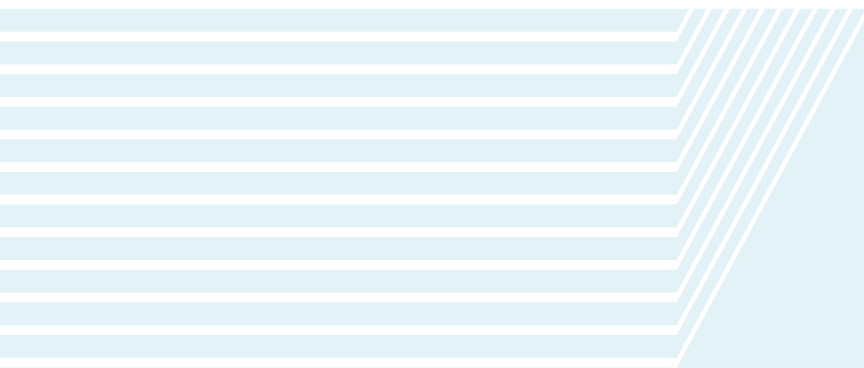


Charles  
Russell  
Speechlys

# Charles Russell Speechlys *Middle East*

---



## Our ability to *understand people* makes us who we are.

*The reason for our longevity? Established trusted relationships with our clients, dedication to client service and championing client causes.*

Our partner-led client service has made us a leader in the world of legal services for dynamic family businesses, and the world's leading creators and owners of private wealth. Major corporates and institutions benefit from our personalised approach as we embed ourselves in the teams of our clients, working alongside them and connecting them with the right people across of our firm to help them exploit new opportunities.

*We have a world of experience.*

Our firm is headquartered in London with offices in the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Whether your businesses operates in a single country or across borders, we'll put together your ideal team – pulling from our sector and geographical expertise.

With over 1,000 employees, each of our offices provides a gateway to the whole firm connecting you with the best advisers and serving your needs from our 11 offices across the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

*No matter where your international ambitions lie, we're here to support you.*



## Award *winning* Middle East law firm

*We are a market leading award winning international law firm with offices in 3 key Middle East locations: Dubai, Manama and Doha.*

We have been working with clients in the GCC region for over 40 years and operating on the ground in the Middle East for over 20 years. With both English and Arabic speaking lawyers, our experienced Middle East team understand your specific requirements and the nuances of each market place in the region. We undertake some of the region's highest value transactions and cases and our partners in the Middle East are consistently ranked as leading lawyers in their respective fields in independent directories such as Chambers Global and The Legal 500. We are particularly proud of our investment in lawyers with local law qualifications, which brings an important multi-cultural dynamic to our Middle East team.

Our lawyers work seamlessly across the Middle East offices servicing clients with a 'one team' approach regardless of geography and leveraging specific expertise from our other international offices as and when required. We work with a variety of clients and industries including, government entities and regulators, sovereign wealth funds, multi-national and regional corporates, major investors, high-profile families and individuals.

Whatever your requirements, you will find our partners are very hands-on, delivering practical solutions. We will provide you with partner led relationship management and we are dedicated to developing deep rooted relationships enabling us to fully understand your needs and objectives and respond accordingly. All three of our offices are permanently staffed by lawyers with both local and international experience who are actively involved in the wider Middle East business community. We continue to grow across all of our Middle East offices and we look forward to you joining us on this exciting journey.

*We have been recognised by the legal directories as leaders in our respective fields.*

We pride ourselves on our client service and performance and are delighted to have received recognition for this through industry awards and other accolades such as:



Winner of the Qatar Law Firm of the Year | The Oath Middle East Legal Awards 2023

Winner of the Bahrain and UAE Law Firm of the Year | The Oath Middle East Legal Awards 2022



Winner of the Bahrain Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year | Chambers Middle East Awards 2019

Ranked Tier 1 in all of our core practices in Bahrain | The Legal 500 EMEA 2021 & 2022



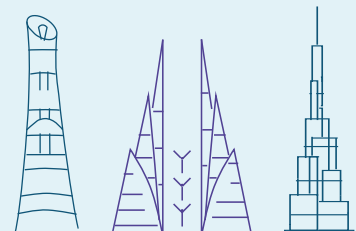
Ranked in Band 1 for Dispute Resolution and Real Estate & Construction in Bahrain | Chambers Global 2022

Ranked Tier 1 in Bahrain and UAE | Media Law International 2022

Highly Commended for Construction Team of the Year 2021 | The Middle East Legal Awards 2021



