



**Kuwait**  
BUSINESS LAW FORUM

# KUWAIT BUSINESS LAW FORUM 2022

## - 6TH EDITION

23 NOVEMBER 2022 | KUWAIT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY, KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT



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## PROGRAMME

08:30AM to 09:00AM	Registration
09:00AM to 09:30AM	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Khalifah H. Al-Yaqout</b> – <i>Managing Partner, Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group</i></p> <p><b>Eric Bonnet-Maes</b> - <i>LexisNexis CEO of CEMEA</i></p> <p><b>Dr Khaled A. Mahdi, PhD, PMP, CEng, GCCarb, P2F</b> – <i>General Secretary, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD)</i></p> <p><b>Saleh Al- Salami</b> - <i>CEO of Union of Investment Companies</i></p> <p><b>Kuwait Bar Association Representative</b></p>
09:30AM to 10:40AM	<p><b>First Session: PPP as a Tool for Sustainable Development</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <p><b>Dr Ahmad Al-Shorbagy</b> - <i>Head of Projects, Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group</i></p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <p><b>Dr Majdouline Scheit</b> - <i>Corporate Counsel, Alghanim Industries</i></p> <p><b>Thamer Ibrahim Arab</b> - <i>CEO, Dhaman Hospitals</i></p> <p><b>Kapil Kumra</b> – <i>Deputy General Manager &amp; Head of Project Finance at Foreign Corporate Group, National Bank of Kuwait</i></p> <p><b>Dr Mona Al Hajri</b> – <i>Assistant Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law at Kuwait University - College of Law</i></p>
10:40AM to 10:55AM	Coffee Break & Networking
10:55AM to 12:10 PM	<p><b>Second Session: The Future of the Legal Profession in Kuwait and the Middle East</b></p> <p><b>Khalifah H. Al-Yaqout</b> – <i>Managing Partner, Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group</i></p> <p><b>Abdullah Al-Baker</b> – <i>Founder &amp; CEO, Al Baker &amp; Associates Law Firm</i></p> <p><b>Dr Fahad Al-Zumai</b> – <i>Associate Professor, Faculty of Law - Kuwait University</i></p> <p><b>Adnan Abul</b> – <i>Vice President, Kuwait Bar Association and the Kuwait Association for Protecting Public Funds</i></p>
12:10AM TO 12:20 PM	Prayer Break

## PROGRAMME

12:20PM to 1:20 PM	<p><b><u>Third Session: Arbitration and Mediation</u></b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Dr Yousef Al-Yaqout</b> – Assistant Professor at the College of Law at Kuwait University</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> <b>Floriane Lavaud</b> – Counsel, Debevoise &amp; Plimpton LLP <b>Dr Anwar Al-Fuzaie</b> – General Counsel <b>Huda Al-Sawan</b> – Chancellor, Department of Legal Advice &amp; Legislation, Council of Ministers (Fatwa and Legislation)</p>
1:20PM to 1:30PM	<p><b>Closing Remarks and Appreciation Ceremony</b></p> <p><b>Khalifah H. Al-Yaqout</b> – Managing Partner, Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group</p>
1:30PM to 2:30PM	Lunch & Networking at the “Business Owners’ Club” on the 14th floor

## SPEAKERS



### **KHALIFAH H. AL-YAQOUT**

*Managing Partner, Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group*

KHALIFAH H. AL-YAQOUT serves as a Managing Partner at Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group and has held this position since 2015. As a lawyer and arbitrator, he has led multiple delegations in various international forums. In 2019, he headed the Kuwaiti delegation to the United Nations Council and the US Department of Commerce. He is also actively involved with the Commercial Law Development Program of the United States Department.

In addition to his current work with Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group, Khalifah serves as a legal consultant for the Minister of Electricity and Water and Renewable Energy and the Minister of Social Affairs and Community Development. His approach to Corporate and M&A practice is to use practical and commercially focused tactics to successfully close the deal whilst protecting his clients' interests and minimising their risks.



