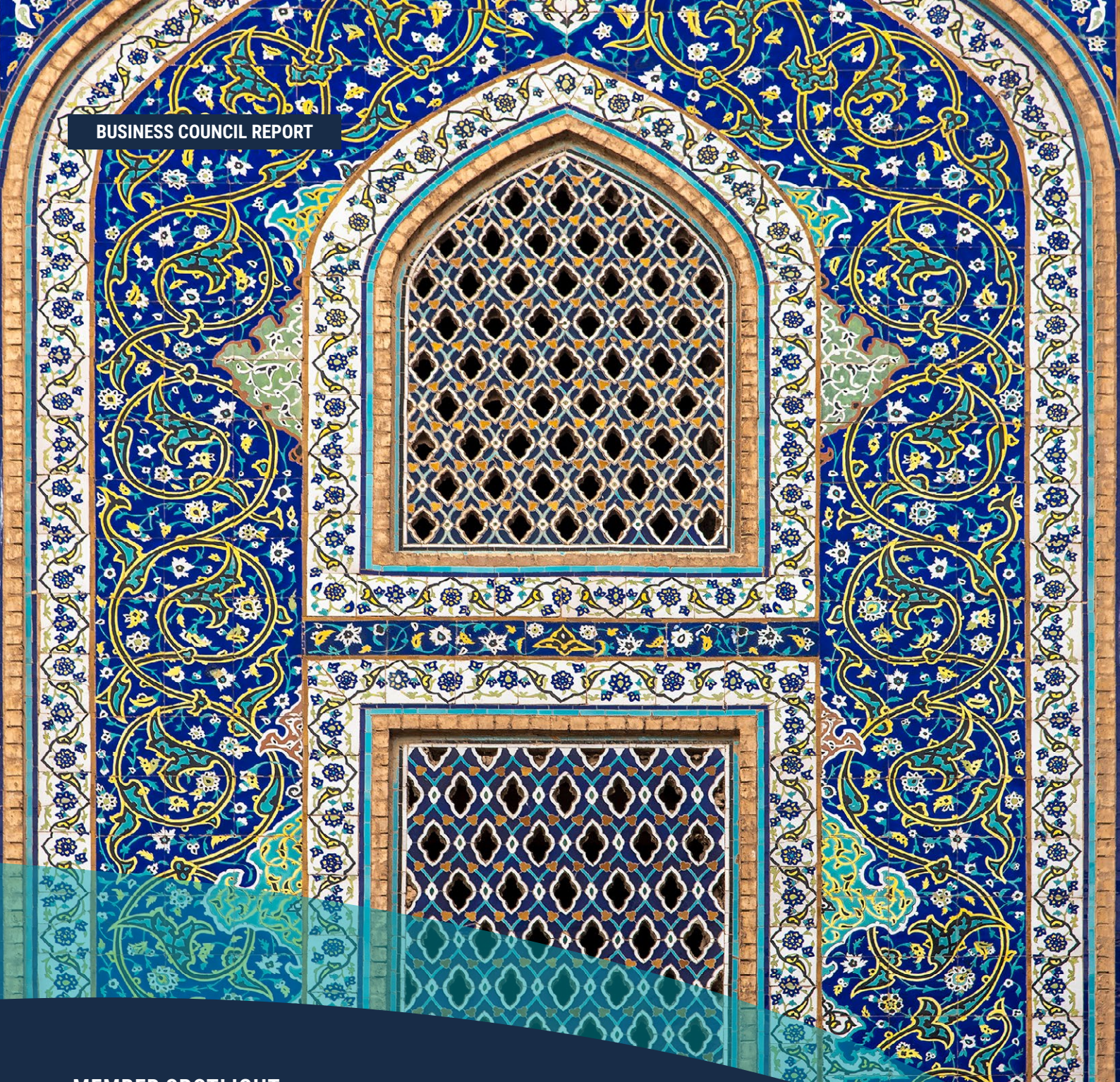


BUSINESS COUNCIL REPORT

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Akin اكن®

Sept 2026

U.S.-U.A.E. Business Council

About Akin

Akin is among the world's elite international law firms and has built one of the Middle East's leading international legal practices, advising governments, sovereign wealth funds, financial institutions, multinational corporations and strategic investors on some of the region's most complex and consequential matters. Supported by more than 1100 lawyers and advisors, across 17 offices and operating in more than 80 countries firmwide, our Middle East offering combines a deep regional capability with a fully integrated global platform.

