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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2024

A conference presented by the IBA Law Firm Management Committee,
supported by the IBA Arab Regional Forum

IBA Middle East Conference: Law firms and clients working together

27–28 February 2024, Palace Hotel Downtown, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- The clients speak – a panel of leading regional GCs provide their views on law firms and changes they would like to suggest or see;
- Working with legal departments at corporate clients;
- Developing the law firm of the future;
- What is happening in global legal markets? How does this affect the Middle East?;
- Creating a culture to look after and develop our people;
- The place of technology and artificial intelligence now and in the future; and
- Opportunities for law firms, and lawyers, in the Middle East and the 'rush' to Saudi Arabia.

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For more information and to book online visit

<https://registration.infosalons.ae/IBA24DU/Delegate/Registration/Welcome>

Programme

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Stephen Revell *Singapore; Senior Co-Chair, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

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Stephen Revell *Singapore; Senior Co-Chair, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

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The IBA, its officers and staff accept no responsibility for any views expressed, presentations or materials produced by delegates or speakers at the Conference.

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Conference dinner sponsors

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Tuesday 27 February

1900 – 2230 **Evening/dinner reception/networking**

Pre-Conference Dinner

The Viewing Deck, Palace Hotel Downtown,
Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Blvd, Downtown Dubai

Directions: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k7zCs952patTLnsQ6>

Wednesday 28 February

0830 – 0930 **Registration and buffet breakfast on arrival**

Royale Ballroom, Palace Hotel Downtown, Sheikh Mohammed bin
Rashid Blvd, Downtown Dubai

0930 – 0940 **Welcome remarks**

Sadiq Jafar Hadeef & Partners, Dubai; Member, Arab Regional
Forum Advisory Board

0930 – 0940 **Opening remarks**

Stephen Revell Singapore; Senior Co-Chair, IBA Law Firm
Management Committee

0940 – 1025 Session One

Working with legal departments at corporate clients

General counsel often comment on how many law firms 'work the way they work' rather than seeking to adapt to the way the client works. This is a potential frustration for General Counsel and others within legal departments at corporate clients. Similarly, lawyers in law firms – especially associates – sometimes get frustrated with demands for immediate responses with little or no explanation or prioritisation from corporate legal departments. Surely, we all simply need to talk more!

Moderator

Sadiq Jafar Hadeef & Partners, Dubai; Member, Arab Regional
Forum Advisory Board

Panellists

David Bligh-Smith Al Shaya Group, Kuwait City

James Donald Accor, Dubai

Vera Kolesnik Nestle Middle East, Dubai

Paul Taylor Eversheds Sutherland, Dubai

1025 – 1110 Session two

The clients speak – a panel of leading regional GCs provide their views on law firms and changes they would like to suggest or see

Moderator

Sheila Shadmand Jones Day, Dubai

Panellists

Nabil Azar National Bank of Kuwait, Dubai

Filippo Cossalter Johnson & Johnson, Dubai

Khalid Khan Seddiqi Holding, Dubai

Ramzi Modad Chalhoub Group, Dubai

1110 – 1140 **Refreshment break**

1140 – 1230 Session three

What is happening in global legal markets? How does this affect the Middle East?

This session will summarise some of the key opportunities and challenges firms all over the world are focused on, followed by a discussion with senior law firm partners regarding how they believe global trends will impact law firms and corporations in the Middle East.

Moderator

William Howard Travers Smith, London

Panellists

Jimmy Haoula BSA Ahmad Bin Hezeem & Associates, Dubai

Tahan (Tom) Thraya Mayer Brown, Dubai

Christian Tuddenham Jenner & Block, London

Samer Qudah Al Tamimi, Dubai



Conference dinner sponsors (continued)

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Dr. Ghada M. Darwish Karbon Law Firm

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Wednesday continued

1230 – 1300 Session four

Legal recruitment opportunities and challenges – how to attract and retain the best lawyers during 2024, in private practice and within corporations

Attracting and retaining the best talent is an ongoing challenge for law firms and legal departments. The rapidly moving situation naturally provides opportunities for the prime performers. The panel will address salaries, benefits, flexibility, and career progression. This conversation should be of interest to all entities seeking to recruit or grow during the coming year.

