

Qasim Aslam

Partner



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Dubai

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Overview

Qasim is a partner in the Banking and Finance practice.

He has international Islamic finance, project finance and structured finance experience, including transactions throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. He acts for regional, international and Islamic financiers as well as multi-lateral agencies and corporates.

Qasim is also the Head of Islamic Finance – Middle East. He is recognised in the international Expert Guides "Best of the Best" for Islamic Finance, international Expert Guides "Banking, Finance and Transactional Guide" as one of The World's Leading Islamic Finance Lawyers, and also as a Leading Individual with Tier 1 ranking in the Legal 500 directory.

Experience

Qasim has acted on numerous market-leading deals, such as:

- **Salik road toll securitisation:** Advising Citi, Emirates NBD and others on the ground breaking US\$800million multi-source securitisation of the Salik toll road system in Dubai - the world's first Islamic road toll financing - (winner of multiple awards including Middle East Transport Deal of the Year, Project Finance Magazine Award and Structured Finance Deal of the Year for Islamic Finance News).
- **Emirates Steel Industries (ESI) refinancing:** Acting on its US\$1.3 billion refinancing utilising a hybrid corporate/project financing structure as well as an integrated Ijara arrangement (Mining and Metals Deal of the Year by Infrastructure Journal).
- **Petro Rabigh Phase II expansion:** Advising Sumitomo Chemical on the US\$8 billion expansion of a refining and petrochemical complex in Saudi Arabia through conventional and multiple sophisticated Islamic structures - (numerous awards include PFI International's Petrochemical Deal of the Year and EMEA Finance Chemicals Deal of the Year).
- **Limitless Islamic restructuring:** Acting for the financiers' co-ordinating committee in the high profile international US\$1.2 billion Islamic refinancing to this UAE developer utilising bespoke Mudaraba and Ijara

structures.

- **Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (Malaysia):** Advising on the award-winning Islamic commodity murabaha facility of US\$100 million to The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). Bringing together the Far East and the Middle East, this is the first cross-border transaction by a Japanese bank to an Islamic multilateral international financial institution.

Recognition

- Qasim is recognised in Euromoney's Global Expert Guides "Best of the Best" and Islamic Finance categories.
- Qasim has been recognised by the market as an established Expert and nominated to appear in the 2018 Banking, Finance and Transactional Law Expert Guide.
- He is ranked Tier 1 in Legal 500 for Islamic Finance, UAE and recognised as a Leading Individual.
- Qasim is applauded by clients for being "exceptional in terms of his work; he's just one phone call away, so that provides us with a lot of comfort" and "calm, measured, very likeable and a pleasure to work with." Banking & Finance: Islamic Finance, UAE 2019 - *Chambers and Partners Global*
- Clients also describe him as "a heavyweight, he's technically very efficient and very patient with his clients." Islamic Finance, Middle East-wide 2019 - *Chambers and Partners Global*

Insights

- Author, "Standard 59 & Murabahas", *The Oath*, June 2021
- "Murabaha financings post-AAOIFI Standard 59 – a couple of alternative approaches while the dust settles," May 2, 2021
- "Sound Bites Series: Amendments and waivers – legal and documentary issues for lenders in the Middle East," November 12, 2020

Areas of focus

Practices

- Banking and Finance
- Islamic Finance
- Project Finance
- Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy
- Acquisition Finance
- Real Estate Finance

Industry sectors

- Commercial Banks
- Energy
- Financial Institutions

Education

- University of Glasgow, 1994, LLB, (Hons)

Admissions and qualifications

- Scotland, admitted 1996
- Senior Courts of England and Wales, 2005