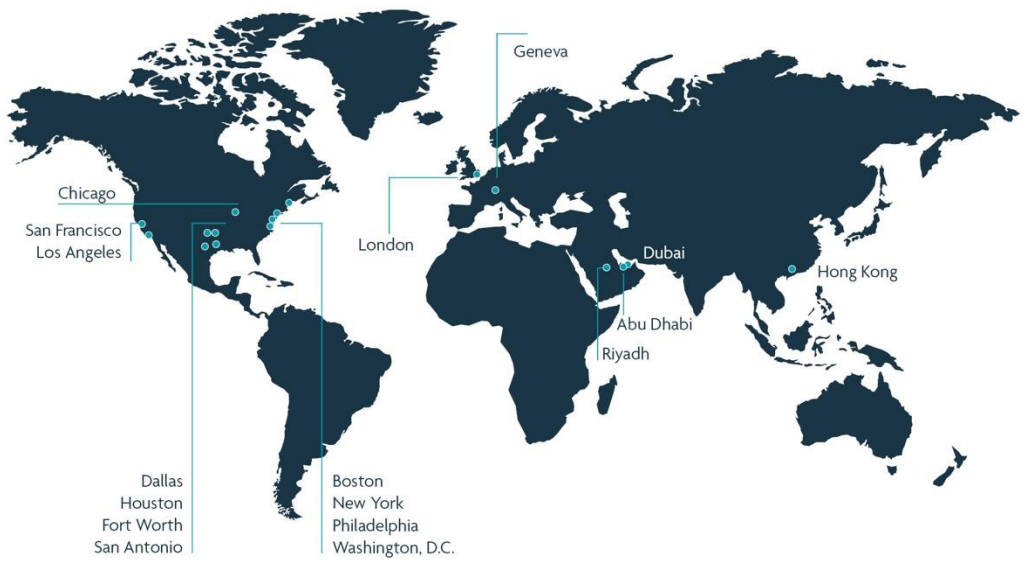
Akin's Middle East practice is anchored by offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Riyadh. The Abu Dhabi office, recently relocated to the Al Maryah Tower, has operated for more than 18 years, while establishment of Akin's Dubai office marked the firm as the first U.S. law firm to establish a presence in DIFC. In 2025, the firm expanded its regional platform with the opening of its Riyadh office, strengthening its ability to serve clients across Saudi Arabia and the broader Middle East.

Akin has a longstanding history of representing leading Middle East government and private sector clients on significant domestic and cross-border mandates. The firm is particularly recognised for handling complex and strategically important matters involving national security considerations, undertaking landmark financings, representing clients in high-stakes disputes and investigations, and advising on sophisticated sanctions and international trade issues.

> Excellent and unrivalled team in the region. Fantastic bench strength allows them to provide advice like no other firm can. Fantastic collaboration across offices and departments. Excellent use of technology."
> - Legal 500

"Akin are consistently responsive, pragmatic and well informed."
- Chambers U.A.E.

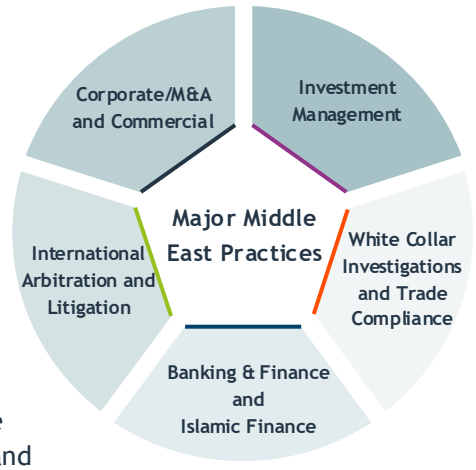
Global Reach



Introduction

Leading Law Firm in the Middle East and Beyond

Akin is one of the world's largest law firms, with offices in the United States, Middle East, Europe and Asia. Akin's network enables them to provide expert guidance to companies across diverse industries, navigating both established and emerging markets. From reputational defence of headline-makers to powering the energy transition, Akin serves clients in more than 250 practice areas that range from the traditional, such as disputes, corporate and finance, to the cutting edge, such as technology, renewable energy and cybersecurity.