Moderator

Jonathan Berry *Robert Walters, Dubai*

Panellists

Kevin Cooper *Hadef & Partners, Dubai*

Yosr Hamza *Gartner, Dubai*

1300 – 1400 **Lunch**

1400 – 1445 Session five

Creating a culture to look after and develop our people

Many older lawyers talk about the challenges of working with the 'new generation'. However, this is a reality to which everyone must adapt rather than complain. This may mean we need more people to ensure we are developing our talent in the way they expect to be developed, both with substantive legal skills and (equally importantly) a wide range of soft skills. We must stop assuming young lawyers will at some point 'wake up and get on with it'; it's the law firms and legal departments that must change. Those that adapt will be much more successful in retaining talent and clients.

Moderator

Stephen Revell *Singapore; Senior Co-Chair, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

Panellists

Melissa Davis *MD Communications Ltd, London*

Patrick Gearon *Charles Russell Speechlys, Dubai*

Keith Hutchison *Clyde & Co, Dubai*

Kiersten Lucas *Stephenson Harwood, Dubai*

1430 – 1445 Ted Talk

Following COP28 in Dubai, what does the Middle East legal sector need to know and do?

Speaker

Layla El-Wafi *Standard Chartered Bank, Dubai*

1445 – 1525 Session six

The place of technology and artificial intelligence now and in the future

For many years, there has been discussion about the need to choose the right technology, and then the challenge of implementation and 'buy in'. Some law firms and legal departments have struggled with selection and adoption. Then along came AI. This has made the lives of law firm leaders even more confusing. Now we have AI, do we still need 'technology'? Is AI simply a fad or is it truly the dramatic change some suggest? This session provides practical advice about how law firm leaders can tackle decisions around technology and AI.

Moderator

Lucy Ryland *Thomson Reuters, London*

Panellists

Jamie Goldrich *SYKE, Leeds*

Chris Knuckey *Thomson Reuters, London*

1525 – 1545 **Refreshment break**

1545 – 1630 Session seven

Opportunities for law firms, and lawyers, in the Middle East and the 'rush' to Saudi Arabia

There is significant activity in the Middle East, especially given the apparent opening up of the legal market in Saudi Arabia. How do law firm leaders make the right decisions about growth in the Middle East? Where do they open or grow offices? Should they flock to Saudi Arabia? What are the other opportunities that may be 'overshadowed' by the focus on Saudi Arabia?

Moderator

Tim Casben *Gowling WLG, Dubai*

Panellists

Dr Ahmad Alkhamees *Harasani & Alkhamees Law Firm, Riyadh*

Ahmed Barakat *ASAR – Al Ruwayeh & Partners, Kuwait City*

Dr Ghada Darwish Karbon *Dr Ghada M Darwish Karbon Law Firm, Doha; Vice Chair, Arab Regional Forum*

Dr Zeyad Khoshaim *Khoshaim & Associates, Riyadh*

Conference dinner sponsors (continued)

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Wednesday continued

1630 – 1730 Session eight

Developing the law firm of the future

Senior management of law firms need to raise their attention from the day-to-day routine and towards the future to ensure their law firms are sustainable. The future is both unclear and becoming increasingly complicated. We will discuss with various managing partners the things they focus on to be 'future ready'.

