



Haris Meyer Hanif

Partner, Head of Finance MENA

Financing and capital markets, Restructuring and insolvency



He is dynamic, innovative and does really interesting work

———— Chambers Global

Primary practice

Financing and capital markets, Restructuring and insolvency

About Haris Meyer Hanif

Haris is the head of finance for our Global Transactions team in MENA.

He is a leading lawyer in the region, as reflected in his Band 1 ranking for Banking & Finance UAE by Chambers and Partners.

Haris focuses on restructuring and insolvency matters, acquisition and event-driven financings and private debt transactions across the Middle East and Africa, usually at the more complicated end of the spectrum.

He has acted on some of the most innovative restructurings and financings in the region and is known for taking a commercial approach to executing transactions.

Recent work

Restructuring and insolvency example matters:

- Advising **Fidera** on a confidential special situations mandate.
- Advising **Hayfin Capital** on its landmark financing of a luxury residential development (Imperial Avenue in Downtown Dubai) using a highly novel and creative approach, involving multiple creditors and requiring the collaboration of the real estate regulator.
- Confidential mandate relating to a high-profile **UAE Central Bank regulated business**.
- Confidential mandate relating to a **key healthcare asset in the UAE**, initially under the aegis of the Financial Restructuring Committee and now in a court-supervised process.
- Advising the largest lenders to **Dubai Drydocks** in relation to its financial restructuring and acquisition by DP World. This deal won 'Deal of the Year' awards.
- Advising **Alcoa Corporation** on a debt-to-equity conversion of **Ma'aden Rolling Company's** debt through the issuance of new shares to the **Public Investment Fund (PIF)** of KSA. This deal also won 'Deal of the Year' awards.
- Advising **OSN**, one of MENA's largest broadcasting networks, on its debt restructuring opposite a wide syndicate of international, regional and local lenders, which included the injection of an additional subordinated facility by a new lender.

- Advising **LafargeHolcim**, a global leader in building materials, on the restructuring of the project financing arrangements of its joint venture in the UAE, **Lafarge Emirates Cement**, with a large syndicate of international, regional and local banks.
- Advising **Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries / Julphar** on the restructuring, refinancing and upsizing of multiple bilateral credit lines through the establishment of new, long-term, conventional and Islamic facilities on commercial terms consistent across all financiers.
- Advising a **ministerial committee of the government of Saudi Arabia** on a restructuring of systemic importance and dispute prevention work concerning a major conglomerate with businesses across the region.
- Advising a **prominent international financial investor** on the provision of an emergency liquidity facility to PwC as liquidators of ABRAAJ Holdings against a complex background and court proceedings in the Cayman Islands. The facility was afforded priority protection through the Cayman Islands court process.
- Advising **The Investment Dar** on its innovative US\$1.2bn restructuring of its existing debt (involving sukuk, bilateral loans and syndicated facilities) by way of a settlement-in-kind offer. The Investment Dar owns significant stakes in various businesses, including Aston Martin.
- Advising a **leading financial institution** on the restructuring of a well-known education business based in the UAE involving multiple credit facilities at varying levels each with recourse to different assets.
- Advising **Cerberus** and **Olive Rock** on their acquisition of a stake in UEMedical, the operator of 21 hospitals and healthcare facilities across the GCC, from a distressed owner.

Acquisition finance example matters:

- Advising **General Atlantic** on its \$260 million Series D investment in **Sun King** (formerly **Greenlight Planet**), the largest provider of solar energy products for off-grid homes in Africa and Asia.
- Advising **Warburg Pincus** and **General Atlantic** on the financing of their joint acquisition of a stake in **Network International**, a leading payment solutions provider in the Middle East and Africa.
- Advising **Goldman Sachs** on the financing of a major Saudi Arabian investor's acquisition of a 50% stake in a joint venture with PepsiCo in Jordan and associated refinancing of its Saudi operations.
- Advising **TPG** and a **global emerging markets financial sponsor** on their Islamic financing for their joint investment in **Kudu**, a leading restaurant group in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Advising **Omantel** on the financing of its public acquisition of a stake in **Zain**, a company

- listed on the Kuwait stock exchange.
- Advising **Tunisie Telecom** on the financing of its public acquisition of a majority stake in **GO**, a company listed on the Malta stock exchange.
- Advising **Network International** on a multi-source (Islamic and conventional) financing for its acquisition of **Emerging Markets Payment Solutions** from growth markets investor, **Actis**.
- Advising **Alpek Polyester**, the global integrated polyester-based business unit of Alfa SAB de CV, on the finance aspects of its acquisition of **OCTAL** for \$620 million. OCTAL is a major producer of PET sheet and resin globally.
- Advising **GFH Financial Group** on the financing elements of its acquisition of a stake in **AMA International University** and the provision of financing for the purchase of a stake in the same by another shareholder.
- Advising **Holcim Group** on the financing elements of the sale of its business in India to **Adani Group** for \$10.5 billion.
- Advising **Chalhoub Group**, the largest luxury retail operator in the Middle East, on its acquisition of a majority stake in **Threads Styling**, a London based digital luxury retailer and personal shopping platform.
- Advising **Affinity Partners** on its Series C investment in **EMPG**, the largest classifieds player in emerging markets with 217 million monthly visits to its platforms (including Dubizzle and Bayut).