Honourable Mention and Finalists International Law Firm of the Year | Qatar Business Law Forum 2019



# Don't just take our word... we've also got a few numbers



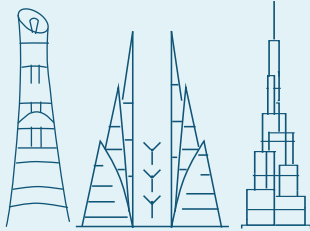
We have a global reach covering

**200**



jurisdictions

Operating in the Middle East



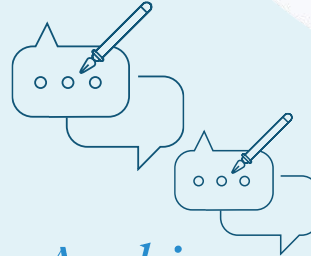
**+15 years**



**Regionally**

qualified lawyers

**114** lawyers  
are listed as leading  
individuals



**Arabic**

speaking lawyers across  
our Middle East office

**+1,000**

staff



**180**

partners



**3 offices**

in the Middle East with on the  
ground lawyers



## *Litigation & Dispute Resolution*

---

*We are one of the largest and most reputable Litigation and Dispute Resolution teams in the Middle East, practicing both Common Law and Civil Law in multiple jurisdictions across a number of sectors.*

At Charles Russell Speechlys, we are committed to managing and resolving your disputes as swiftly as possible. Our experienced, partner-led teams work closely with you to fully understand the issues you are facing. We focus our energies on achieving the best possible outcome for you and your organisation using the most appropriate dispute resolution techniques.

We work with governments, regulators, sovereign wealth funds, multinational corporations, major companies and family businesses. Our team has experts across a range of industries from media to medicine, telecoms to trusts, manufacturing to insurance and property to professional negligence.

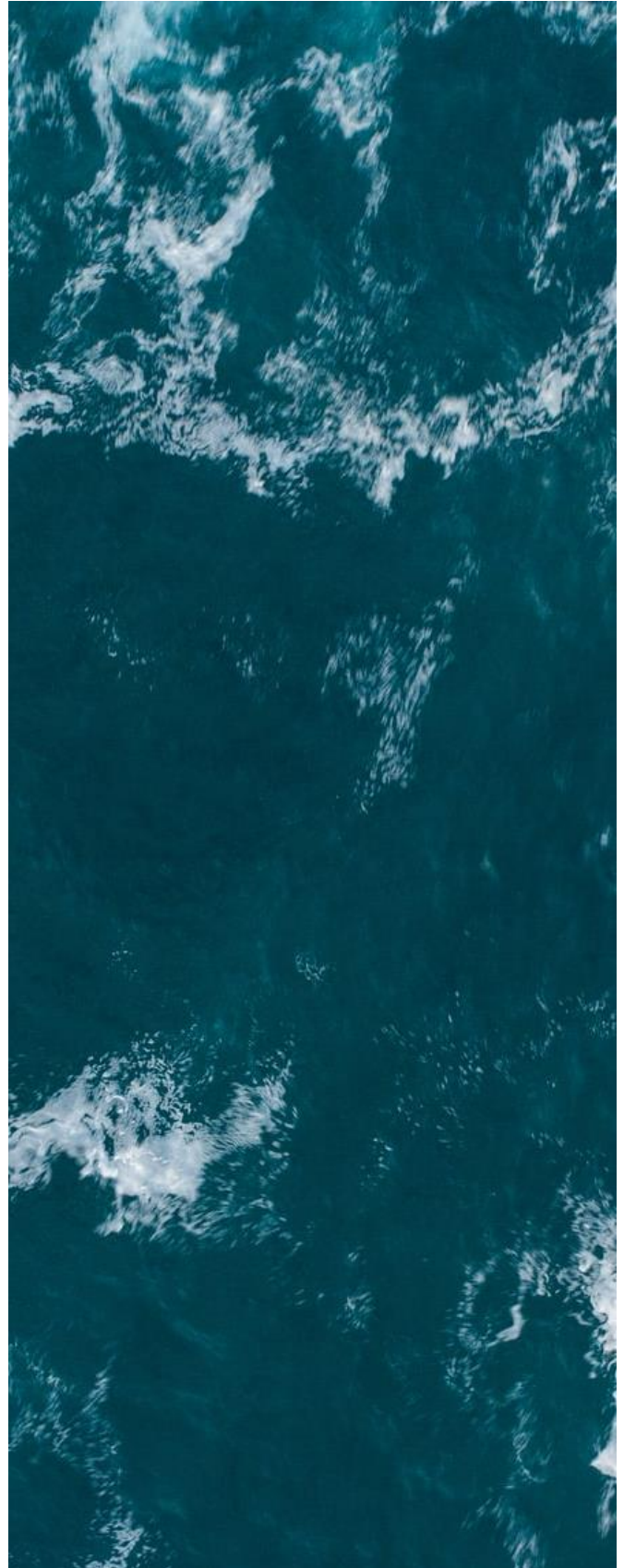
We work throughout the Middle East on banking and corporate litigation, arbitration, mediation and negotiation; handling some of the most complex, sensitive and high value claims in the region.

