

Trio of Lawyers Register with DIFC Courts and Pro Bono Unit



Al Suwaidi & Company is delighted to announce that three of its lawyers have successfully registered as practitioners with the DIFC Courts. In addition Al Suwaidi & Company has demonstrated its commitment to social responsibility by registering to participate in

the DIFC Courts' Pro Bono Unit. The lawyers will attend clinics held at the Court and accept instructions filtered through the pro bono scheme.

By way of introduction to the newly registered lawyers, David Lant is a

UK qualified solicitor with 10 years' experience of handling commercial disputes. David trained with a City of London law firm and spent 6 years working in the capital, partly on secondment at a niche insurance company. He then relocated to Newcastle upon Tyne and

worked for two large regional practices.

David, a Senior Associate with Al Suwaidi & Company, has substantial experience of mediations and arbitrations involving bodies such as DIAC, LCIA and GAFRA.



David Lant

He has specific knowledge of challenging arbitral awards based on procedural irregularities.

During his career David has acted for all types of clients from individuals to SMEs and multinational corporations across many different business sectors such as construction, telecoms, recruitment,

utilities, insurance and retail franchises. In addition he has developed expertise in intellectual property. David has acted in IP disputes relating to copyright, trademarks, passing off and design rights. He recently fended off a claim from a NASDAQ listed company and is currently advising on a trademark injunction case.

DIFC work is second nature to David as the common law system mirrors his background in the UK.

David has successfully acted on behalf of the former MD of a private bank in relation to a DIFC Courts application to protect his identity in ongoing proceedings.

Shayaan Essa is an English qualified barrister called to Lincoln's Inn, with

substantial experience in corporate and commercial matters and disputes. He is also an accredited Sharia scholar with full fluency in Arabic. The combination of these skills makes him ideally suited as an advisor in the UAE legal market.

Amongst other previous experience, Shayaan has assisted the senior partner and former Federal Minister for Law for Pakistan, in matters of constitutional importance in the superior courts in Pakistan and acted for clients in a broad range of areas including capital markets, corporate governance, textiles, cement and environment.

Since starting at Al Suwaidi & Company in December 2014, Shayaan has advised a Saudi Arabian group on commencing a multi-

million dollar claim against a US real estate giant, as well as drafted an Exclusive Agency Agreement to sell a Bahrain based company. He is currently acting as counsel for a Bitumen trader in a DIAC arbitration relating to breach of contract.

Carol Gately is an Irish qualified solicitor also admitted to the Law Society of England and Wales. Carol trained in Ireland's largest litigation practice outside of Dublin making her suitably qualified to act for clients in the DIFC Courts, a common law English language jurisdiction.

Over the past 15 years she has worked in high profile commercial disputes in Ireland and the UAE.



Carol Gately

Carol is a Senior Associate specializing in construction and arbitration, including contentious and non-contentious matters conducted through DIAC as well as other international arbitration bodies ICC, LIAC and DCC.

Carol has acted in an AED 10 Million international arbitration, playing a critical role in a consortium of international lawyers involving the newly acquired broadcasting rights by a major regional pay TV sports network, from an Arab Radio & Television

Network. She recently assisted an international law firm representing three of its corporate clients by clarifying specific UAE law provisions in a substantial litigation matter before the New York Court.

In addition she is an experienced speaker and regularly holds seminars in Dubai and Abu Dhabi on dispute resolution and risk management, with particular emphasis on the laws of the UAE.

Managing Partner

Mohammed Alsuwaidi said : "The firm has considerably widened its reach through registration of David, Carol and Shayaan with the DIFC Courts. They are all very capable lawyers who are robust and have sound commercial judgment. We are already a force to be

reckoned with in the Dubai
Courts, punching above
our weight, and aim to

garner the same reputation
in the DIFC Courts. It's
also pleasing that we are

now able to assist litigants
on a pro bono basis. ”

Should you require assistance please contact David, Carol or Shayaan for a free initial consultation.

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