Ernst & Young (Malta and Milan) and KPMG. Mr. Buttigieg has conducted various Corporate Finance and due diligence assignments as well as audits and consultancy work both in Malta as well as in Milan. Mr. Buttigieg has serviced various international clients amongst others Osh Kosh Truck of the US, IVECO (Fiat subsidiary), Daewoo Italia, Electrolux, Block Drug Group, Reebok Italia, Bonomi e Pagani BOPA S.r.l (FININVEST Group), Rietschle Group and Prima Communications Group. Mr. Buttigieg has also worked in various industries in the Maltese Islands and abroad. Mr. Buttigieg has helped in the publicising and launching of the first formal business angel network in Malta.

