

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARIES



# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2026



**ROBA ELSHAMY**

Roba Elshamy is a compliance professional with experience in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and board administration within publicly listed companies.

She currently serves as Compliance Officer at Gulf Navigation Holding PJSC, a Dubai Financial Market (DFM) listed company, supporting corporate governance and regulatory compliance in line with CMA/SCA and DFM requirements.

Roba also brings prior experience in human resources management, providing a strong understanding of organizational governance, internal policies, and corporate culture. This combined experience enables her to contribute to the development of effective governance and compliance practices aligned with both regulatory requirements and internal standards.

Roba has successfully completed the Certified Board Secretary Program from Hawkamah – The Institute for Corporate Governance, further strengthening her expertise in board governance, disclosure and transparency requirements, and best practices applicable to listed companies.

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**ALINA BLOSHCHENKO**

Alina Bloschenko is a seasoned governance and compliance professional with nearly a decade of banking experience supporting executive leadership and board-level decision making. She brings deep expertise in financial crime risk management, regulatory compliance, and non-financial risk governance, with a strong track record of enhancing oversight structures and strengthening organizational governance frameworks.

In one of her recent roles within the business function at HSBC Bank Middle East, Alina oversaw non-financial risk reporting across MENAT and Europe, providing critical insights to governance committees and board forums while supporting regional executive leadership. She contributed to the development and deployment of the region's non-financial risk framework in close collaboration with senior stakeholders, ensuring effective oversight, timely escalation of high-risk issues, and clear accountability. Her work included ongoing monitoring and reporting to identify emerging risks early and ensure they were addressed by the appropriate stakeholders.

Alina is currently an associate managing director in K2 Integrity's Financial Crimes Risk Management practice, supporting financial institutions with their regulatory and overall compliance obligations.

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**KSENIA TURUNOVA**

Ksenia Turunova is an experienced corporate administration professional specializing in corporate governance, compliance, and HR operations.

With over a decade of experience in multinational environments in the UAE, she has supported board-level coordination, legal administration, regulatory processes, and executive operations. She currently works as Corporate Secretary at ME Solaris Commodities and holds academic qualifications in both Law and Business Administration.

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**RANIA SEKEIK**

Rania Sekeik is a governance professional with nearly 20 years of experience supporting Boards and executive leadership across public and private sector entities in the UAE. She currently serves as Chief of Staff at EMSTEEL Group and acts as Board Secretary and Nomination & Remuneration Committee (NRC) Secretary.

She has a strong track record in enhancing governance frameworks, coordinating Board and committee activities, and ensuring alignment with regulatory and corporate requirements. She works closely with C-suite executives and Board members to facilitate effective communication, streamline operations, and uphold best practices in corporate governance.

Rania brings experience across the industrial and education sectors, with a focus on governance, organizational effectiveness, and executive-level stakeholder management. She holds an MSc in Leadership and Organizational Development and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

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### **DENZITA RODRIGUES**

Denzita Rodrigues is a Legal and Corporate Governance Officer with experience across UAE law firms and in-house corporate environments. She has provided legal secretarial and governance support to partners, senior lawyers, and counsels, with a focus on accuracy, confidentiality, and regulatory compliance.

In her current role at RAK Gas LLC, Denzita supports the Board and its Committees through end-to-end management of board documentation and meetings, maintenance of statutory and governance records, and effective coordination between the Board and executive management. Her role includes drafting and processing board and committee resolutions, supporting regulatory filings, and contributing to the development and implementation of governance policies, committee terms of reference, and governance frameworks in collaboration with internal stakeholders.

She is recognised for her structured, detail-oriented, and dependable approach, with a strong focus on high standards of board support, governance practice, and compliance.

She has further strengthened her governance expertise through the Certified Board Secretary Workshop with Hawkamah – The Institute for Corporate Governance.

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**FARAH AL BORINI**

Farah Al Borini is a governance and executive support professional with extensive experience in board administration, investor relations, and senior leadership support within leading UAE organizations. She currently serves as Office Manager to the EVP of Engineering at TECOM Group (a member of Dubai Holding), where she also acts as Board Secretary for multiple internal committees, overseeing governance processes, agenda management, minute-taking, and compliance follow-ups in line with best practice corporate governance standards.

Prior to her current role, Farah held responsibilities in Investor Relations, where she supported shareholder communications, regulatory disclosures, and stakeholder reporting, strengthening transparency and corporate accountability frameworks.

Farah plays an active role in strategic coordination and executive decision support, ensuring effective board and committee operations through structured documentation, policy alignment, and governance control mechanisms. She is also engaged in leadership initiatives through her involvement in the Dubai Holding Women Network.

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### **SAMIRA MOHAMED**

Board Secretary and Executive  
Secretary

Samira Mohamed is a Certified Board Secretary and Executive Secretary with over 13 years of experience in executive leadership support, including 7 years of direct involvement in corporate governance and board-level coordination. She works closely with the Chief Executive Officer, supporting high-level decision-making and contributing to structured, compliant, and effective governance practices.

Throughout her career, Samira has supported board governance coordination at the executive level, including the preparation of board and committee materials, governance documentation oversight, regulatory alignment, and the coordination of complex strategic and operational meetings. She serves as a trusted liaison between executive leadership and key stakeholders, ensuring clarity, accountability, and the seamless execution of governance and executive directives.

Her certification as a Board Secretary reflects her continued commitment to strengthening governance frameworks, enhancing organizational effectiveness, and upholding the highest standards of professionalism in corporate administration.

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**MOHAMMAD OSAMA  
MOHRAT**

Compliance Director

Mohammad Osama Mohrat is the Compliance Director at BHM Capital Financial Services PSC. He is a senior compliance and risk executive with over 20 years of experience in UAE capital markets, specializing in regulatory compliance oversight, corporate governance, and risk management frameworks for leading CMA-licensed financial services firms.

His experience spans brokerage, asset management, market making, and investment advisory activities. He possesses extensive hands-on expertise in CMA regulations, Dubai Financial Market (DFM) and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) rules, AML/CFT and sanctions compliance, market conduct, and cross-border regulatory requirements.

Mohammad has a proven track record in establishing and strengthening compliance frameworks, managing regulatory licensing processes, leading regulatory inspections, and overseeing reporting and remediation programs.

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### **ZAHI ALBISHARAT**

Head of Finance  
GLIDE –Affiliate of Erth Zayed  
Philanthropies

As GLIDE's Head of Finance, Zahi is responsible for managing the business finance including treasury and funds management, financial planning and business performance, and financial governance and reporting. With over than 10 years of extensive finance, accounting, and audit experience, Zahi has a proven track record in directing a range of strategic and operational finance management tasks, including strategic business planning, corporate mergers and acquisitions, establishing financial strategies, cash flow management, financial modeling, and capital expenditure management. In addition to his role, Zahi serves as the Finance and Audit Committee Secretary.

Zahi's experience varies in multiple industries including Energy, Telecommunications, Insurance, Financial Institutions, Manufacturing, Retail, and Not for Profit Organizations. Prior to joining GLIDE, Zahi worked with KPMG as an Audit Senior Supervisor. Past roles also include working with Jordan Commercial Bank as a Financial Reporting Analyst.

Zahi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from the University of Jordan, and the Diploma in International Financial Reporting from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Zahi is a Certified Public Accountant "CPA" in the state of New Hampshire, USA, and has earned the Board Secretary Certification from Hawkamah Institute of Governance in partnership with the Dubai Financial Market (DFM).

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### **HAZIM ALFREAHAT**

Associate Attorney

Hazim Alfrehahat is an associate attorney in the Abu Dhabi office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He is a member of the firm's Mergers and Acquisitions and Projects and Infrastructure Practice Groups.

Hazim advises clients on complex local and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and corporate transactions. His practice includes advising on matters across a broad range of sectors, including energy and infrastructure, as well as providing advice on the UAE Commercial Companies Law and related regulatory matters.

Hazim received his Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Trade and Commercial Law from Nottingham Trent University. Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, he worked in the Abu Dhabi office of an international U.S. law firm. He trained at a top-tier law firm in Jordan and is admitted to practice in Jordan.