We are able to conduct litigation and arbitration matters based on common law or civil law throughout the Gulf region.

A substantial proportion of our team our bilingual in Arabic and English and we are able to advise on act in local, regional and international matters.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Financial services
- Insolvency & restructuring
- Banking
- Real estate
- Retail
- Media
- Telecommunications
- Aviation
- Construction
- Mortgage enforcement
- Employment
- White collar criminal



## Real Estate

---

*When you work with our award winning Real Estate team you work with a group of experts who believe in cutting through the red tape and making things happen.*

We know that real estate matters can often involve complex legal issues, which is why we are committed to providing you with a jargon-free, practical approach.

We deliver a comprehensive range of property related services both locally and regionally to a range of clients including occupiers, corporates, major investors, developers, contractors, consultants, charities, government entities and high-profile families and individuals across the Middle East.

Our on-the-ground Real Estate practice serves the region from our Bahrain, Dubai and Qatar offices. We believe in working proactively with our clients to understand their legal requirements and objectives and achieve their goals. We pride ourselves in providing practical, commercial and innovative advice which adds value and provides our clients with a competitive advantage.

In addition, we have extensive experience of advising our local clients (both corporates and individuals) in relation to investing into both commercial and residential property in the UK.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Urban development & regeneration
- Acquisitions and disposals
- Investment and property management
- Property finance
- Hotels & hospitality
- Real estate investment trusts
- Low cost housing/infrastructure projects and PPP's
- UK Residential Property Investment



## Construction *Engineering* & Projects

---

*Our award-winning construction team delivers pragmatic, commercial advice geared towards timely, cost effective completion of projects.*

Our regionally based Construction, Engineering & Projects team can serve you from our Bahrain, Dubai and Qatar offices.

We deliver a comprehensive range of construction related services both locally, regionally and globally. We advise on contentious and non-contentious issues relating to construction contracts and development, engineering and projects. Our projects cover a wide range of industries and sectors including residential, commercial, marine, infrastructure, healthcare, education, hotels and leisure.

We service both the public and private sectors and act on behalf of government and regulatory clients, project developers, lenders and investors, contractors, subcontractors and consultants. The team is experienced in drafting all forms of construction and engineering contracts including FIDIC, NEC and JCT.

We advise clients on contentious matters and disputes including use of ADR strategy, adjudication, expert determination, local and international construction litigation before local and the courts of DIFC and ADGM and arbitration.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Bespoke and standard form construction and engineering contracts
- Procurement and tendering
- Project forms, consultancy agreements and security documentation
- Contract and claims management
- Local and international litigation and arbitration



## Banking and *Islamic* Finance

---

*Global banking and finance markets are becoming increasingly complex.*

Our team will advise you on the whole range of domestic and cross-border financing transactions including both conventional and Islamic structures and products. We also advise on restructuring existing facilities.

We work with both lender and borrower clients, including the major clearing banks, commercial and private banks, non-bank lenders, investment funds, institutional investors, corporate borrowers, hedge funds and family offices. We also act for some of leading banking regulators in the region.

We can assist you with complex transactions, whilst providing the hands-on, practical and tailored support that you need. With a Partner-led service and international relationships across the Middle East, UK and Europe, our client relationships are long standing and we will work alongside you as your trusted adviser.

In tandem with the growing importance of Islamic finance, we have developed a team of specialists with expertise across key jurisdictions and practice areas, including banking, corporate finance, real estate and private client capital.

The team specialises in structuring, documenting and negotiating transactions compliant with Shari'ah principles.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Islamic banking
- Islamic offshore products
- Asset management structuring
- Conventional banking agreements
- Loan and security agreement
- Risk management and derivatives





## Corporate

---

*Our Corporate lawyers give pragmatic and commercial advice.*

We fully understand our client's needs and aims from the start, embedding ourselves in their teams and working right alongside them to build strong relationships based on trust.

