

Business Laws of the United Arab Emirates

2011 Edition

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

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About the Contributors

The following lawyers from Akin Gump provided their professional expertise and acted as chapter authors for this title:

Kamil Gérard Ahmed and Dinmukhamed T. Eshanov (Chapter 1 — *Constitutional Law of the U.A.E.*)

Benjamin Stuart Ewing (Chapter 2 — *Corporations, Partnerships, and Other Business Entities*)

Benjamin Stuart Ewing (Chapter 3 — *Securities and Capital Markets*)

Benjamin Stuart Ewing (Chapter 4 — *Financial Institutions*)

Jordan Cowman, Ausra Laurusaite-Kromelis and Dianne E. Carlson (Chapter 5 — *Labor and Employment Laws*)

Jason Gelman and J.R. England (Chapter 6 — *Real Property*)

Mohammad Vakil (Chapter 7 — *Insurance*)

David C. Lee (Chapter 8 — *Intellectual Property Law*)

Benjamin Stuart Ewing (Chapter 9 — *Environmental Law*)

Mohammad Vakil (Chapter 10 — *Litigation in the U.A.E.*)

Mohammad Vakil (Chapter 11 — *Bankruptcy*)

Shawn Davis and Kamil Ahmed (Chapter 12 — *Oil and Gas Law*)

Shari L. Silverman and Kamil Gérard Ahmed (Chapter 13 — *Other Matters*)

In addition, Natasha Kohne, Chadi Salloum, Elisabeth Capuyns, Barbara Niederkofler, Kameron Averitt, Eddy Blanton, Richard Gadhia, Adam Hilke, Jenny Rajkowski and Kinga Bernath provided invaluable support for and review of this publication.

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Preface

The U.A.E. represents a unique business environment that brings together disparate legal, ethnic and religious cultures to form a cohesive, robust market-based economy. It is from this diversity that the citizens and residents of the U.A.E. have drawn the wealth of experience necessary to transform this once hydrocarbon-reliant economy into one of the world's emerging economic powerhouses and a center for regional trade, finance and entertainment. During these last years of rapid transformation, the country has seen radical changes to its infrastructure, population and economy. Now, more than ever, as multinational companies turn their attention to the region, it is essential that they familiarize themselves with the underpinnings of the U.A.E. and its legal framework.

Business Laws of the United Arab Emirates encompasses the major aspects of the U.A.E.'s legal system and gives the reader a detailed overview about the U.A.E. laws relevant to conducting business in the U.A.E., in particular by multinational corporations and investors.

In writing this book, we employed a number of sources for the laws we have herein summarized and analyzed. Of particular utility were resources and translations from the following entities: the U.A.E. Ministry of Economy, the U.A.E. Ministry of Labor, the U.A.E. Ministry of Water and Environment, the U.A.E. Ministry of Justice, the U.A.E. Ministry of Health, the U.A.E. Central Bank, the Emirates Securities and Commodities Authority, the U.A.E. Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Abu Dhabi Department of Municipal Affairs, the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency, the Abu Dhabi Health Authority, the Dubai Land Department, the Dubai Real Estate Regulatory Agency, the Dubai International Financial Centre, the Dubai International Arbitration Center, the Egyptian Center for Intellectual Property and Information Technology, LexGulf Publishers Ltd., Gulf Office Services Bureau Legal Translations and legal translations from Affinitext.

This publication is intended as an introduction to the issues outlined herein and is not intended in any way to be taken as legal advice. No statement contained herein should be relied upon as a legal interpretation or as legal advice. Every situation presents unique facts and subtle variations in application to the

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law. In addition, the laws and regulations described herein, and the application thereof, are subject to change on a regular basis. Thus, it is always best to consult an attorney knowledgeable in this area of law concerning any situation or issues the reader may be facing or an action the reader may be considering.

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