Hazim is also a Certified Board Secretary from the Hawkamah Institute of Governance, in partnership with the Dubai Financial Market (DFM), qualifying him to serve listed companies on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) and DFM.

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**BILAL ITANI**

LLM, CAMS

Bilal Itani is a Legal, Compliance and Anti-Money Laundering Specialist with nearly a decade of experience across fintech and capital markets, currently supporting leading financial services firms regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) and the UAE's Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA). He holds an MSc in International Banking and Finance from London Metropolitan University, an LLB and LLM from Buckinghamshire New University, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Law at Girne American University. Bilal's expertise bridges law and finance, building resilient compliance frameworks that strengthen transparency, integrity, and regulatory excellence across global financial operations.

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Ali Asgar Motiwala is part of the Corporate Office at SwitzGroup in Dubai, where he works closely with the ownership and leadership teams on governance and key organizational priorities. He has been with the Group since 2014, contributing to initiatives that link strategy, organization, and family office matters. Before joining SwitzGroup, Ali spent 18 years with the American Consulate in Mumbai, advising U.S. companies on their India market entry and expansion.

**ALI ASGAR MOTIWALA**

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Noura is a governance and legal professional currently serving as a Legal Associate at Wio Bank.

Her expertise spans corporate governance, board and committee support, regulatory compliance, and litigation oversight. She plays a key role in reviewing board documentation, supporting governance frameworks, and ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements.

With experience collaborating across executive and operational functions, Noura contributes to enhancing governance effectiveness and organisational transparency. She is a Certified Board Secretary through the Hawkamah Institute, reflecting her dedication to advancing best-practice governance standards.



**NOURA ALHAMMADI**

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2025



## **ASMEETA MATONDKAR**

Company Secretary and Legal  
Professional

Asmeeta Matondkar is a seasoned Company Secretary and Legal Professional with over 18 years of extensive experience in corporate governance, legal advisory, capital markets, and regulatory compliance. She has successfully led governance frameworks, managed board operations, and executed complex corporate transactions across listed and unlisted entities.

As Company Secretary of Fomento Resorts and Hotels Limited (now Private Limited), Asmeeta has spearheaded several strategic initiatives including the listing and delisting of securities, Offer for Sale (OFS), private placements, capital restructuring, and the company's public-to-private transition. She has engaged extensively with key regulatory bodies such as SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India), BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange), and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, ensuring robust compliance and fostering stakeholder confidence.

Combining a strong foundation in Indian corporate and securities law with expanding exposure to UAE, DIFC, and Free Zone governance frameworks, Asmeeta brings a governance-focused, results-oriented approach to legal and board advisory functions. Her core competencies include board management, company law compliance, SEBI and ROC reporting, legal drafting, and corporate restructuring.

A qualified Company Secretary and Associate Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Asmeeta also holds Bachelor's degrees in Law (LL.B.) and Commerce (B.Com.) from Goa University. She has completed the Board Secretary Certification from the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance and will be based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from January 2026, focusing on advancing governance excellence and promoting best practices in corporate and legal management across the region.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2025



Radwa El Khamry is a certified Board Secretary and Corporate Governance Professional with over 14 years of experience across the banking and financial sectors in Egypt and the UAE. She has served in governance, compliance, and legal leadership roles at institutions including Zand Digital Bank (UAE), OneBank (Egypt), and Commercial International Bank (CIB).

Radwa holds professional certifications from the Hawkamah Institute for Governance and the Corporate Governance Institute (CGI), specializing in board secretarial practice, regulatory compliance, and governance frameworks. She currently serves as a Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Law, Ain Shams University, where she contributes to academic research in civil and commercial procedural law.

## **RADWA EL KHAMRY**

Certified Board Secretary |  
Corporate Governance  
Professional

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**YASSER AHMAD ALALI**

Board Secretary

Yasser is a seasoned professional with a 15-year foundation in technology regulatory affairs, his career has been dedicated to bridging the gap between complex technological change and sound corporate governance. Yasser uniquely merged this technical background with the dynamic banking sector, creating a best-practice approach to governance that is both resilient and adaptable. In his current role as Board Secretary for Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB), Yasser is entrusted with ensuring the highest standards of board effectiveness and regulatory compliance, directly influencing the bank's strategic direction.

Beyond Yasser's core responsibilities, He is driven by a profound passion for learning and a mission to make governance more intuitive. He believes that when governance principles are clear and seamlessly placed into our daily workflows, they become a catalyst for efficiency and empowerment. Yasser is committed to a vision: simplifying governance to not only enhance organizational performance but also to create more engaging and truly collaborative days at work.

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## **JAWAD ZABAR**

General Counsel &  
Board Secretary

Jawad Zabar is a seasoned corporate legal professional with over 20 years of experience in banking, financial services, payments, and regulatory compliance across the GCC.

As Group General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Directors of BFC Group Holdings, he spearheads the organization's legal strategy, corporate governance, and compliance initiatives, ensuring regulatory adherence and risk mitigation in international banking and financial transactions.

With deep expertise in cross-border litigation, regulatory frameworks, and dispute resolution, Jawad has successfully negotiated high-stakes contracts, led complex cross-border M&A transactions, designed robust compliance frameworks, and managed large-scale corporate restructuring projects. He provides strategic legal counsel to senior leadership, guiding organizations through intricate legal and regulatory landscapes—particularly in areas such as cross-border corporate litigation, arbitration, personal data protection, and legal risk management.

Leveraging his in-depth knowledge of GCC laws, Jawad excels in driving legal transformation, influencing key stakeholders, and fostering high-performing teams. His role extends beyond legal advisory, encompassing the establishment of corporate governance frameworks, support for market expansion, and engagement with regulators, financial institutions, and industry leaders to promote best practices in governance and legal innovation. Fluent in Arabic and English, Jawad holds a Commercial Law degree from the University of Westminster in London and a Certificate in Company Direction from the Institute of Directors.

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**ALEXIOS KIRILLOV**

Senior Legal Counsel

Alexios' career has spanned roles as General Counsel and Board Secretary at Emirates Global Aluminium's African platform, as well as Associate at Shearman & Sterling's International Arbitration Group (now A&O Shearman) in Paris. Since 2023, he has been part of the team building the group legal function at Masdar.

He has a dual common law and civil law background, holding a Magister Juris from the University of Oxford and being an active member of the Paris Bar Association.

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Sherif Abdelghany is a finance, legal, and governance professional with a strong track record in regulatory oversight, consumer protection, and corporate governance. He currently works at the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE), where he serves in multiple leadership capacities:

- Project Manager of Sanadak, the first Financial and Insurance Ombudsman in the MENA region, leading the design and implementation of a pioneering dispute resolution framework for financial consumers.
  - Assistant Director of Quality Control in Market Conduct and Financial Consumer Protection, overseeing compliance, performance monitoring, and governance standards to safeguard consumer rights and ensure market integrity.
  - Board Secretary of Sanadak, supporting the governance framework of the Ombudsman, ensuring board operations, documentation, and compliance with corporate governance best practices.
- Sherif holds an LL.M. in International Business Law, is a CFA Program candidate, and a certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS). He also recently earned the Certified Board Secretary credential through Hawkamah, underscoring his commitment to advancing board governance and institutional accountability.

Over the course of his career, Sherif has played a pivotal role in shaping regulatory compliance and governance practices across the UAE. His contributions include establishing consumer dispute resolution mechanisms, implementing KPI frameworks aligned with the UAE Prime Minister's Office, and driving strategic initiatives across governance, communications, and financial-crime prevention.

## **SHERIF ABDELGHANY**

Assistant Director, Project Manager  
& Board Secretary



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**SALEH MOHAMMED SAIF  
AL HADHRAMI**

Assistant General Manager & Head  
– Legal, Recovery & Board  
Secretary

Saleh Al Hadhrami brings over 17 years of legal experience across corporate governance, regulatory compliance, recovery management, and legal policy formulation. He currently serves as the Assistant General Manager and Head of the Legal and Recovery Department, in addition to his role as Board Secretary, where he plays a pivotal role in coordinating between senior management and the board, ensuring adherence to both local and international regulations.

