



BUSINESS COUNCIL REPORT

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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Akin[®]

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

Sept 2026



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 18 offices and operates in more than 80 countries firmwide, the practice 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 rich history of representing high-profile Middle East government and private sector clients in conventional matters, but what sets Akin apart is the unconventional top-of-market practice that has been built from handling sensitive corporate matters involving issues of national security, representing clients in highly complex "bet-the-company" disputes and investigations, undertaking landmark financings and operating a one-of-its-kind fully integrated sanctions practice. Akin represents more than half of the top 10 sovereign wealth funds in the GCC, and more than half of the top 10 sovereign wealth funds globally.



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

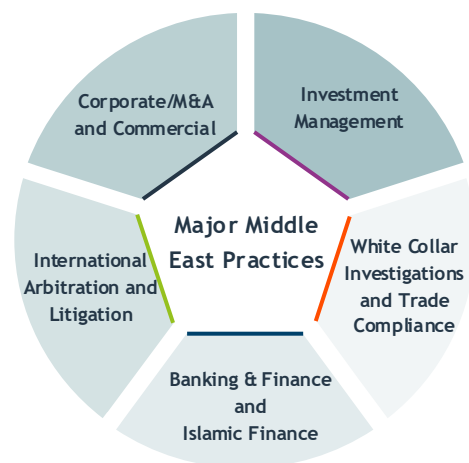
Leading Law Firm in the Middle East and Beyond

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 firm built for the future. Akin provides innovative legal services and business solutions to a broad client base ranging from individuals and corporations to nations.

By combining deep insight into the subtle yet crucial elements of economic and political systems with hands-on experience in high-level government roles globally, their professionals offer unparalleled expertise.



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 partners for bet-the-company strategic counsel and practical solutions to their most sensitive and difficult legal matters.



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

Akin plays a pivotal 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 advise 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

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.



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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

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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.

Resources

Akin Website: <https://www.akingump.com/en>

Lawyers: <https://www.akingump.com/en/lawyers-advisors>

OverRuled: www.overruled.com



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