We act for some of the largest corporates in the Middle East and understand the particular challenges in the region, constantly advising clients on changing governance.

Whether a global brand or a regional entrepreneur our team will set you up for success. We are hands-on supporting a growing business through a major deal, advising investors or management teams on private equity transactions, management buy-outs and buy-ins, or advising a global business on the acquisition trail, our corporate team provides tailored expert advice that lets them scale-up, develop brands, build market share and attract new investment.

We act as a partner to established multi-nationals who need full-service legal support to operate across multiple jurisdictions.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Mergers, acquisitions and dispositions
- Joint ventures, partnerships and strategic alliances
- Private equity investments and exits
- Venture capital funding and related transactions
- Equity and debt financing arrangements
- Fund formation and the regulation of financial institutions
- Listing and public market issues
- Corporate governance and company secretarial matters



## Commercial

---

*Successful business identify opportunities, exploit gains, and assess and minimise associated risk in order to thrive.*

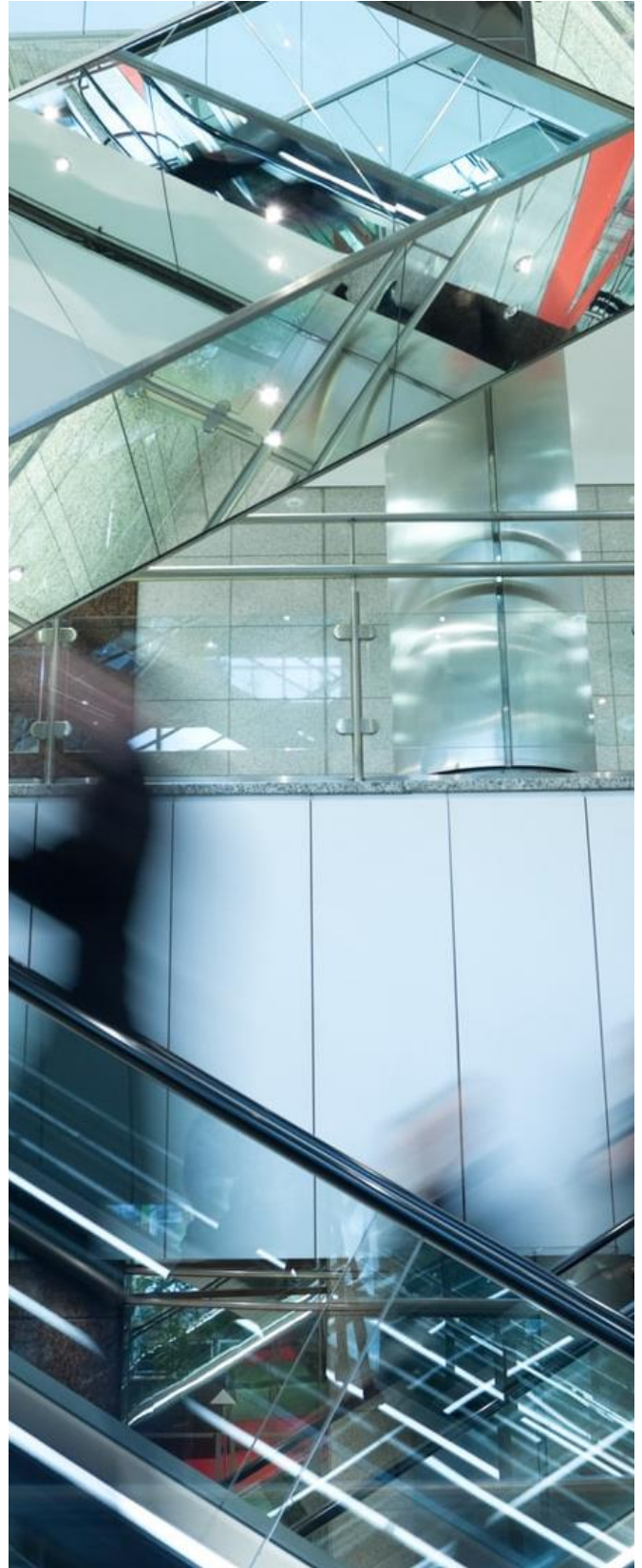
Whether you are a global brand or entrepreneurial venture, we will take the time to understand your long-term goals as a business, to ensure that we offer strategic, legal and commercial advice that sets you up for success.