He recently earned the Certified Board Secretary designation after successfully completing the specialized workshop, reflecting his ongoing commitment to professional development and strengthening governance practices within institutions.

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### **SREEMANTH BOYAPATI**

Certified Board Secretary | Group  
Company Secretary, Right Health  
Holdings | Corporate Governance &  
Compliance Professional

Sreemanth Boyapati currently serves as the Group Company Secretary at Right Health Holdings, one of the leading value healthcare providers in the UAE. He is certified by the Hawkamah Institute and Dubai Financial Market as a Board Secretary. Sreemanth holds a Bachelor's degree from the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and has earned multiple global certifications in AML, Sustainability, and GDPR.

With a diverse background supporting Mphasis Ltd and Vydehi HealthCare Group, Sreemanth has developed deep expertise in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and board advisory across various sectors. His research into UAE corporate law, regulatory landscapes, and industry practices has helped establish effective governance frameworks for several organizations. Based in Dubai, Sreemanth is committed to promoting robust governance standards and ensuring regulatory adherence in his leadership role.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2025

Abdul Wahab Al Rawahi is a qualified solicitor of England and Wales and an Omani lawyer with over 20 years' experience in corporate governance, commercial law, ship financing, employment law, construction law, and maritime transactions.

He has extensive expertise in managing complex multi-jurisdictional legal matters, advising on high-value contracts, and embedding robust legal frameworks to support business strategy. Passionate about compliance and risk mitigation in dynamic industries, Abdul Wahab has served as the Senior Legal Manager and Board Secretary at Asyad Shipping Company S.A.O.G. for the past 13 years, becoming the company's first Omani shipping lawyer.

Reflecting on his professional growth, he notes: "Attendance at the Hawkamah Certified Board Secretary Workshop is a must for anyone passionate about compliance and eager to exchange insights on best international practices to elevate their company's Board to the next level."



**ABDUL WAHAB AL  
RAWAHI**

Senior Legal Manager and Board  
Secretary  
Asyad Shipping

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Accomplished HR professional with over 14 years of experience specializing in Organizational Development, Workforce Planning, and Change Management. Demonstrates a strong track record of driving business transformation through innovative HR strategies, policy refinement, and streamlined processes. Brings extensive expertise across key sectors, including Oil & Gas, Maritime, and Logistics, complemented by a robust background in management consulting and corporate HR.



### **HESSA AL SHEHHI**

Senior Manager - Organization  
Development and Manpower Planning  
AD Ports Group

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**MOHAMED SAMY**

Assistant Manager – Legal  
Orient Insurance (Al-Futtaim Group)

Experienced Litigation Counsel with over 13 years in legal practice, currently serving as Assistant

Legal Manager at Orient Insurance (Al-Futtaim Group). Expert in UAE real estate, insurance, labor, commercial, and civil law. Skilled in case management, dispute resolution, court representation (RDC and civil courts), contract drafting, and legal risk assessment. Fluent in Arabic and English with extensive courtroom experience and proven success in defending complex claims.

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For more than 20 years working with CEOs/Chairmen in prestigious organizations with various industries such as Investment, Telecommunication, Consulting Management, Automotive and F&B, ensuring governance and compliance, where she has been executing the role of Board Secretary. She is a professional communicator with the executive management and board members' level.

She is holding a bachelor's degree in management information systems from American University of Culture & Education, Lebanon. She is currently the Board Secretary at Al-Sayer Franchising Holding Co.



**NIDAL ATWI**

Board Secretary  
Al-Sayer Franchising Holding Co.

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**ESRAA ADEL MOHAMED**  
**ZEYADA IBRAHIM**

Corporate Governance Associate  
Aramex

Esraa Ibrahim is a Corporate Governance Associate at Aramex, where she supports the implementation of governance frameworks, and regulatory compliance. Her role includes monitoring regulatory updates and assisting with governance policy development. Esraa brings a diverse background in human resources, administration, and corporate communications—having previously led initiatives in employee relations, recruitment, content development, and media engagement in both healthcare and corporate settings.

She holds a Ph.D. in Social Development with a specialization in Corporate Management, a Diploma in Public Relations from Alexandria University, and is currently pursuing qualifications with the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland. Esraa's multidisciplinary expertise reinforces her commitment to ethical governance, organizational transparency, and stakeholder alignment.

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## **OMAR AL TAHER**

Board Secretary  
Deyaar Development

Omar Al Taher is a UAE national and Certified Board Secretary with over 12 years of managerial-level experience in the real estate sector. He has held key roles at leading UAE organizations, including Wasl and currently Deyaar Development.

Omar previously served as a Regional Manager before assuming his current role as Board Secretary. He brings a solid foundation in governance, legal affairs, and operational leadership, underpinned by a commitment to continuous learning and professional excellence.

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### **LAUREN LOUISE DALE**

Acting Senior Manager - Policies,  
Contracts & Compliance  
Qatar Airways

Lauren is an English qualified law with almost 8 years of post-qualification experience combining legal expertise with strong commercial acumen. She currently serves as Acting Senior Manager - Policies, Contracts & Compliance at Qatar Airways where she leads the HR compliance function, drives strategic policy initiatives, and enhances contractual governance. Prior to moving in-house, Lauren worked in private practice for several years as a corporate lawyer working on M&As, JVs and corporate reorganisation transactions. Lauren holds a First Class LLB with honours in Law and a Master's degree in Law and Practice.

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## **DAVID ORMSBY**

Vice President- HR International,  
Employee Relations and Policies  
Qatar Airways

David is a UK and Irish qualified lawyer with over fifteen years of experience in commercial dispute resolution. David's professional qualifications include a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) from University College Dublin, a Master of Laws (LLM) from Trinity College Dublin and an Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Warwick Business School, London.

David is currently a Vice President at a leading global airline group and his portfolio includes managing human resources and industrial relations across an international network (90+ jurisdictions worldwide), global employee relations, policies and compliance.

Prior to joining the aviation sector in 2022, David was a partner in a private practice law firm in Ireland and the United Kingdom where he focused on a wide range of commercial, restructuring, insolvency and corporate recovery litigation, advising companies, private equity firms, financial institutions, insolvency practitioners, company directors and stakeholders on a wide range of contentious disputes and pre-litigation issues.

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## **UZMA SALEEM**

Board Secretary & Corporate  
Governance

Business Manager- Finance  
Group Finance- Ajmal Perfumes

Uzma Saleem, Chartered Accountant (CA), a seasoned finance professional with over 15 years of diversified experience in corporate accounting, financial management & controls, banking, compliance, auditing, budgeting, trade finance, and taxation. Uzma has worked with leading MNCs in Dubai and India across diverse industries including manufacturing, trading, marine shipping, banking, perfumery and retail. Her expertise lies in driving financial efficiency through results driven leadership, ensuring compliance, and delivering strategic insights.

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### **ENSAF AL ALLAF**

Manager – Legal  
TECOM Group

Experienced legal professional with over 15 years in corporate and commercial law, legal advisory, litigation, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance. She has navigated complex legal landscapes across real estate, finance, and corporate sectors, advising senior management on legal strategy while managing contract negotiations, policy reviews, and intellectual property matters. Her experience includes supporting real estate projects, including leasing and construction, and successfully leading legal workstreams for group restructuring, funding transactions, rebranding initiatives, and contract automation projects. She holds an LLM from Middlesex University and combines legal expertise with a practical, solutions-focused approach.

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## **BERYL MATHEWS**

Assistant Manager - Corporate  
Affairs  
Dubai Investments

Miss Beryl Mathews holds a Degree in Commerce from Mumbai, India, and also holds a Diploma in Corporate Governance from the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), India. She has over 25 years of experience in the UAE,

Miss Beryl has been working with Dubai Investments PJSC, for the last 19+ years in various administrative roles. In her capacity as Assistant Corporate Affairs Officer, she has built a concrete base of knowledge in wider areas of duties, which include, ensuring that Board, Committees and Sub-Committee meetings are conducted in compliance with applicable laws, regulations as well as internal policies, with her role particularly in coordinating and managing submittals for such meetings, as well as maintaining corporate records. She is also Board Secretary for six of the subsidiary companies.