### **ADNAN MOHAMMED ABUL**

*Vice Chairman, Kuwait Bar Association and the Kuwait Association for Protecting Public Funds*

ADNAN MOHAMMED ABUL is currently the Vice Chairman of the Kuwait Bar Association and the Kuwait Association for Protecting Public Funds. He received his LLB Law Degree from Kuwait University in 2007. He is also licensed to appear before the Constitutional Court and the Court of Cassation. Adnan is a registered arbitrator in the Arbitration Center at the Kuwait Bar Association and the National Sports Arbitration Tribunal. He is also a member of Association Internationale des Avocats du Football (AIAF).



### **ABDULLAH AL-BAKER**

*Founder & CEO, Al Baker & Associates Law Firm*

ABDULLAH AL-BAKER started his legal career more than eighteen years ago as a trainee within the Loyac training program. He completed his legal training at the law office of Meshari Al Ghazali. Upon his graduation from Kuwait University, he became a registered lawyer at the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association and continued working at Al Ghazali firm until founding Al Baker & Associates.

As part of his arbitration practice, he acted as an Arbitrator in front of the Commercial Arbitration Center and the National Sports Arbitration Tribunal (NSAT). Furthermore, he is also a registered arbitrator with the right to appear in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). He has held Arbitration courses in front of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and served as a board member of the Sports Arbitration Center, Kuwaiti Lawyers Association, for three years.

Abdullah has served his role as an arbitrator in front of the National Court of Arbitration (NCAS) as well as the Kuwaiti Lawyers Arbitration Center. He also held the title of General Secretary of the Kuwait Association for Protecting Public Funds (KAPPF).

## SPEAKERS



### DR ANWAR AL-FUZAIE

*General Counsel*

DR. ANWAR AL FUZAIE is General Counsel at the Kuwait Foundation for the Advanced of Science (KFAS). He holds an LL.B. from Kuwait University, an LL.M. and PhD from Montpellier University in International Business Law from Sophia Antipolis University and an LL.M. in International Business Law from Sophia Antipolis University. Dr Anwar has published many studies in the field of Private Law. He has extensive experience in various areas of law, including:

- Arbitration
- Banking and Financial Institutions
- Real Estate
- Labour Law
- Intellectual Property



### DR MONA AL HAJRI

*Assistant Professor of Constitutional and Administrative Law at Kuwait University - College of Law*

DR MONA AL HAJRI holds a PhD from the University of Lorraine, Nancy, France. She has many specialised comparative types of research in the fields of:

- Partnership contracts between the public and private sectors;
- BOT contracts;
- Administrative contracts according to the Kuwaiti Public Tenders Law and the impact of the Corona crisis on the implementation of the administrative contract.



### HUDA AL-SAWAN

*Chancellor, Department of Legal Advice & Legislation, Council of Ministers (Fatwa and Legislation)*

HUDA AL-SAWAN has been in the Fatwa and Legislation Department since 1993, holding several positions, including a lawyer and the undersecretary of the administration under decrees. She currently holds the position of technical supervisor for the Fatwa Sector in the Fatwa and Legislation Department, where she specialises in all projects within the public-private partnership (PPP) system.

Huda holds a Master's degree in Public Law from the University of Strasbourg and a Bachelor of Law from Kuwait University. She also has several diplomas from numerous accredited institutions.

## SPEAKERS



### DR AHMAD AL-SHORBAGY

*Head of Projects, Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group*

DR AHMAD AL SHORBAGY heads Al-Yaqout and Al-Fouzan Legal Group's Projects team. With over 15 years of experience, he has been involved in various significant matters related to corporate law, projects, and international dispute resolution.

Dr Alshorbagy gained extensive experience advising the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects, and over recent years, he has advised on over 15 projects across several sectors. Dr Alshorbagy also has experience in International Commercial Arbitration, where he represented clients in international arbitration under the ICC, HKIAC, UNICTRAL, and LCIA rules.

Furthermore, Dr Alshorbagy is the author of several legal books and articles published with reputable publishers and learned international law journals in Egypt, the U.S., the U.K., and Germany.



### DR YOUSEF AL-YAQOUT

*Assistant, Professor at the College of Law at Kuwait University*

DR YOUSEF AL YAQOUT is a certified arbitrator and legal advisor and is currently an assistant professor of pleading and arbitration law at the Faculty of Law at Kuwait University. He holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from Kuwait University. He later obtained several post-graduate degrees from several institutions, including:

- PhD In Private Law from the University of Lorraine, France
- Master's Degree in Private Law, University Of Strasbourg, France
- Master's Degree in The Private Law With Insight, College Of Graduate Studies, Kuwait University
- Administrative contracts according to the Kuwaiti Public Tenders Law and the impact of the Corona crisis on the implementation of the administrative contract.

Dr Yousef has participated in many local and international workshops and conferences; and has conducted many legal courses in dispute resolution, corporate law, electronic transactions, and others. He is an accredited trainer with the GCC Commercial Arbitration Centre and the Kuwait Center for Commercial Arbitration.

Dr Yousef has published several articles and scientific research in local and international legal journals. He also supervised master's theses for postgraduate students. He holds memberships with several governmental and private committees related to academic affairs, the development of regulations and procedural laws, and investigation committees.



## SPEAKERS



### DR FAHAD AL-ZUMAI

*Associate Professor, Faculty of Law - Kuwait University*

DR FAHAD AL-ZUMAI holds a PhD in Law from SOAS – the University of London, and an LLM in International Business Law from the University of Manchester. He is admitted as a solicitor in England and Wales and to the State Bar of California and the State Bar of Kuwait. He is a fellow at the International Bar Association.

Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Law in the Private Law Department at Kuwait University. He is also the editor-in-chief of the Law Journal published by Kuwait University.

He was the principal author of several recent legislative reforms, including insolvency and competition law.

Dr Al-Zumai's research interest includes Companies and Capital Markets Laws, Bankruptcy, and Banking Law. In addition, Dr Al-Zumai has published in several journals on topics relating to capital market regulations in the Middle East and Europe, law and economics, and jurisprudence.



### THAMER IBRAHIM ARAB

*CEO, Dhaman Hospitals*

THAMER IBRAHIM ARAB is the CEO of the Health Assurance Hospitals Company (DHAMAN). He has fulfilled this role since October 2021. He has held several leadership executive positions and board memberships in significant institutions with a career of over 25 years. His career includes accomplishing tangible achievements in large banking, insurance and aviation institutions. Thamer holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from California State University and several specialised training programs in many areas, such as leadership, strategy, economics, and operations.



### KAPIL KUMRA

*Deputy General Manager & Head of Project Finance at Foreign Corporate Group, National Bank of Kuwait*

KAPIL KUMRA has over 30 years of experience in Project & Corporate finance (with over 19 years in the GCC). Kapil has been the head of the Project Finance team at Foreign Corporate Group, National Bank of Kuwait, since 2014.

Previously Kapil was with Arab Bank's Offshore Business Unit at Manama, Bahrain, where he was involved in the origination and execution of Corporate and Project & Structured Finance mandates in the Middle East and South Asia region.

Kapil has worked on a number of PPP projects in Kuwait, including expansion financing of the largest Wastewater Treatment plant and bids for projects tendered by the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP). Kapil is also a board member of the IPFA (International Project Finance Association) Middle East Region.

## SPEAKERS



### FLORIANE LAVAUD

*Counsel, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP*

FLORIANE LAVAUD is a member of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP's International Dispute Resolution Group in New York and Paris. Her practice focuses on public international law and international arbitration, particularly in the Middle East. She is admitted to the New York and Paris Bars and is a solicitor in England & Wales.

With over fifteen years of experience, Ms Lavaud advises and represents multinational corporations and sovereign States in various jurisdictions and on civil and common law, public international law, and treaty and contract interpretation. Ms Lavaud advises and represents pro bono clients on domestic and public international law issues.

From 2009 to 2011, she clerked for the Hon. Douglas P. Woodlock of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Ms Lavaud is among the few civil-law-trained attorneys who served as a federal law clerk and therefore has substantial experience in U.S. litigation. She was involved in various civil and criminal cases during her two-year clerkship.

Before joining Debevoise in 2007, Ms Lavaud worked at Total, one of the world's leading international oil and gas companies. As a member of Total's Exploration & Production legal division, Ms Lavaud gained in-depth experience with the oil and gas industry and the agreements specific to this industry.

Ms Lavaud serves in several leadership positions. In 2022, she was elected to the Board of Directors of ArbitralWomen, an international organisation that promotes women and diversity in international arbitration. Ms Lavaud also serves as Co-Chair of the International Arbitration Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association (ABILA) and as Co-Chair of International Law Weekend (ILW) 2022. She is also a member of numerous arbitration organisations, including the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) Advisory Board representing Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. She also recently served as a New York Regional Representative of the ICC Young Arbitrators Forum.

Ms Lavaud regularly speaks and publishes on international law-related issues. Ms Lavaud received an LL.M. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2007 and an M.A. in Litigation and Arbitration from the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas with honours in 2005. She is a native French speaker, is also proficient in Spanish, and has basic knowledge of Dutch.

## SPEAKERS



**DR KHALED A. MAHDI, PhD, PMP, CEng, GCCarb, P2F**

*General Secretary, General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD)*

DR. KHALED A. MAHDI is currently the Secretary General of the GSSCPD and the National Director of the Country Program Action Plan with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Government of Kuwait. He serves private and public sectors professionally on a global and local scale. Dr Mahdi is a member of various councils and boards, including the Supreme Council of Education, the Supreme Council for Public Universities, the Public Authority for Industries, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Ozone Affairs and Climate Change, and many other committees.

Dr Mahdi also cofounded the Kuwait Women Distinguished Award and the Kuwait Sustainable Development Award. Among his many accolades, he received the “People First” Leader GCC HR Award in 2018. In 1993, Dr Mahdi received his bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Toronto. He received his Master of Chemical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1995. In 2000, Dr Mahdi earned his Doctorate in Chemical Engineering from Northwestern University. Before his current occupation, Dr Mahdi served as an advisor for the Kuwait University Strategic Office and the Minister of Planning and Development Affairs Office.



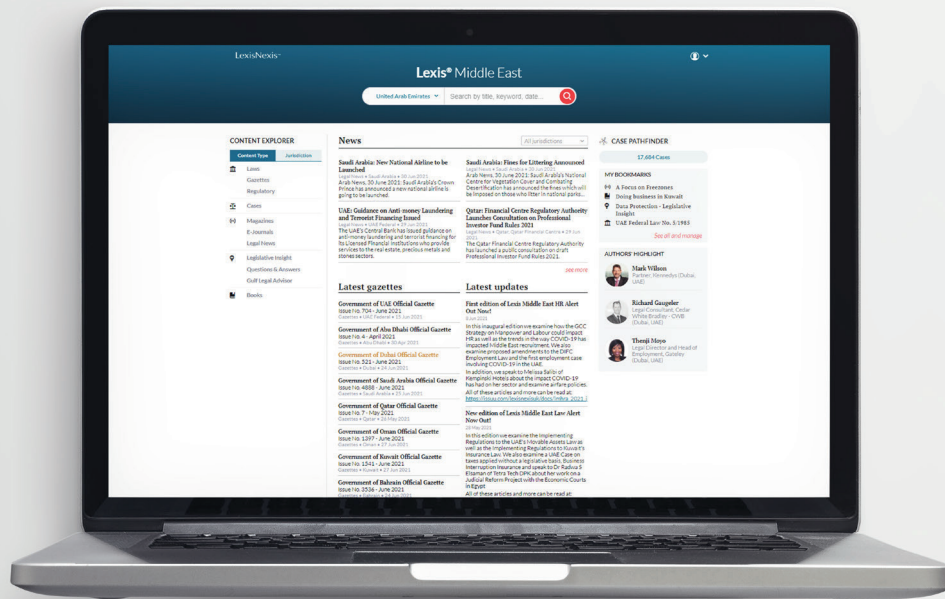
**DR MAJDOULINE SCHEIT**

*Corporate Counsel, Alghanim Industries*

DR MAJDOULINE SCHEIT is a Lebanese-qualified lawyer with nine years of experience. She earned a master’s degree in International Business Law from Filiere Francophone De Droit in Lebanon with an accreditation from the University of Aix-Marseille III in France.

She subsequently earned a PhD in International Law from the Lebanese Doctorate School of Law and Political Science with a focus on the joint development agreements for common offshore oil & gas deposits.

She has taught Energy and Environmental Law at the University of Phoenicia in Lebanon. Before joining Alghanim Industries, Majdouline was a private practice lawyer and provided regular support to companies and in-house legal teams across corporate transactional matters, commercial contracts and other compliance and regulatory matters.



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