Moderator

Jan Derneham *Mannheimer Swartling, Stockholm*

Panellists

Emily Beirne *Kobre & Kim, Dubai*

Mahmoud (Mac) Fadlallah *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, Dubai*

Dr Mahmood Hussain *M&CO Legal, Dubai*

Paul Marmor *Sherrards, London*

Stephen Revell *Singapore; Senior Co-Chair, IBA Law Firm Management Committee*

1730 **Closing remarks**



IBA 2024

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

MEXICO CITY

15 - 20
Sept



CENTRO CITIBANAMEX, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

The 2024 IBA Annual Conference will be held in Mexico City. Located between the USA and South America, Mexico has a rich history and is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. With a population of almost 130 million, a rich cultural history and diversity, and abundant natural resources, Mexico is one of the world's 15 largest economies and the fourth-largest economy and a significant financial centre in the Americas. Mexico City will be an exceptional host for the IBA Annual Conference.

WHAT WILL IBA 2024 OFFER YOU?

- Access 5,000+ attendees representing over 2,700 law firms, corporations, governments and regulators from more than 130 jurisdictions
- Hear from leading international figures, government officials, general counsel and experts from across all practice areas and continents
- Opportunities to win more work and referrals at the world's best networking and business development event for lawyers and law firms
- Save time and money by meeting all of your legal contacts under one roof



TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST:

Visit: www.ibanet.org/conference-details/CONF2421

To receive details of all exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities for the IBA Annual Conference in Mexico City, email andrew.webster-dunn@int-bar.org

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Information

Date

27–28 February 2024

Venue

IBA Middle East Conference: Law firms and clients working together

Conference Room: Royale Ballroom

Location: Palace Hotel Downtown, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Blvd, Downtown Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Directions: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k7zCs952patTLnsQ6>

Language

All working sessions and Conference materials will be in English

Fees

The registration for the IBA Middle East Conference will be available at

Registration Fees: <https://registration.infosalons.ae/IBA24DU/Delegate/Registration/Welcome>

Conference Registration: US\$250, plus VAT

Optional pre-conference dinner at the Viewing Deck, Palace Hotel Downtown on 27 February: US\$220, plus VAT

Full payment must be received in order to obtain your Conference documentation.

Registration confirmation

Upon receipt of your payment for the Conference a confirmation email will be sent. Registration confirmation will not be distributed by post.

Travel arrangements and visas

Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. It is recommended that you check your visa requirements with your local embassy or consulate.

Please apply for your visa in good time.

Hotel Accommodation

The Palace Hotel Downtown, Dubai
Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashed Boulevard, Downtown Dubai,
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 4 4287888

Web: <https://www.addresshotels.com/en/hotels/palace-downtown/>

Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/AbvYhJDYrJsYmpZA8>

Delegates are responsible for making their accommodation reservations directly with the hotel as well as entering into an agreement with the hotel regarding credit card guarantees, cancellation terms and conditions, and room rates. We cannot accept responsibility for hotel accommodation disputes between a delegate and the hotel.

Promotional literature at venue hotel

Please note that no individual or organisation may display or distribute publicity material or other printed material during the conference, unless by prior arrangement with us. Organisations and companies wishing to discuss promotional opportunities should contact: s.jafar@hadefpartners.com

Cancellation of registration or social functions

Cancellation: In the case of cancellation of a registration to attend the conference or pre-conference dinner (each an 'event'), provided that written notice of cancellation is received by the organisers no later than **21 February 2024**, the fees related to the event(s) shall be refunded as soon as practicable, less a 25 per cent administration charge. Except in the case of cancellation of the event by the organisers, no refund shall be made in respect of any registration / payment made later than **21 February 2024**. Whereas, in the case of cancellation of the event by the organisers, the fees paid to attend such event shall be refunded in full. The organisers shall use all reasonable efforts to pay refunds to the account from which payment had been made, or such other account of the registered person (or their employer, company or law firm) specified by the registered person by written notice, provided that the said reasonable efforts shall only be used for 30 days following receipt of the notice; and any monies that the organisers are unable to refund by the end of such period shall be treated as conference revenues. For the avoidance of doubt, any right to a refund only applies to persons who have registered and paid to attend an event. Without limitation to the generality of the foregoing, refund rights shall not apply if a person is unable to attend an event for any reason other than cancellation in accordance with this paragraph. The organisers are solely responsible for any refunds and should be contacted via the following email address: m.morante@hadefpartners.com.