She is passionate about regulatory excellence and corporate governance and is a reliable, result-focused and goal oriented professional, dedicated to supporting the achievement of effective governance practices throughout the organization.

She is now a Certified Board Secretary, from Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance, UAE, which solidifies her role in the Company.

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## **CONNIE SELVIA SEQUEIRA**

Board Secretary &  
Office Manager to Group CEO's  
Office  
Fakeeh Health

With over 22 years of diverse experience across Oil & Gas and healthcare, Connie brings a unique blend of operational expertise, strategic administration, and governance support. Her early career in the Oil & Gas sector honed her skills in executive support, operations coordination, and multinational corporate administration, building a strong foundation of professionalism, adaptability, and efficiency.

Transitioning to healthcare over the past decade, she has deepened her focus on organizational governance, network management, and strategic executive support within leading healthcare institutions. Currently serving as Board Secretary and Office Manager to the Group CEO at Fakeeh University Hospital, she ensures seamless Board administration, robust governance compliance, and high-quality stakeholder engagement. She manages complex scheduling, due diligence, and confidential communications for the G CEO, Board members, and shareholders, ensuring operational excellence and service quality at every level.

Connie holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration (Operations) and multiple professional certifications.

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## **HALA SHAHIN**

Associate Manager HR  
Projects, Talent Experiences &  
Culture  
Miral Group

Hala Shahin is a highly experienced with over 13 years in Executive Assistant and Office Manager roles, supporting top-tier leadership and managing complex administrative operations. Throughout her career, she has provided strategic support to C-level executives across leading organizations in the UAE, including her current role as HR Projects Manager at Miral LLC in Abu Dhabi.

Hala holds a Master's degree in human resources management from the University of Liverpool, along with certifications including CIPD Level 3, PMP and the Certified Board Secretary from Hawkamah.

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## **MOATAZ FAHMY**

Senior Legal Officer & Board  
Secretary

BHM Capital Financial Services  
PSC

Moataz Fahmy is a Senior Legal Officer and Board Secretary at BHM Capital Financial Services PSC, where he oversees the legal and corporate governance functions.

Moataz brings over five years of legal experience, with a strong focus on the corporate, commercial, and financial sectors.

Prior to joining BHM Capital, he worked at reputable regional law firms, where he advised a broad range of clients, including:

- Global luxury fashion brands on legal and regulatory matters relating to their Middle East operations;
- Prominent private equity firms, real estate developers, and hospitality groups across the GCC;
- Businesses in finance, technology, oil & gas, consumer goods, food & beverage, and e-commerce on regional legal issues and cross-border transactions.

Moataz is recognized for his board-level advisory capabilities, regulatory insight, and a deep understanding of the UAE's evolving legal and governance landscape.

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Mohammad Dawood is a UAE national and Certified Board Secretary with 5 years of experience in governance, compliance, and board advisory across Dubai mainland and DIFC. He has advised on governance frameworks for investment and trade-related entities, ensuring alignment with both local and international regulatory standards.

He previously served as a Senior Consultant at PwC and holds a law degree from the United Kingdom. Mohammad brings a strong legal and strategic foundation to board operations, with expertise in meeting management, regulatory compliance, and policy development.

## **MOHAMMAD DAWOOD**

Senior Consultant  
PwC



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### **AMAL MOHAMMAD**

Board Secretary  
Emirates Stallions Group

Amal Mohammad is a highly skilled Board Secretary and Investor Relations Officer at ESG Emirates Stallions Group, a leading diversified manpower supply, investment, engineering, retail and real estate development company based in Abu Dhabi, UAE. With extensive experience in corporate governance, board management, and investor relations, Amal plays a key role in ensuring ESG's compliance with best governance practices while fostering strong relationships with investors and stakeholders.

As Board Secretary, Amal oversees board operations, ensuring seamless communication between the board, executive management, and regulatory bodies. She is responsible for organizing board meetings, drafting minutes, and ensuring adherence to governance frameworks. Her meticulous attention to detail and deep understanding of corporate regulations contribute to ESG's commitment to transparency and accountability.

In her capacity as Investor Relations Officer, Amal serves as a bridge between the company and its investors, maintaining clear and effective communication on ESG's financial performance, corporate strategy, and growth initiatives. She ensures that investors receive accurate and timely disclosures, reinforcing the company's reputation for integrity and trustworthiness in the market.

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## **DIMA FAKHOURY**

Compliance Leader & Board  
Secretary

Dima Fakhoury is a Compliance and Risk Management Leader with over 16 years of experience, including 12 years of leading the Compliance functions in the financial services sector. She has led regulatory compliance strategies, risk assessments, and corporate governance initiatives, working closely with regulators such as Central Bank, DHA, DOH, DFSA and SCA, ensuring governance excellence and compliance with evolving regulations.

She holds a Master's in Management from Ecole Supérieure des Affaires and IAE Poitiers, a BSc in Mathematics from American University of Beirut, and multiple certifications, including Compliance, Risk Management, and Board Secretary (Hawkamah, 2024).

With a strong regulatory background and deep expertise in compliance and risk management, Dima continues to drive excellence in governance and regulatory adherence within the financial sector fostering ethical and transparent business practices.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2025



### **DR. AHMED ALKHALFAWI**

Head of Legal Emirates Islamic  
Bank Head of Board & Company  
Secretary  
Emirates NBD Group

Dr. Ahmed is a seasoned legal expert with over 19 years of experience in law, leadership, management, and corporate governance. Holding a PhD in Sharia & Judiciary Law and a Master's in Private Law, he brings a deep understanding of legal frameworks, regulatory compliance, and governance structures.

As the Head of Legal at Emirates Islamic Bank and the Head of Board & Company Secretary at NBD Group, Dr. Ahmed ensures strict adherence to UAE federal laws, Central Bank regulations, and Securities & Commodities Authority requirements. He plays a key role in overseeing board operations, ensuring compliance with the company's Articles of Association and bylaws, and maintaining strong internal controls and corporate governance frameworks. With his expertise in legal advisory, risk management, and strategic decision-making, Dr. Ahmed contributes to the organization's success by fostering transparency, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency."

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2025



## **MAHA ABDELLATIF**

Office Manager  
Taqa

A trusted partner to corporate C-suite executives, Maha is recognized for her exceptional ability to manage complex projects, drive operational excellence, and ensure alignment with strategic corporate goals while upholding strong corporate governance standards. She has been serving as Tender Committee Secretary at TAQA PJSC, ensuring compliance and transparency in procurement processes.

With over 18 years of professional experience in the UAE, Maha has held pivotal roles across consulting, healthcare, and the utilities sector, consistently delivering value in dynamic and impact-driven environments.

She holds an engineering degree in Biotechnology Engineering, is a certified Chief of Staff by the Chief of Staff Association and has earned the Board Secretary Certification from Hawkamah Institute of Governance in partnership with the Dubai Financial Market (DFM)—qualifying her to serve listed companies with ADX and DFM.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2025

Dalal Al Siyabi is an accomplished Legal Manager with extensive expertise in corporate, commercial, and regulatory law. With over a decade of experience in legal advisory, litigation, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance, she has successfully navigated complex legal landscapes across industries, including banking, finance, and corporate entities.

Currently serving as the Legal Manager at Sohar Titanium (FZC) LLC, Dalal leads legal operations, ensuring compliance, mitigating risks, and handling high-value contracts and agreements. She has a strong track record in dispute resolution, contract negotiations, and stakeholder management, providing strategic legal guidance to support business growth.

Her prior experience includes a tenure at Sohar International Bank, where she specialized in litigation, contract review, and execution files, and at Al Busaidy, Mansoor Jamal & Co (AMJ), where she handled diverse legal matters, including corporate litigation, arbitration, and regulatory affairs. Dalal has represented clients in civil, commercial, and criminal cases, demonstrating exceptional advocacy and problem-solving skills.

She holds a Master's degree in Civil Law and a Bachelor's degree in Law from Sultan Qaboos University, complemented by multiple certifications in Arbitration, Intellectual Property Law, Project Management (PMP), and FIDIC Contracts.

With a keen eye for legal risk management and a commitment to excellence, Dalal continues to be a pivotal force in shaping corporate legal frameworks and driving compliance excellence.