Direct lending example matters:

- Advising **Ruya Partners** on a mezzanine financing for **Starzplay**, a leading video-on-demand streaming service in the Middle East.
- Advising **Ruya Partners** on a financing for **Energia**, a Saudi-based energy solutions and equipment rental business, for the acquisition of new assets, refinancing of near-term maturities and growth capital.
- Advising **NBK Capital** on a growth financing facility for **Moove**, an African mobility fintech company and Uber's exclusive vehicle supply partner in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Advising **Jadwa Mezzanine Financing Opportunities Company** on an Islamic mezzanine facility for the parent company of LSE listed **ADES International Holding PLC**.
- Advising **NBK Capital** on an Islamic mezzanine acquisition facility for **GC Reach** to acquire a significant minority stake in a KSA based HR and manpower supply company, **Emdad Human Resources**, making GC Reach one of the largest recruitment and outsourcing services in the Middle East.
- Advising **GC Credit Opportunities**, **EBRD**, **AFC** and **IFC**, amongst others, on their

investment, by way of a convertible mezzanine financing, in **Carbon Holdings**, Egypt's largest downstream oil and gas holding company.

- Advising **Permira Debt Managers** on a confidential financing involving a regional asset.
- Advising **NBK Capital** on an Islamic mezzanine facility provided to a subsidiary of **Bait Al Batterjee Group** for the development of private hospitals in Egypt and Morocco under the 'Saudi German Hospital' brand.
- Advising **GC Credit Opportunities** on a mezzanine financing (with equity kicker) provided to **Olive Group** (subsequently acquired by Constellis), a security company operating largely out of the GCC and Iraq.
- Advising **NBK Capital** on an Islamic mezzanine facility in connection with the acquisition by a sponsor of an education business in Saudi Arabia.
- Advising **GC Credit Opportunities** on a mezzanine facility (with equity kicker) made available to **Amana Holdings Limited**, a healthcare facility operator in the UAE.
- Advising **NBK Capital** on an acquisition facility made available to the **Kuwait LBO Fund** on its acquisition of a stake in a bakery business in Kuwait.
- Advising **GC Credit Opportunities** on its initial and follow-on investments in **AMAK Petroleum**, which is an Egyptian-based petroleum company with operations in Syria and Libya, by way of a mezzanine facility (with equity kicker).
- Advising **NBK Capital** on an Islamic mezzanine facility made available to a **leading energy rental business** operating in Saudi Arabia.
- Advising **Investbridge Capital** on a mezzanine financing for an investment in a UAE based real estate development company.
- Advising a **regional financial investor** on its debt investment into a UAE based serviced office business.

General banking and corporate finance example matters:

- Advising **multiple SWFs and GREs in the GCC and their lenders** on a variety of debt financing transactions (often widely syndicated) amounting to tens of billions of dollars in each of 2020 and 2021.
- Advising **National Energy Services Reunited Corp.**, a NASDAQ listed leading provider of oilfield services in the MENA region, on its ESG-linked \$860m multicurrency term and revolving credit facilities.
- Advising **Metito Holdings Limited**, a leading global provider of sustainable water and wastewater treatment solutions across 18 countries in Africa, Middle East and South-East Asia, on a sustainability-linked \$120m multicurrency financing.
- Advising **First Gulf Bank** on its merger with **National Bank of Abu Dhabi**, creating the largest bank in the MENA region (now **First Abu Dhabi Bank**).

- Advising **Al Hilal Bank** on a three-way merger with **ADCB** and **Union National Bank** creating the third largest bank in the UAE.
- Advising **Abu Dhabi Polymers Co. Ltd (Borouge)**, a joint venture between a leading **GRE** and **Borealis**, on its debut \$500m revolving credit facility.
- Advising **flydubai** on a US\$500M syndicated multi-source (Islamic and conventional) financing. The facilities incorporated a *wakala* structure and were backed by IATA Clearing House receivables, a structure believed to be a first in the Middle East.
- Advising a **major consortium of international and regional financiers** on the c.\$1.25bn multi-source (Islamic and conventional) financing for **GEMS Education**, the leading educational platform across 14 countries, in which **Blackstone**, **Fajr Capital** and **Mumtalakat** were (at that time) investors.
- Advising **Emirates NBD Capital Limited** and **Emirates Islamic Bank PJSC** on a AED550M multi-source (Islamic and conventional) financing for **Emirates Healthcare Development Company**, the owner of Saudi German Hospital, Dubai.
- Advising **National Energy Services Reunited Corp.** on a US\$450m multicurrency term and revolving credit facilities arranged by HSBC, Mashreqbank, APICORP and Saudi British Bank.
- Advising **National Bank of Abu Dhabi** (now part of **First Abu Dhabi Bank**) on its acquisition of a portfolio of Indian loan assets valued at almost \$1bn from **Royal Bank of Scotland**.

Contact Haris

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