We have extensive experience advising international clients across all the firm's key sectors, particularly in Technology, Retail and Financial Services.

As we currently doing for some of our regional clients, we can set as an extension to your in-house legal team, partnering with your staff, tailoring legal services to support your specific needs and objectives.

*We are here to help you with:*

- International supply chain contracts
- Logistics and procurement
- Specialist manufacturing and maintenance agreements
- Outsourcing and facilities management
- Competition law compliance
- Sponsorship contracts and agreements
- Merchandising agreements
- Property management
- Marketing and advertising contacts



## Intellectual Property

---

*Virtually every business worldwide has intellectual property that may be of vital importance to its continued success.*

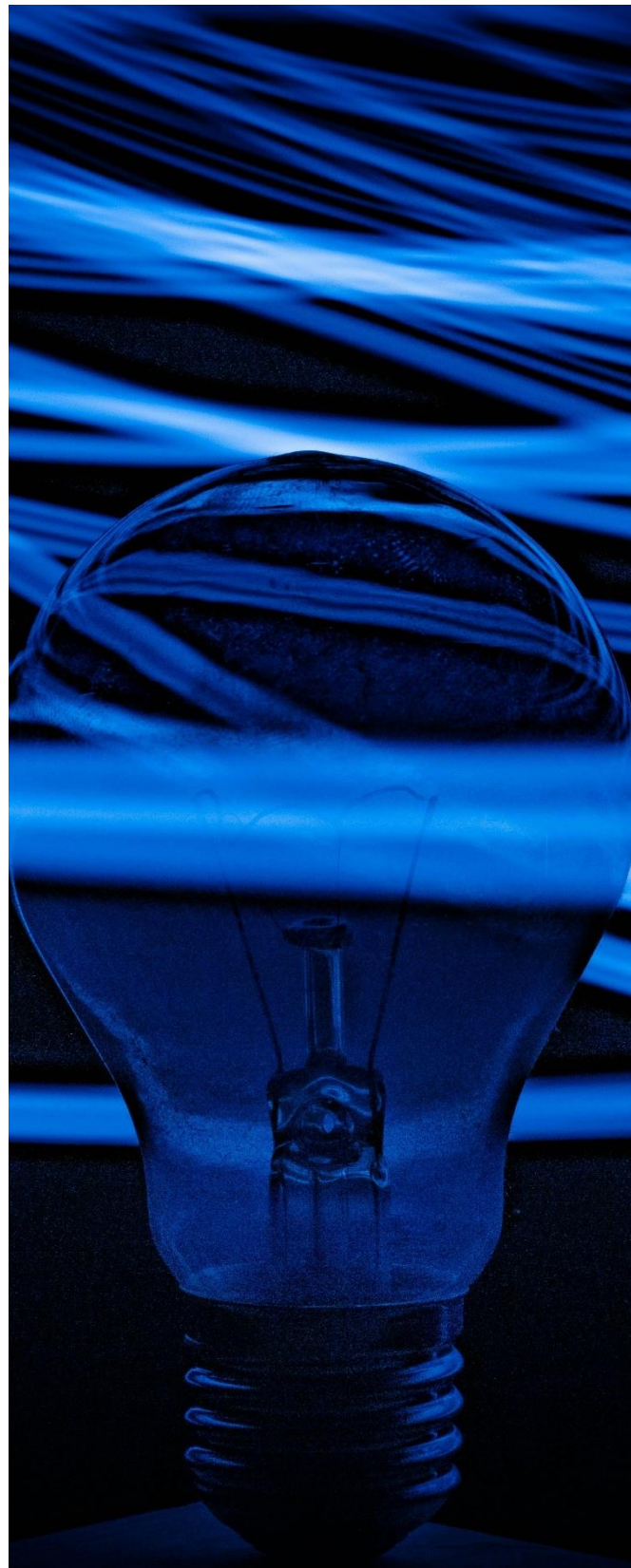
Our role is to enable you to make the most of your intellectual property assets through protection, enforcement and commercialisation. We will work with you to establish your needs and objectives for IP, and will identify the most suitable form, geographical extent, and availability of protection and manage the relevant process.

Our contentious experience ranges from the largest legally and technically complex multi-national patent disputes to copyright, design and trademark disputes involving developing legal issues such as the protection of colour and shape (often with multi-jurisdictional issues and which involve internet based infringements), to smaller disputes which (even though they may be of a limited nature) are often critical to our clients' businesses.

