



Pervez Akhtar

Partner

Corporate and M&A



Experienced, trusted and one of the top lawyers in the region.

————— Chambers Global 2016

Primary practice

Corporate and M&A

About Pervez Akhtar

Pervez is a partner in our Global Transactions team in the UAE, based in Dubai. He is renowned for being one of the leading corporate/M&A lawyers in the MENA region.

His practice focuses on private equity, M&A and joint ventures in the financial services, insurance, energy, utilities, transport, logistics, consumer goods, retail, education, healthcare, telecoms and media sectors.

His clients are typically regional and international financial investors and corporates doing business throughout MENA, the rest of Africa, and south and southeast Asia. Pervez also advises sovereign wealth funds and government investment vehicles on transactions integral to their strategic investment and economic diversification programmes.

Well known for the time and attention he devotes to transactions and his sensible approach to negotiating, he is recognised by the market as one of the region's leading corporate transactional lawyers and is personally ranked in the leading legal research directories for his work in relation to countries throughout MENA and beyond.

Recent work

- Advising Warburg Pincus and General Atlantic on their joint acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in UAE-based Network International, the leading payment solutions provider in the Middle East and Africa.
- Advising the Abraaj Group on its acquisition of a significant minority stake in Indorama Fertilizers, the largest urea fertiliser manufacturer in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Advising First Gulf Bank on its merger with National Bank of Abu Dhabi, which is set to create the largest bank in the MENA region with \$175bn of assets and a combined market capitalisation of approximately \$29.1bn.
- Advising Fajr Capital on its acquisition of the Cravia Group, the franchisee of various major food and beverage brands in the MENA region, including Five Guys, Cinnabon, Seattle's Best Coffee and Zaatar w Zeit.
- Advising Integrated Diagnostics Holdings, the region's largest fully integrated private sector

healthcare diagnostics service provider (offering services including pathology and molecular diagnostics, genetics testing and basic radiology in Egypt, North Sudan and Jordan), and the selling shareholders on its IPO and listing on the London Stock Exchange

- Advising TPG Capital and The Abraaj Group on their investment in Kudu, one of Saudi Arabia's largest restaurant groups with multiple sites and brands across the country. The transaction represented TPG's debut investment in the Middle East as well as representing one of the, if not *the*, largest private equity investments in Saudi Arabia.
- Advising the Nuqul Group on the sale of a stake in FINE Hygienic Holding (FINE) to a consortium led by Standard Chartered Private Equity. FINE is one of the most recognised consumer brands in MENA, with operations in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco and Algeria.
- Advising GC Credit Opportunities Fund on its investment in Carbon Holdings, Egypt's largest downstream oil and gas holding company, to finance the development and expansion of three of Carbon Holdings' petrochemical projects.
- Advising Fajr Capital, with Blackstone and Bahrain's investment arm Mumtalakat as co-investors, on the acquisition from Varkey Group of a minority stake in the emerging markets business of leading regional education business GEMS Education. The deal won M&A Deal of the Year at the IFLR Middle East Awards 2015.
- Advising EFG Hermes: on its initial joint cash bid (with Qatari investment company Mannai Corporation) to acquire the entire share capital of UAE-based luxury retailer Damas International, listed on the NASDAQ Dubai; and on EFG's subsequent sale of its stake in Damas back to Mannai Corporation.

Contact Pervez

pervez.akhtar@freshfields.com

Dubai

ICD Brookfield Place, Level 13 DIFC, PO Box

506569

T +971 4 5099 100

F +971 4 5099 111