### **DALAL AL SIYABI**

Legal Manager  
Sohar Titanium (FZC) LLC

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2025



## **DIVYA DAMARAJU**

Deputy Company Secretary  
Burjeel Holdings

Based in the U.A.E., Divya is an experienced corporate secretary and governance professional with over 10 years of expertise in corporate secretarial functions, legal, and regulatory compliance.

She has worked with law firms to establish and develop governance and compliance practices and currently serves as the Deputy Company Secretary for a company listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX).

Divya is passionate about corporate governance and regulatory excellence, bringing a strategic approach to compliance and risk management.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

Ahmed is a distinguished expert with a solid background in finance, banking, and corporate governance. Ahmed holds both a Bachelor of Finance and Banking, Master's degree in Human Resource and Leadership from the University of Dubai, and graduated from the Artificial Intelligence program at the Kellogg College – University of Oxford.

Ahmed's career includes over a decade of experience at the UAE Accountability Authority, where they served as an audit manager, conducting compliance audits on various UAE federal entities and representing the Authority at INCOSAI and GCC SAI meetings.

Currently, Ahmed AlJaziri holds the position of Board Secretary at the Commercial Bank of Dubai (PSC). In this capacity, Ahmed provides essential support and strategic advice to the board of directors, drawing upon extensive expertise in regulatory laws and corporate governance to facilitate informed decision-making and ensure adherence to legal standards.



## **AHMED AL JAZIRI**

Board Secretary  
COMMERCIAL BANK OF  
DUBAI (PSC)

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **ABDALLA ALKETBI**

Board Office Manager  
Union Coop.

Abdullah Sultan Al Ketbi began his career in 2009, working at the Public Prosecution in Dubai as a Secretary to the Public Prosecution. During this period he pursued his education and earned a Bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Sharjah.

In 2013 he transitioned to Dubai Customs as an Economic Agreements Officer. Later on same year he joined the Union Cooperative Society as an Executive Secretary.

Currently, Abdullah Al Ketbi serves as the manager board office, where he provides dedicated support to the Board of Directors. With over 16 years of experience in law and corporate governance, and he has extensive expertise in overseeing the operations of board offices.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **MUSTAFA, MUSTAFA**

Sr. Manager Board Affairs and  
Governance e& Group

With 21-year experience of which 11 years spent in Board affairs and governance and 10 years in administration, Mr. Mustafa was exposed to various types of legal and admin duties and responsibilities given the diversified nature of organizations in which he served, namely: e& Group, ADNOC and ROK embassy.

Thus, Mr. Mustafa built a concrete base of knowledge in wide arrays of areas which are translated into his duties that include, but not limited to, ensuring that all Board, shareholders, sub-committees meetings are conducted in compliance with applicable laws, regulations as well as internal policies, managing all other Board related matters such as declarations, insider trading, conflicts of interest etc, managing submissions to the Board and sub Committees, providing reliable governance advice to Corporate Secretariat matters, etc.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2024

Khadija Al Ali brings over 14 years of expertise in the logistics sector, focusing on ports and freezones. She currently holds the positions of Board Secretary at Vale Oman Distribution Center (VODC) and CEO Secretary at Vale Oman. In these roles, Khadija efficiently manages the CEO's schedule, organizes events, handles confidential correspondence, and collaborates with various departments. She also oversees the corporate governance of VODC and ensures the effective conduct of board meetings.

Khadija's dedication to her professional growth is evident in her recent achievement of becoming a certified board secretary by passing the Hawkamah exam, further enhancing her corporate governance skills. She holds a post-graduate diploma in Port Management from the Netherlands and a bachelor's degree in computer and networks engineering from Sultan Qaboos University. Additionally, she has obtained certifications in leadership, executive assistance, time management, corporate branding, design thinking, and public speaking.

Khadija's commitment to excellence and her ability to seamlessly manage multiple high-level responsibilities make her an invaluable asset to Vale Oman.

**KHADIJA AL ALI**

Board Secretary  
Vale Oman Distribution Center

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2024



### **SARA SAMY ABDELGHANY**

Company Secretary Assistant  
HSBC Bank Middle East Limited

Sara joined HSBC Bank Middle East (Bank) limited in March 2009 in the UAE, where she has over 16 years of experience working in various roles within the Bank.

Sara joined the Corporate Governance and Secretariat function in October 2015. In her role she supports the Regional Company Secretary of HSBC Bank Middle East Limited and HSBC Middle East Holdings B.V, ensuring the delivery of best governance practices, adherence to statutory obligations, and managing Board and Committees' activities.

Prior to her current position, Sara worked as the Regional Business Support Manager in Corporate Real Estate Department of the Bank.

Sara holds a bachelor's degree in commerce, with a major in Accounting from Cairo University, Egypt.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **MOHAMMAD AL-HUMAID**

Senior Manager/Board Affairs  
and Governance  
e& Group

Mohammad Al-Humaidi is a distinguished professional with a comprehensive background in corporate governance, company secretarial practices, and banking. A Certified Board Secretary accredited by HAWKAMAH, the Institute for Corporate Governance and Dubai Financial Market (DFM), supported by International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN). Mohammad has demonstrated exceptional expertise in enhancing governance frameworks, ensuring regulatory compliance, and facilitating effective board operations across diverse organizational structures.

He is also a Certified Islamic Banker by AAOIFI (Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions), underscoring his proficiency in Islamic finance and his ability to align governance and operational practices with Sharia-compliant principles. In addition to his Islamic finance expertise, Mohammad has extensive experience in conventional banking, where he has developed a robust understanding of financial regulations, risk management, and operational efficiency.

Throughout his career, Mohammad has built deep expertise in working with various corporate structures, including Public Joint Stock Companies (PJSCs), Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), Free Zone Entities (FZEs), and organizations within the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM). His knowledge extends to regulatory compliance and governance practices within the frameworks of the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE), and the UAE Commercial Companies Law (CCL).

Mohammad is highly skilled in managing board communications, maintaining corporate records, and ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements. His strategic insights and ability to foster transparency and accountability make him a trusted advisor to boards of directors and executive teams.

Driven by a passion for advancing ethical governance and organizational excellence, Mohammad continues to contribute significantly to the financial and corporate sectors, leveraging his unique blend of expertise in Islamic and conventional finance, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **ADNAN ALAMEERI**

Legal Director & Board Secretary  
Emaar Properties PJSC & Emaar  
Development PJSC

Adnan is a seasoned US-qualified lawyer and corporate governance expert, bringing over 12 years of post-qualification experience (PQE) across both in-house and private practice roles within the UAE.

With a proven track record in navigating complex legal landscapes, Adnan's expertise spans business operations, information technology, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic risk management.

Currently, Adnan serves as Legal Director and Board Secretary for Emaar Properties PJSC and Emaar Development PJSC, where he plays a pivotal role in guiding governance practices, advising on regulatory frameworks, and ensuring compliance at the highest corporate levels.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **KHALED SHAABAN**

Chief Legal Officer & Board  
Secretary  
Union Properties

Khaled Fahmi Chaaban is a seasoned legal expert with over 20 years of experience in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and dispute resolution. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Lebanese University. Currently serving as the Chief Legal Officer and Board secretary at Union Properties PJSC, he oversees legal affairs, corporate governance, and compliance. Additionally, he has earned various professional certifications, including a Board Secretary Certificate from the Dubai Financial Market (DFM), AML Self – Risk assessment regulatory requirements and Detecting Financial Crimes in Citizenship and Residency by Investment (FATF Requirement). Khaled has held key legal positions in leading firms and companies across Dubai and Lebanon, specializing in laws related to Real Estate, Construction, Corporate/ Commercial, Civil, Criminal and Labor Laws. Also in Compliance, Regulatory Affairs, Arbitration, Mediation and Litigation.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **HAITHAM GEBALI**

General Counsel & Board  
Secretary  
Parkin Company PJSC

El Gebali is one of the kind investment and capital market qualified lawyers in the region, with 25 years hands-on experience in Corporate, Business laws, Capital Markets, and Investments industry.

