



The Malta Islamic Finance Conference: A New Beginning 2010

Saqib Awan



Saqib was formerly a member of the commercial and projects Jeddah-based international Saudi law firm, The Alliance Law Firm, and advised on Islamic finance, corporate, commercial and transactional deals, with his clients ranging from major Saudi companies to local and international banks.

Saqib was relocated from Dubai to DLA Piper's office in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he worked on various projects and provided assistance to international clients on the ground.

In addition to advising on some of the largest Islamic financing deals in the Arabian Gulf region, Saqib has extensive experience in representing multinational and regional corporations in relation to foreign direct investment, incorporations, compliance, capital markets and regulatory regimes. Saqib has acted for the National Commercial Bank, the largest Saudi bank, in engineering Shari'ah compliant retail products for real estate scheme. Saqib also served as Saudi Counsel to the Rabigh petrochemical project and the SAAD sukuk issue. Saqib's experience includes advising UAE government agency on Saudi Arabian real estate laws and regulations as part of GCC jurisdictional survey.



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Saqib possesses strong bilingual skills where he can negotiate, draft and transact in Arabic and English based on his previous experience as a freelance translator. Earlier in his career, Saqib worked as a bilingual researcher in the fields of corporate media, comparative commercial laws and Shari'ah.

Saqib left DLA Piper in December 2009 and has been appointed the General Counsel of Unicorn Capital Saudi Arabia, (majority owned subsidiary of Unicorn Islamic Investment Bank in Bahrain).

Saqib has also been engaged by local KSA and regional clients in litigation and arbitration cases with his role ranging from assisting senior partners to preparing case documentation, translation and authentication of documents in relation thereto.