We use a range of approaches (including alternative dispute resolution techniques) to resolve such matters, while remaining alert to our clients overall commercial objectives.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Acquisitions and disposals of intellectual property
- Franchising, merchandising & sponsorship
- Joint ownership agreements
- Licensing of all forms of intellectual property and confidential information
- Protocols for schemes of management of intellectual property, including jointly owned portfolios or pools of property
- Related agreements such as research and development agreements and confidentiality undertakings
- Trade mark applications, renewals and watches.



## Private *Wealth*

---

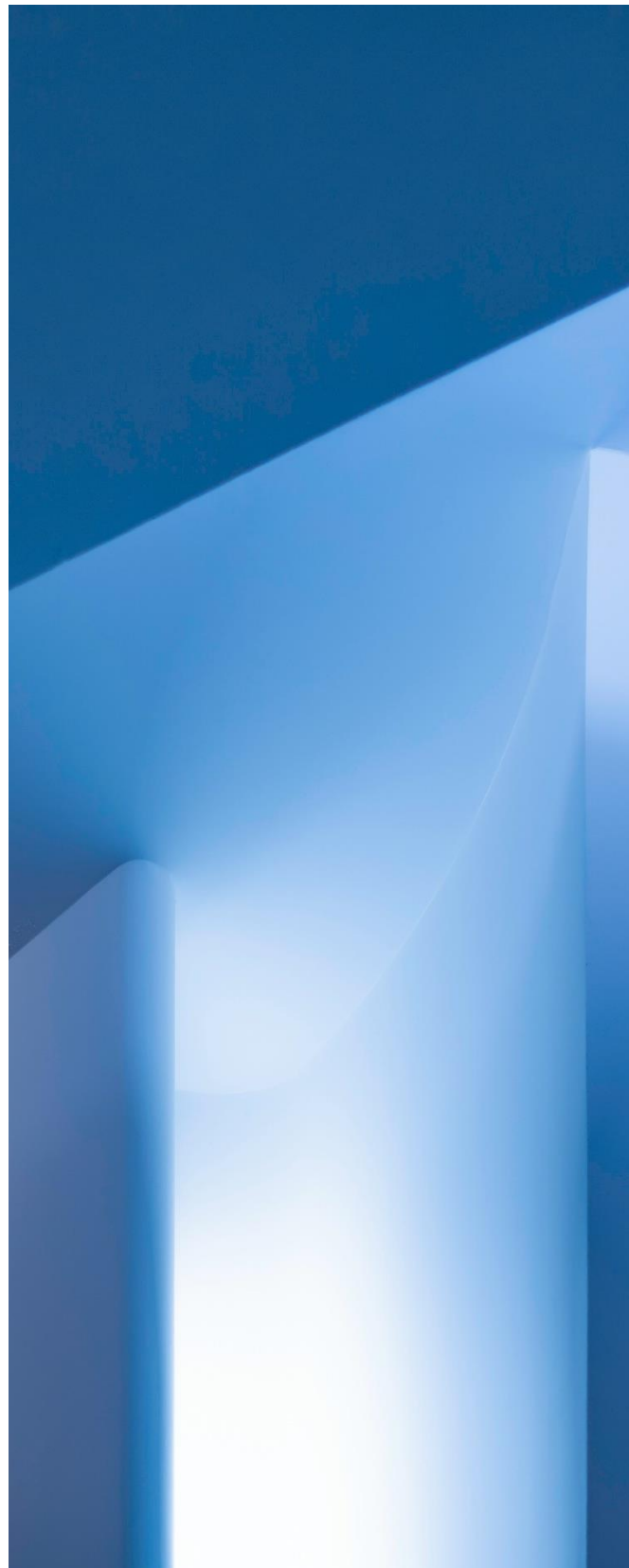
*We are one of the leading Private Wealth law firms in the world. We have been specialising in this area for over 250 years. Our private clients have shaped our business.*

At all times we speak to draw on our long history and experience of acting for international private clients in relation to protecting, holding and structuring their assets and wealth. Our role is to enable people to make the most of their wealth now and in the future.

With a full service legal team, our advice is offered in the context of your succession planning, your marriage, your family life and values, your property and your assets. We are deeply embedded in the world of private wealth, advising private banks, trust companies and family offices.