The organisers may at any time, with or without giving notice, in their absolute discretion and without giving any reason, cancel or postpone the Conference, change its venue or any of the other published particulars, or withdraw any invitation to attend. In any case, neither the organisers nor any of their officers, employees, agents, members or representatives shall be liable for any loss, liability, damage or expense suffered or incurred by any person, nor will they return any money paid to them in connection with the Conference unless they are satisfied not only that the money in question remains under their control but also that the person who paid it has been unfairly prejudiced (as to which, decision shall be in their sole and unfettered discretion and, when announced, final and conclusive).

Continuing Professional Development/Continuing Legal Education

For Conference delegates from jurisdictions where CPD/CLE is mandatory, the IBA will provide a Certificate of Attendance for the Conference. Subject to CPD/CLE requirements, Conference delegates can use this to obtain the relevant number of hours' accreditation. The number of CPD/CLE hours available may vary depending on the rules applied by the members' bar association/law society on time recording criteria.

A Certificate of Attendance is available to Conference delegates on request. Please ask at the IBA Conference registration desk for information on how to obtain the certificate.

IBA Harassment Policy

IBA conferences provide unrivalled professional development and network-building opportunities for international legal practitioners and their professional associates. The IBA values the participation of every delegate and member of the IBA and wants all attendees to have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Accordingly, all Conference attendees are expected to show respect and courtesy to other attendees, IBA staff and those involved with hosting the events throughout the Conference and at all Conference events, receptions, and parties, whether officially organised by the IBA or others. All delegates, guests, attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff and volunteers at any IBA event are required to conform to the IBA Harassment Policy.

See www.ibanet.org/iba-harassment-policy



International Bar Association

the global voice of the legal profession



About the IBA

The International Bar Association (IBA), established in 1947, is the world's leading organisation of international legal practitioners, bar associations, law firms and law societies.

The IBA influences the development of international law reform and shapes the future of the legal profession throughout the world. It has a membership of more than 80,000 individual lawyers and more than 190 bar associations and law societies spanning over 170 countries.

Inspired by the vision of the United Nations, the IBA was founded in the same spirit, just before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed in 1948.

The IBA covers all practice areas and professional interests, providing members with access to leading experts and up-to date information, enabling them to better represent their clients' interests.

Through its various committees, fora and task forces, the IBA facilitates the exchange of information and views among its members as to laws, practices and professional responsibilities relating to the practice of law around the globe.

Law Firm Management Committee

The Committee's diverse membership is drawn from the profession around the world and from firms of all sizes and areas of practice. The Committee pursues its mission through a number of activities including the annual IBA conference at which the Committee regularly offers a wide range of sessions addressing current top-of-mind issues; regional conferences, generally in coordination with the IBA's regional fora, which address current law firm management issues of regional interest; webinar programs; e-bulletins; and our publications and other material accessible to members on our website.

Once you join the Committee, you may actively contribute to its work by:

- Joining one of the Committee's five subcommittees: Strategy and Finance; Business Development and Marketing; Talent and Leadership; Knowledge Management and IT; or Small and Medium Firms;
- Contributing to Law Firm Management publications including the e-bulletins; and
- More generally, sharing your own know-how while learning from others and participating actively at IBA conferences and the committee events and initiatives including its webinars.

For more information please visit the **Law Firm Management Committee home page**.

Arab Regional Forum

The Arab Regional Forum provides lawyers active in, or with an interest in the region, with a means to establish contact and exchange information with each other. A particular focus of interest is the continuing economic importance of the region, including reconstruction and investment projects following peace initiatives.

For more information please visit the **Arab Regional Forum home page**.

International Bar Association

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