Deep Talent Pool

Akin is an elite global law firm built for the future, delivering innovative legal services and business solutions to clients ranging from individuals and corporations to sovereign nations.

Combining deep insight into the economic, regulatory, and political forces shaping global markets with firsthand experience at the highest levels of government around the world, Akin's professionals provide practical, strategic counsel on the most complex and consequential matters.

Global Reach and U.S. Heritage

Founded in the United States, Akin has grown into a premier global law firm with a footprint spanning the Americas, Middle East, Europe and Asia. Akin leverages its deep U.S. regulatory roots to guide clients through complex, multi-jurisdictional legal landscapes and cross-border transactions.

Deep Roots in the U.A.E.

Akin's Middle East practice is anchored by its long-standing offices in the U.A.E., where their bilingual, culturally fluent teams have operated since the mid-2000s. Akin combines deep regional expertise with global resources to drive the Middle East's most significant domestic and outbound investments.

Unmatched Trust and Reputation

Consistently recognized by Chambers and the Legal 500, Akin is the trusted advisor of choice for heads of state, sovereign governments and multinational boards. Clients rely on Akin's lawyers for bet-the-company strategic counsel and practical solutions to their most sensitive and complex legal matters.

Bridging U.S.-U.A.E. Business and Partnerships

Akin plays an important role in facilitating U.S.-U.A.E. cross-border investments, expertly navigating the nuances of U.S. sanctions (OFAC) and export controls (EAR/ITAR) for regional clients. Akin routinely advises on outbound investments into the U.S. and guide American multinationals expanding their footprint in the Emirates.

1,100+
lawyers and advisors worldwide

17
offices with dedicated lawyers

150+
areas of experience

90+
countries where they work

110+
practice recognitions by Chambers and Partners

220+
individual recognitions by Chambers and Partners

Akin®

Who Akin Represents

Sovereign and Government Entities
Sovereign wealth funds, state-owned enterprises and governments.

Corporate Clients
Public and private multinational corporations, boards of directors and special committees.

Private Capital
Private equity sponsors, hedge funds, credit funds and alternative investment managers.

Financial Institutions
Global banks, traditional and private lenders, creditors and institutional investors.

Technology and Emerging Companies
Established technology firms, digital asset developers and emerging growth companies.

OverRuled is Akin's award-winning, AI-enhanced legal data productivity platform for lawyers and compliance professionals. This subscription-based platform provides professionals with comprehensive U.S. sanctions research. It features Sanctions Sidekick™, an AI chatbot that helps users draft memoranda and quickly resolve complex compliance queries.

Key Contacts - U.A.E.

Wael Jabsheh
Partner / Abu Dhabi
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Wael is the partner in charge of Akin's Abu Dhabi office and head of the firm's Middle East M&A and corporate law practices. Based in the U.A.E. since 2005, he leverages his deep regional expertise to advise top sovereign wealth funds and private clients on complex domestic and cross-border transactions worldwide. Wael's practice encompasses the full spectrum of domestic and cross-border transactions, including private M&A, public M&A, joint ventures, private equity, co-investment deals and fund-of-one structures. Consistently recognized as a leading lawyer by top industry directories, Wael is highly regarded for his strategic insight across diverse sectors and industries.

Mahmoud (Mac) Fadlallah
Partner / Dubai
mfadlallah@akingump.com / +971 4.317.3030

Mac is the partner in charge of Akin's Dubai office and co-leads the firm's Middle East white collar investigations and trade compliance team. Based in the U.A.E. since 2012, he has been instrumental in solidifying Akin's standing in the region. With a focus on the application of U.S. law abroad, Mac is highly regarded by heads of state and multinational boards for his mastery of complex regulations and his ability to provide bet-the-company strategic counsel. In addition to his practice, Mac created and now co-leads Akin's OverRuled platform.

Resources
Akin Website: https://www.akingump.com/en
Lawyers: https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors
OverRuled: www.overruled.com

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