*We are here to help you with:*

- Estate planning and succession
- Wills and inheritance
- Trust establishment, administration and restructuring
- Charities and philanthropy
- Matrimonial and family law
- Immigration law
- Personal tax and asset planning
- UK taxes and tax compliance
- International tax and trust planning
- Family office structuring and operations
- Pre-IPO and post-IP trust planning
- Probate and estate administration
- Property (local and international)
- Reputation management
- Trust and estate litigation
- Business planning
- Art and luxury



## Technology

---

*Technology is characterised by continuous innovation, ever-evolving opportunities, and global reach.*

Innovative technology is driving change across the world economy, and the need for global connectivity and automation to meet the demands of the modern world has accelerated widespread digital transformation. Recent years have demonstrated the necessity of robust services that are up-to-standard and operationally resilient, particularly for businesses that are consumer-facing, whereby adaptation to digital business models has proved crucial.

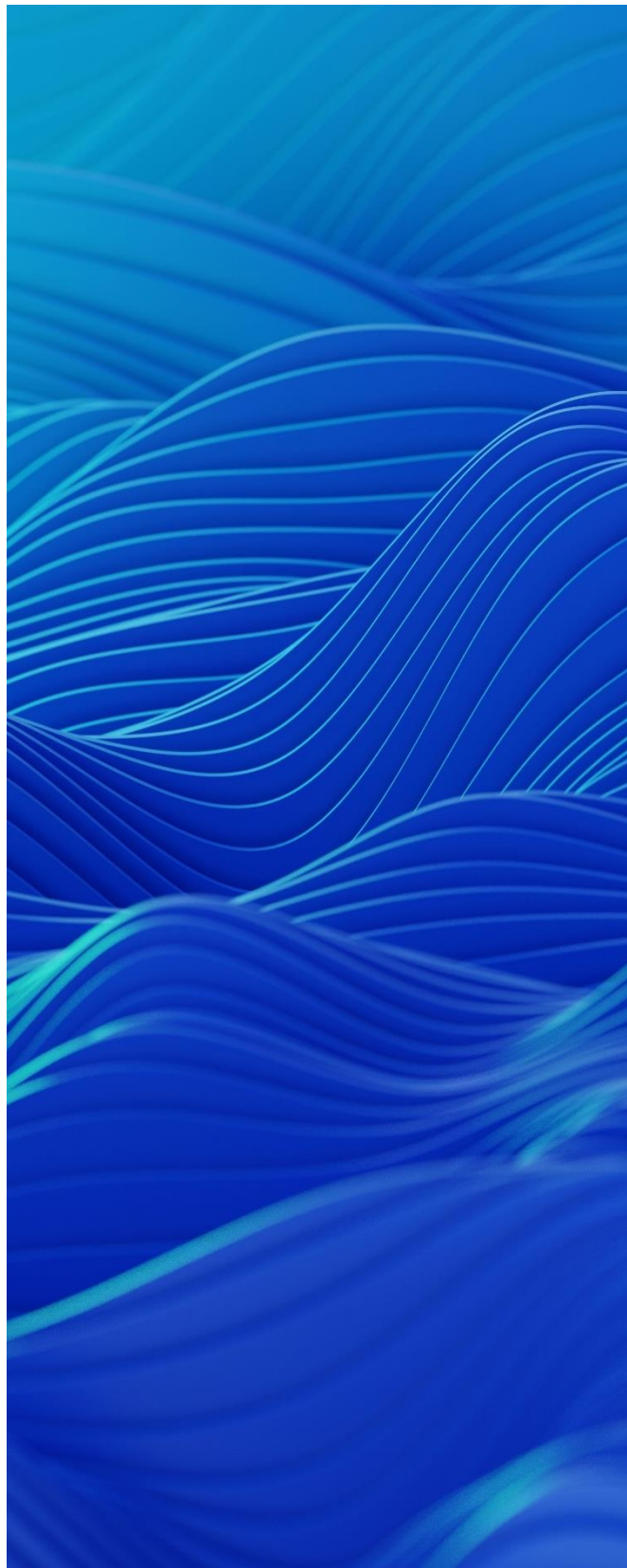
When adopted correctly, technology is a powerful tool that can enable you to interact with a global audience and expand your business. The service that our dedicated and experienced team of lawyers provide combines comprehensive technology services with experience working in-house and across a range of business sectors.

We can help you to adapt to technological change to drive success for your business and we have significant experience supporting clients on a wide variety of digital transformation projects.

Our client base is broad internationally and includes software providers, digital platforms, underlying infrastructure providers (including data centre operators), telecommunications infrastructure providers and hi-tech engineers.