Currently he is working with Parkin Company PJSC (an RTA curved out company) as a General Counsel and Board Secretary, prior to that he worked for Dubai Financial Market (DFM), SHUAA Capital, Tilal Investment and Al Ramz Capital for 20 years.

El Gebali hold a BA in law, master in business law, diploma in Public Finance and is a member of Chartered Institution for Securities and Investment, UK, London.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

Ephraim is an International law firm-trained and US-qualified lawyer with over fifteen years of experience in energy, construction, and commercial transactions in Asia, the Middle East, and the United States. He has spent about 11 years in nuclear on the Barakah project covering both construction and operations. His focus is on commercial and employment contracts and associated documents, Enterprise governance, and regulatory work.



## **EPHRAIM NATHANIEL WITTMAN**

Senior Legal Counsel  
Nawah Energy Company

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

Rakez Mahmoud is the Legal Consultant and Head of Legal Department at the S.S. Lootah Group of Companies, , one of the largest and most established diversified economic groups in Dubai. The group operates in key sectors such as construction, real estate, engineering consultancy, energy, gas, ready-mix concrete, food, applied research, information and communication technology, higher and pre-university education, and healthcare. Rakez oversees the legal framework for the group's diverse and wide-ranging economic activities. He has extensive expertise in commercial matters, corporate governance, risk management, compliance, organizing the group's General Assembly, and handling issues related to Board of Directors' meetings.

Rakez has extensive experience in providing precise and comprehensive legal advice in various fields, including commercial contracts, commercial disputes, intellectual property protection, legal and regulatory compliance, managing litigation disputes, and deep insights into corporate law. He is adept at assessing and mitigating potential legal risks in new projects or operational changes and has achieved significant success in managing many high-profile cases, efficiently handling legal procedures before courts and experts.

Rakez also holds specialized expertise in inheritance and estate matters, ensuring compliance and effective outcomes in related cases.

In addition to his key role within the business group, Rakez serves as Legal Consultant for Dubai Medical University and Saeed Ahmed Lootah Charitable Foundation, which operates nonprofit educational, healthcare, and charitable institutions, offering humanitarian, educational, and cultural services both within the UAE and internationally.

He has over 23 years of legal experience, with 17 years in the UAE and 6 years in Kuwait. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Law at Damascus University.



## **RAKEZ MAHMOUD**

Legal Consultant and Head of  
Legal Department  
S.S. Lootah Group of Companies

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

Nermin Zaqout is a seasoned professional with over 13 years of expertise in financial management, auditing, corporate governance, and company secretary roles. Currently, she serves as an Associate in Corporate Governance and Company Secretarial at Waha Capital PJSC. In her previous role within the legal division of the corporate governance department, Ms. Zaqout played a pivotal role in ensuring the effective implementation of corporate governance processes. She was responsible for overseeing the company's delegation of authority, as well as its policies and procedures. Additionally, she provided essential support to the General Counsel regarding company secretarial matters. Ms. Zaqout holds an accounting degree from Al Ain University for Science and Technology, along with a diploma in Banking and Finance from the Emirates Institute for Banking and Financial Studies. Her comprehensive background makes her a valuable asset in the realm of corporate governance.



## **NERMIN ZAQOUT**

Associate in Corporate Governance  
& Company Secretarial  
Waha Capital

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **MAY EL GHAMRY**

Group Head of Legal  
Al Ansari Financial Services PJSC

May ElGhamry is the Group Head of Legal responsible for leading on all legal matters and corporate governance aspects within Al Ansari Financial Service PJSC. May has over 22 years of experience in corporate, banking, finance and capital markets (ECM & DCM) in the UAE, GCC and Egypt. She has extensive experience in banking, finance, IPOs and corporate governance of public joint stock companies. May holds a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Cairo (English section). She is admitted in the Egyptian bar association. May is a Hawkamah/DFM Certified Board Secretary who attained the certification with excellence.

In addition to the above, May held the positions of regional counsel in IN'P-IBRAHIM AND PARTNERS and Director Head in the Commercial International Bank (CIB).

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **WALEED DARWISH**

Executive Director, Contracts &  
Procurement and Board  
Secretary  
Pure Health Holding PJSC

Waleed is a Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah and Dubai Financial Market. Waleed is currently the Executive Director, Contracts & Procurement and Board Secretary at Pure Health Holding PJSC, the largest integrated healthcare network in the United Arab Emirates.

Waleed holds Bachelor of Commerce with 22+ years of experience, possess a strong commercial, procurement, contract management and legal experience with deep understanding of all related activities, responsibilities, polices and regulations in addition to governance, compliance, corporate affairs, merger & acquisition, Shareholders and Board matters and securities regulations.

Previous experience includes positions at Siemens and Nokia in Egypt, Oman, Qatar and Indonesia.

Known as a mix of productivity, high engagement, dedication, reliability and hardworking result driven individual and team-player who always complete tasks above expectations in a timely and professional manner with the ability to work in multi-cultural environments – lived, worked and effectively assimilated in countries in MEA and APAC.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **REEM AL-MARRI**

Senior Legal Counsel & Board  
Secretary  
Massar Solutions PJSC

Reem holds an LLM in Solicitors Legal Practice from BPP University London and LLB from Brunel University London and Queen Mary University of London. With a background in commercial law and transactions, Reem previously served as a Corporate Legal Counsel at a leading UAE-based law firm, where she specialised in advising multinational corporations. Her experience includes handling commercial transactions, IP Matters and representing clients in arbitration at institutions such as DIAC and DIFC-LCIA and. Reem is currently enhancing her qualifications in the UK, Bahrain, and the UAE, further solidifying her role in driving legal excellence within corporate environments.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## DAN PAGE

Associate General Counsel & Vice President  
Legal Operations – Construction & Real Estate  
Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)  
P.J.S.C

Daniel is currently the head of construction within Legal for the ADNOC Group, focussing on pre-construction workstreams (e.g. concept and feasibility studies, project management consultancy appointments, ‘front end engineering and design’ (FEED) contracts and process technology licensing and early engagement contracts) and construction contracts (EPC, EPCm, construction only etc.). Daniel was in private practice in Dubai for 12 years before joining ADNOC in 2017.

He serves as Board Secretary for ADNOC Reinsurance Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of ADNOC, a role he has held since he helped to incorporate the company in 2018. He undertakes this role in the context of the company’s governance requirements as an entity incorporated in the ADGM and regulated by the ADGM’s Financial Services Regulatory Authority. Daniel has also provided legal and governance support in the telecommunications sector, which included being seconded to Nawras (now Ooredoo Oman) (Muscat) in 2010 and Etisalat (Abu Dhabi) in 2014.

Daniel qualified as an English solicitor in 2007. He holds an LLM in International Business Law from the University of London (2016) and an MSc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution from Kings’ College, London (2021).

He has created dozens of forms of contract which are now used across the ADNOC Group and he provides training and support to the Group on contractual, legal and practical matters related to tendering, awarding and executing large scale projects. He provides strategic leadership on procurement and contracting strategies for major projects. He also supports on the claims management side of the business, from initial contractor submissions up to formal dispute resolution. Overall, he is well regarded as a reliable and approachable lawyer who adds good value to any situation.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **OMAYMA AYADI**

Manager- CEO Office &  
Shareholder Relations  
Aafaq Islamic Finance, PSC

With over 16 years of experience in the finance sector, Omayma Ayadi is a dynamic and highly skilled professional specializing in executive management, corporate governance, and shareholder relations. Fluent in Arabic, English, and French, she is currently the CEO Office Manager and Shareholders Relations Manager at aafaq Islamic Finance in Dubai, UAE. In addition to her leadership role, Omayma serves as the Board Secretary and Legal Coordinator, where she seamlessly integrates strategic, operational, and legal responsibilities. In her current capacity, Omayma efficiently manages the CEO's executive agenda, coordinates high-level events, handles confidential correspondence, and fosters collaboration across departments to ensure operational efficiency. Her expertise extends to overseeing shareholder relations, facilitating smooth board meetings, and managing legal affairs with precision and integrity.

Omayma's commitment to excellence is evident through her certification as a Board Secretary, earned after successfully passing the Hawkamah exam, further enhancing her expertise in corporate governance. She has also completed a range of advanced certifications in executive assistance, time management, Islamic finance, risk management, corporate excellence, and customer service from prestigious institutions, underscoring her dedication to continuous professional growth.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## SAHIL BUCH

Specialist – SEE Global Research,  
Partnerships and Living Labs Center, SEE  
Institute at The Sustainable City Dubai  
Founder – RISA Consultancies DMCC

Sahil Buch is a specialist in Public Policy, Governance, and Sustainability, with expertise in governance frameworks and research focused on Public Administration. He currently serves as a Specialist at the SEE Global Research, Partnerships and Living Labs Center of the SEE Institute @ The Sustainable City Dubai, where he supports sustainability-driven initiatives through advancing strategic corporate governance structures within the organization. His work spans drafting SOPs and other governance mandates, international sustainability research, global benchmarking for public initiatives, and sustainable technology validation under the SEE Living Lab Program, ensuring effective governance and stakeholder collaboration.

Moreover, as the founder of RISA Consultancies DMCC, Sahil advises the MICE sector (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions), on governance, sustainability, and innovation strategies. He is committed to empowering the next generation of youth, promoting their active participation and career growth in Sustainable Tourism, Hospitality, and Mega-Events.

Sahil holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy & Management from King's College London, UK, along with multiple certifications in Governance, Convention Management and Sustainability. He continues to advance corporate governance frameworks that foster accountability, innovation, and sustainable development.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **ABDULLA LOOTAH**

Legal Associate  
Dubal Holding

Abdulla Lootah is a dedicated UAE lawyer with a diverse background in corporate law and transactions. Abdulla began his career at Nakheel PJSC, where he worked for three years. Following this experience, he qualified as a lawyer and has practiced in a local law firm for three years.

Currently, Abdulla is Legal Associate in Dubal Holding, a government-owned investment company, where he has deepened his expertise in corporate law and transactions. His work at Dubal Holding has involved significant exposure to mergers and acquisitions, further enhancing his legal acumen in the corporate sector.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

Batool is a certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah and Dubai Financial Market.

She assumes a central role in fostering transparent and efficient communication channels between the organization and its shareholders, contributing to building and maintaining trust and confidence.

Batool ensures the highest standards of corporate governance within the organization by overseeing and coordinating Board and Committees activities, dedicated to support the achievement of effective governance practices throughout the organization while ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.



## **BATOOL CHREIDI**

Investor Relations Officer and  
Assistant Board Secretary  
Union Properties PJSC

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **MELISSA TSALICOGLOU**

Head of Risk Business  
Management  
ADSS

Melissa is a seasoned professional serving as the Head of Risk Business Management at ADSS, located in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. With a career spanning over 25 years across Africa and the Middle East, she has demonstrated expertise in diverse sectors including finance, retail, IT, energy, and health insurance.

Her academic achievements underscore her commitment to excellence, holding dual master's degrees: a MSc in Finance with Commendation and a MSc in Project Management with Distinction. Melissa further distinguishes herself as an accredited Professional Project Manager (PMP) and a Risk Management Professional (RMP) certified by the Project Management Institute. Additionally, she possesses credentials from the Dubai Financial Markets (DFM) and Hawkamah for Board Secretary Certification, along with a Level 4 Certificate in Managing Operational Risk in Financial Institutions from CISI.

Driven by an enthusiastic dedication to delivering value, Melissa consistently pursues enhanced stakeholder experiences and optimized team performance. She champions the refinement of processes, systems, and outcomes through the implementation of robust governance practices, facilitating organizational and financial success. Melissa's tenure is characterized by a proven track record of adding tangible value in every capacity she assumes.

As a strong advocate for integrity, transparency, and accountability, Melissa instils these principles by her interactions with every level of the organizations she serves, fostering cultures of ethical excellence and operational integrity.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

“Majed Kochbati embarked on his professional journey as a creative designer, equipped with a Master's degree in Graphic Art from ESSTED - Tunisia.

He has contributed his expertise across various regions including Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Presently, he serves as a seasoned Art Director based in Dubai, celebrated for his innovative approaches and creative acumen in the realm of graphic art.

With over 15 years of practical experience, Majed has established himself as a prominent figure in the design industry, and he is now seeking to transition into a new specialization.”



**MAJED KOCHBATI**

Creative Designer  
Alliance Insurance

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024

Bassant is the Head of Legal & Company Secretary at Spinneys 1961 Holding PLC group of companies in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Bassant holds a Licentiate degree in Law from The Faculty of Law and a Bachelor's degree of mass communication, both from Cairo University.

Bassant brings over a decade of experience in the legal field, specializing in retail and cement industries. Bassant is proficient in negotiation, administration, management, contracts, compliance, and training. In her current role at Spinneys, Bassant serves as the Head of Legal, providing strategic legal advice to the business and its leadership team. Her responsibilities include identifying and mitigating legal risks, overseeing companies' secretarial role, and offering guidance on a wide range of legal matters such as contracts, regulatory compliance, litigation, employment law, intellectual property, and corporate governance. She is instrumental in developing and implementing legal procedures and policies to ensure organizational compliance with laws and regulations.

Prior to her current position, Bassant held the role of Legal and Governmental Liaison Manager at Spinneys Dubai LLC, where she managed legal affairs and liaised with governmental authorities. Earlier in her career, she served as a Lawyer and Country Compliance Delegate at LafargeHolcim, handling various legal and compliance responsibilities, including contract drafting and review, corporate governance, compliance projects, and dispute resolution.

Bassant's professional journey also includes roles at Italcementi/Hidelerberg Group, Shoprite, and Metro Markets, where she gained valuable experience in legal affairs, human resources, and administration. With a strong track record of success and a commitment to excellence, Bassant Mamdouh continues to make significant contributions in the legal field.



## **BASSANT MAMDOUH AHMED**

Head of Legal & Company  
Secretary  
Spinneys

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2024



## **KRISTINA TURNER**

Director, Chairman Office  
Nema Holding

Ms. Kristina Turner has almost two decades of leadership experience in the education sector and currently leads the governance efforts at NEMA Holding. As Director of Administration and of the Chairman's Office at NEMA, she serves as Board Secretary for NEMA, Abu Dhabi University and the Board of Trustees for Liwa College. Kristina has played a pivotal role in shaping governance structures, executive talent recruitment, corporate strategy, project management and quality assurance. She holds an M.Sc. in Psych, an MBA and is a certified board secretary through Hawkamah.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



## **KHALFAN ALFALASI**

Senior Legal Counsel &  
Company Secretary  
Emaar Properties

Khalfan Alfalasi is a distinguished senior legal counsel and Company Secretary at Emaar Properties,

celebrated for his in-depth expertise in consulting, litigation, and international relations across both the public and private sectors. Beginning his career at Dubai Customs (July 2009 - July 2014), Khalfan played a vital role in maintaining compliance and security, demonstrating exceptional problem-solving skills and situational awareness.

Transitioning to a broader legal and diplomatic role, he served as an International Relations Manager at the Ministry of Interior UAE (July 2014 - August 2019), where his contributions to diplomacy and legal negotiations were pivotal. In September 2019,

Khalfan assumed the significant roles of senior Legal Counsel and Company Secretary at Emaar Properties. In these capacities, he provides strategic legal advice, spearheads litigation efforts, and oversees the company's legal policy development. His role is critical in mediating disputes, managing legal processes, and strengthening relationships with senior management, stakeholders, and government authorities.

His educational background includes an Executive MBA from the Institute of Management Technology, Dubai, and a Bachelor of Laws - LLB from The American University in the Emirates (AUE). As a progressive, driven professional, Khalfan Alfalasi's expertise in legal analysis, contract management, and policy creation has established him as a valuable leader within Emaar Properties and the legal community.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



## **LINA SHEHADEH-TAMS**

Board Secretary | Chairman's  
Office Manager  
Bank of Palestine Group

Lina Shehadeh-Tams is a seasoned professional with over 17 years of experience in executive coordination, board management, and corporate operations. She currently serves as the Board Secretary for the Bank of Palestine and its subsidiaries, PalPay and Alwasata, where she ensures seamless board operations, compliance, and governance. Lina also plays a pivotal role as the Chairman's Office Manager and Coordinator of the Board Executive Committee, facilitating strategic decision-making and strengthening communication between the board and senior management.

