



The Malta Islamic Finance Conference: A New Beginning 2010

Oliver Ali Agha



Oliver Agha is a founding partner of Agha & Co and Agha & Shamsi boutique law firms, believed to be the first Shari'ah compliant law firms. The law firms were established to put principles before profit and their representations is limited pursuant to an express ethical code. The firms' members provide world-class transactional skills seamlessly coupled with comprehensive Shari'ah knowledge and backed by a leading Shari'ah Advisory board that includes Sheikh Mohamed El Gari, Abdul Sattar Abu Ghuddah and Esam Ishaq.

Mr. Agha is a New York licensed attorney, formerly with leading international (top 50 Am Law) firms. He has extensive experience in corporate (M&A), project finance, banking and cross-border structured financings, including for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Asia (Japan, China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and as a lead lawyer in many of the leading and award winning deals in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. Mr. Agha is also on the board of the leading supra-national Islamic finance standard-setting body



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Accounting and Auditing Organization of Islamic Finance Institutions (“AAOIFI”), and is recognized as a top Islamic finance lawyer by numerous publications. He is the author of various notable published papers, articles and presentations regarding salient Islamic finance topics and is regularly invited to speak at numerous Islamic conferences and as a guest on television (e.g., CNBC) and radio.

Mr. Agha has been involved in regional deals that aggregate over US\$40 billion, including those that have been financed according to Shari’ah. Mr. Agha has developed innovative, but genuine, Islamic structures that are also commercially viable.

Mr. Agha’s practice encompasses project finance (petrochemicals, power, and infrastructure), Islamic banking (Islamic product development), Islamic capital markets (sukuk), Islamic private equity, Islamic real estate financing and Islamic insurance (takaful) as well as advising governments in developing the regulatory infrastructure to house Islamic finance.

Mr. Agha is a member of the State Bars of New York and Connecticut and, previous to his current roles in the Middle East, practiced as a foreign lawyer in Hong Kong, Beijing and other Asian capital cities. Mr. Agha is the licensed founding partner of the firm in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE..