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### Banking and finance



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### Leading individuals

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  - Sam Habbas - ASAR - Al Ruwayeh & Partners
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  - [Alex Saleh - Al Tamimi & Company](#)

### Next generation lawyers

- 1.1
  - Nadya Saleh - Al Markaz Law Firm

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**Al Markaz Law Firm** has expertise in banking and restructuring, which it leverages in negotiating settlement agreements and restructuring debt repayment plans. Headed by the highly regarded Ayman Nada, the team acts for Islamic and conventional commercial banks, investment companies and funds. Nada advised Efad Real Estate on its \$79m monetary and in-kind settlement with Bahrain Islamic Bank, and also represented the client in negotiations with AlAhi Bank, which resulted in an 85% cut of the client's aggregate debt value. Additionally, the firm assisted Muscat Bank with the restructuring of the KWD6.3m debt accumulated by industrial equipment supplier Al Zahem. Senior associate Nadya Saleh is recommended.

**ASAR - Al Ruwayeh & Partners** has extensive experience of debt issuances and credit facility agreements, amendments to existing facility agreements, project finance and leasing arrangements. Recently, the firm acted for a guarantor in connection with the issuance of guaranteed notes due in 2027, and Ibrahim Sattout and John Cunha assisted Doha Bank with amendments made to a real estate facility agreement. Ahmed Barakat and the highly regarded Sam Habbas jointly head the practice group.

**Al Tamimi & Company** is regularly instructed in Islamic and conventional finance transactions spanning trade, real estate and M&A financing. Headed by [Omar Handoush](#), the department also has expertise in financial regulatory analyses and the structuring of investment funds. Also recommended is [Alex Saleh](#), who has experience of Islamic and conventional syndicated loan transactions and also handles project finance.

**DLA Piper Kuwait in Association With (NEN) Al-Waqayan, Al Awadhi and Al-Saif** is instructed in Islamic financing matters, restructuring, financial regulatory issues and debt finance transactions. The practice is jointly led by [Peter Somekh](#), Terry O'Regan and Nader Al Awadhi, the last of whom is advising Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority on the financial, regulatory and operational aspects of the establishment of three special economic zones in Kuwait. The firm also advised an Islamic bank on a cross-border inter-bank murabahah financing arrangement.

**Al Oula Law Firm (Adel Abdulhadi & Partners)** advises on shari'ah-compliant financing structures such as murabahah and sukuk certificates, real estate finance, banking disputes and financial restructuring. Director Sanabil Jafar provided Commercial Bank of Kuwait with a legal study on bounced cheques, which included advice on civil and criminal liabilities imposed on the issuer of those cheques.

**International Counsel Bureau** has expertise in lending regulations, debt and financial restructuring, capital structuring and contingency planning. Abdul Rahman R. Al Haroun is the managing partner.

The banking team at **Meshari Al Osaimi Attorneys and Legal Consultants** has experience of project finance, real estate mortgage transactions, regulatory compliance, Islamic finance and the structuring of investment funds. Saad Al Asfour and founding partner [Meshari Mohamed Al Osaimi](#) are key contacts in the practice group.