

Overview

Dentons has incredibly talented women who have demonstrated success in many ways, both internally and externally. WomenLEAD (Leadership, Entrepreneurism, Advancement, Development) is a network that plays a critical role in supporting and building the success of women in our Firm. Dentons continually seeks to improve women's advancement within the Firm and to provide the resources and platform to enable women to connect with and learn from each other.

WomenLEAD is key to this advancement. The network's mission is to foster an environment that attracts, develops and inspires women business leaders and builds networks with our clients and the communities in which we work. Through business development planning programs, mentoring, networking events and client events, the network creates opportunities for women to reach the top levels of their respective fields and to influence the business of tomorrow.

All of these elements are designed to enable women to achieve their full personal and professional potential as well as contribute to the future development of Dentons in all our regions. Furthermore, by sharing experiences and providing successful role models, it aims to grow and develop the skills of women to enhance their profile and success in leadership positions. We recognize that every path is unique and we encourage everyone to set their own course for success.

We know that different perspectives improve our overall development, growth and community. Example activities across our Firm include:

- Sponsorship program
- New mother outreach program
- Business development planning programs
- Women's networking lunches with speakers
- Associate networking dinners
- Client Events: "Women You Should Meet" dinners and other women's networking events
- Strategic organizational and event partnerships: Partnering with clients, bar associations, and organizations committed to advancing women in the legal profession.

Sayyidaat Dentons

Sayyidaat Dentons is the Middle East Chapter of Dentons' professional women's network. Sayyidaat, سيدات, means "women" in Arabic. Launched in 2014 Sayyidaat Dentons provides a networking forum for professional women across industry sectors, creating a community to support and build the success of women both within Dentons and across the region.

Following the successful launch of the program in 2014, hosted in partnership with Ellevest and Reach, which

explored themes from Sheryl Sandberg's best-selling book, "Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead", Sayyidaat Dentons has been a part of a number of initiatives. The following is a snapshot of some of the key initiatives:



Reach: Sayyidaat Dentons has engaged with the founding partners of Reach since 2014 and remains one of the program's key sponsors. Reach is a non-profit mentoring program dedicated to helping young professional women unlock their true potential through structured mentoring and professional support.



30% Club: Having been invited to become founding members of the steering committee formed to develop the GCC chapter of the 30% Club, the Sayyidaat Dentons leadership team has supported the launch of the GCC chapter and is actively preparing for the launch of the Chapter's GCC-wide mentoring program. The 30% Club is a global business led initiative committed to achieving better gender balance in senior and leadership positions of organizations.



Cherie Blair Foundation: Building on the established support provided by Dentons' UK Women's Network, Sayyidaat Dentons is working with the Cherie Blaire Foundation for Women to support the launch of the Mentoring Women in Business Programme in the Middle East. The Programme focuses on providing invaluable training and support to enable women entrepreneurs to realize their full potential.



Courageous Counsel: Sayyidaat Dentons, together with Microsoft and the Association of Corporate Counsel Middle East (ACCME) hosted an inspiring panel of UAE-based general counsel to discuss leading through change. The discussion took inspiration from 'Courageous Counsel: Conversations with Women General Counsel in the Fortune 500', co-authored by Kara Baysinger and General Counsel for the New York Public Library, Michele Mayes.

*Women You
Should Meet*

Women You Should Meet: Sayyidaat Dentons has hosted a number of lunch events focused on connecting professional women, offering a platform for both senior and junior professionals to expand their professional network. To date these events have been hosted in both Oman and the UAE, with plans underway in other jurisdictions across the region

International Women's Day 2020: Dentons is #EachforEqual

On March 8, 2020, International Women's Day, we celebrate our 19,000 colleagues around the world whose commitment to our business strategy of inclusion and diversity is helping to create a gender equal workplace, and world. We are one for all, all for one and each for equal.

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Courageous Counsel Leadership Institute

The Annual Courageous Counsel Leadership Institute is a conference for senior women in-house lawyers, that provides participants with the opportunity to engage in meaningful and value-driven conversations about professional development.

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