Our specialist multidisciplinary technology team brings together international lawyers with significant experience advising clients across multiple jurisdictions and the full range of legal areas, *including:*

- Commercial contracts
- Data protection/cyber security
- Corporate and corporate finance
- Disputes
- Real estate
- Intellectual property
- Financial regulation



## Our Partners

---



**Patrick Gearon FCI Arb**  
*Partner, Head of Charles Russell  
Speechlys LPP's Middle East  
Practice*

+973 17 133203  
patrick.gearon@crsblaw.com

---



**Alim Khamis**  
*Partner, Head of Qatar office*

+974 3000 7905  
alim.khamis@crsblaw.com

---



**Simon Green**  
*Partner, Head of Real Estate,  
Hotel & Hospitality – Asia &  
Middle East*

+852 2531 3445  
simon.green@crsblaw.com

---



**Thomas Snider**  
*Partner, Head of International  
Arbitration*

+971 4 246 1952  
thomas.snider@crsblaw.com

---



**Ghassan El Daye**  
*Partner, Head of Civil Law  
Litigation*

+971 4 246 1903  
ghassan.eldaye@crsblaw.com

---



**Sara Sheffield**  
*Partner, Head of Common Law  
Litigation*

+971 4 246 1904  
sara.sheffield@crsblaw.com

---



**Paula Boast**  
*Partner, Head of Construction,  
Engineering & Projects Middle  
East*

+973 17 133212  
paula.boast@crsblaw.com



**Thanos Karvelis**  
*Partner, Construction,  
Engineering & Projects Middle  
East*

+971 4 246 1925  
thanos.karvelis@crsblaw.com

## Our Partners

---



**Nicola Jackson**  
*Partner, Insolvency & Dispute Resolution*

+971 4 246 1960  
nicola.jackson@crsblaw.com



**Gareth Mills**  
*Partner, Litigation & Dispute Resolution*

+973 17 133208  
gareth.mills@crsblaw.com



**Mark Hill**  
*Partner, Head of Commercial, IP & TMT, Middle East*

+971 4 246 1921  
mark.hill@crsblaw.com



**William Reichert**  
*Partner, Head of Corporate, Middle East*

+971 4 246 1927  
william.reichert@crsblaw.com



**Alex Reid**  
*Partner, Corporate*

+971 4 246 1930  
alex.reid@crsblaw.com



**Mazin Al Mardhi**  
*Partner, Construction, Engineering & Projects*

+973 66 33 7 668  
mazin.almardhi@crsblaw.com



**Ahmad Anani**  
*Head of Capital Markets and Regulation (Middle East)*

+974 4000 3606  
ahmad.anani@crsblaw.com

## If you have any queries, please contact:

### *Manama Office*

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP  
Floor 24 Bahrain World Trade Centre  
Manama, The Kingdom of Bahrain  
E: manama@crsblaw.com

### *Dubai Office*

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP  
Index Tower West Entrance Level 20,  
Unit 2022  
DIFC, Dubai, UAE  
E: dubai@crsblaw.com

### *Doha Office*

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP  
Level 18, Unit 1805, Burj Al Fardan Building 157, Street 301, Zone 69  
Lusail, Doha, State of Qatar  
E: doha@crsblaw.com

**charlesrussellspeechlys.com**

This information has been prepared by Charles Russell Speechlys LLP as a general guide only and does not constitute advice on any specific matter. We recommend that you seek professional advice before taking action. No liability can be accepted by us for any action taken or not taken as a result of this information.

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales, registered number OC311850, and is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA number: 420625). Charles Russell Speechlys LLP is also licensed by the Qatar Financial Centre Authority in respect of its branch office in Doha, licensed by the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in respect of its branch office in Manama and registered in the Dubai International Financial Centre under number CL2511 and regulated by the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department in respect of its branch office in the DIFC. Charles Russell Speechlys LLP's branch office in Singapore is licensed as a foreign law practice under the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 161). Any reference to a partner in relation to Charles Russell Speechlys LLP is to a member of Charles Russell Speechlys LLP or an employee with equivalent standing and qualifications. A list of members and of non-members who are described as partners, is available for inspection at the registered office, 5 Fleet Place, London, EC4M 7RD. In Hong Kong, France, Luxembourg and Switzerland Charles Russell Speechlys provides legal services through locally regulated and managed partnerships or corporate entities. For a list of firms trading under the name of Charles Russell Speechlys, please visit <https://www.charlesrussellspeechlys.com/en/legal-notices/>.