Her extensive expertise encompasses a wide range of areas, including international coordination, driving advancements in board management systems, and effectively multitasking across complex operational domains. Through advanced international training in Administrative Skills, Public Relations, and Emotional Intelligence, Lina has further developed her organizational and leadership capabilities, enabling her to address challenges with confidence and precision.

Lina holds a degree in Business Administration from Birzeit University and has strengthened her leadership acumen through the Cambridge Rising Women Leaders Programme. As a Certified Board Secretary through Hawkamah Institute, she has solidified her proficiency in corporate governance and board management. Additionally, as the organization contact at the World Economic Forum, Lina brings a global perspective to her work. Fluent in Arabic, highly proficient in English, and conversant in Hebrew, she thrives in dynamic, multicultural environments, leveraging her diverse skill set to drive success.

Committed to excellence, Lina plays an integral role in supporting the Bank of Palestine's operational efficiency and strategic growth.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2023

A strong legal, governance and compliance assistant, in house Senior Paralegal with 25 years of experience in the LGC field, 10 years of which in the compliance and ethics.

Lamia is proven as a brilliant and competent paralegal providing not only legal support but also for her strong knowledge of the UAE corporate regulations.

Lamia obtained a bachelor degree in Law and Administrative Sciences from the Faculty of Constantine, Algeria in the year 1994.

### **LAMIA LOUIZA BENTELLIS**

Senior Paralegal

National Central Cooling  
Company PJSC (Tabreed)

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2023



### **LOUISE MCMILLAN**

Board Secretary  
NMC Healthcare

Louise McMillan is the Board Secretary for NMC Healthcare and is based in Abu Dhabi. NMC Healthcare is one of the largest private healthcare networks in the United Arab Emirates, with a network of made up of 85 medical facilities, including JCI-accredited, multi-specialty hospitals in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, and Al Ain, as well as medical centres, community clinics, day surgery centres, fertility clinics, home health services, and long-term care facilities throughout the UAE.

Louise qualified as a Certified Board Secretary with Hawkamah in 2023 and has more than 20 years administrative experience in the UAE and Qatar and specialises in Healthcare.

Previous experience included positions at Sidra Medical and Research Center (Qatar), New York University (Abu Dhabi), TDIC (Abu Dhabi) and Emaar Malls (Dubai).

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023

Athary is a legal advisor at Dubai Insurance Company with over 18 years of legal experience in the Insurance Industry. She is a Certified Board Secretary and holds a Bachelor of Law from Shatt Al Arab University (Iraq - Basra) in 1999. Her role primarily involves providing legal advice, ensuring organizational compliance with legislation, analyzing the implications of laws, and coordinating with government departments, including SCA, DFSA, HA, the central bank, and courts. making her a valuable asset to the company.



## **ATHARY KASSIM AL SHAWI**

Legal Advisor – Asst Board  
secretary  
Dubai Insurance Company

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2023

Pamela is a certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah and Dubai Financial Market. She graduated with an L.L.B Honours (Bachelor of Laws) from Middlesex University Dubai. Her three years of diverse experience range from contributing as a junior legal counsel for Expo Dubai 2020 to collaborating with private and government entities, engaging in legal advisory services in commercial and corporate law. Pamela is currently pursuing the Solicitors Qualifying Examinations to advance her legal qualifications and skills.

**PAMELA MOUGHABGHAB**

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



## VINODH KUMAR

Head of Legal -GCC  
Aster DM Healthcare FZC

Vinodh Kumar is an accomplished Senior Legal Counsel and Board Secretary with extensive experience spanning diverse business sectors. Vinodh brings over 25 years of expertise acquired across India, the Middle East, and Africa. He specializes in M&A and International Litigation.

Vinodh's qualifications include a Master's in Contract Law, bachelor's degrees in law and economics, and associate membership of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ACS).

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



## **AYDA KHAMIS AL JNEIBI**

Corporate Governance Senior  
Specialist  
ADNOCHQ

I am recognised by The Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland as a Chartered Governance Professional, with 5 years of dedicated experience in board and executive committee secretarial governance, plus over a decade in senior executive support, stakeholder management, and compliance administration.

Today, I serve as Senior Specialist in ADNOC's Group Corporate Governance Function, acting as Company Secretary for seven entities, drafting and reviewing constitutional documents, organizing board and executive committee meetings, and training new joiners and directors.

My career journey from executive administrator to Chartered Governance Professional reflects my commitment to growing into governance leadership. I'm passionate about enabling boards and executives to operate with integrity and accountability.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



## **MOHAMMAD ALSHAMMARI**

Assistant Board Secretary  
National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.P

Mohammad is a legal professional with over a decade of experience in both public and private sectors in Kuwait. He began his career in 2014 as a lawyer at Mohammah private law firm and later served as a notary and deputy head of the authentication office at Farwaniya court complex under the Ministry of Justice. In 2019, he joined the National Bank of Kuwait S.A.K.P, starting in the legal affairs group as a lawyer before advancing to an assistant board secretary in 2021, where he focuses on corporate governance, board management and regulatory compliance.

Mohammad is a registered member of the Kuwaiti Lawyers Association, Mohammad holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in Private Law from Kuwait International Law School, and a Bachelor's degree in law from Kuwait University.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



### **CÉLINE ASSAF KHABBAZ**

General Counsel and Company  
Secretary  
Sheikh Shakhbout Medical City  
LLC (SSMC)

Céline is currently the General Counsel and Company Secretary of SSMC, a joint venture company between Mayo Clinic and Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA) which manages one of the largest complex care hospitals in the region. She has been with SSMC since its inception in 2019 and heads the Legal, Governance, Risk & Compliance functions. Prior to moving in-house, Céline was in private practice for several years and worked at magic circle firms both in Paris and Abu Dhabi.

Céline graduated with honors from King's College London with an LL.B. in French and English Law, Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne with a Master's degree in law as well as Université Paris II Panthéon-Assas with a Postgraduate Degree (DEA) in European Law. She is a member of the Paris Bar since 2005 and a Certified Board Secretary since 2023.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2023



### **FATHIMA AKRAM**

Group Company Secretary  
Al Dahra Holding

Fathima is a highly accomplished and detail-oriented Company Secretary with a distinguished educational background. She holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in Corporate & Finance Law from the prestigious University of Glasgow, complemented by an LLB (Hons) degree from the University of the West of England, Bristol.

With her comprehensive understanding of corporate governance and legal compliance, Fathima has become a trusted expert in her field. Her expertise extends to advising board members on governance best practices and ensuring their decisions align with the organization's legal obligations and strategic objectives.

In addition to her role as Company Secretary, Fathima is adept at liaising with regulatory bodies and ensuring adherence to applicable laws and regulations.

Currently, Fathima serves as the Group Company Secretary for Al Dahra Holding, where she plays a key role in overseeing the company's corporate governance.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2023



## **VICKEN KHOCHAFIAN**

Board Secretary & Governance  
Director  
Dubai Taxi Company P.J.S.C.  
(DTC)

Vicken Khochafian is a seasoned professional with 25 years of international business experience, including 20 years of UAE practice in Board Secretarial Services, Corporate Governance, and Strategic Management.

He currently serves as the Board Secretary and Governance Director at Dubai Taxi Company PJSC, the largest mobility solutions provider in the Emirate of Dubai, where he plays a pivotal role in embedding governance principles within the company's operations and ensuring alignment with regulatory frameworks.

With in-depth knowledge of governance and regulatory affairs, Mr. Khochafian has held leadership roles in governance and board secretarial positions for both private and publicly listed companies in the UAE. His expertise lies in developing and implementing effective governance frameworks, fostering integrity, transparency, and accountability at every level, and guiding boards towards sustained organizational and financial success.

Mr. Khochafian is a Chartered Manager, a member of the Chartered Governance Institute of the UK and Ireland, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration as well as a Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management & Leadership from the Chartered Management Institute in the United Kingdom.

His commitment to excellence in governance and strategic leadership has made him a recognized figure in the field, dedicated to driving value creation through robust governance practices.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022

Ahmed is a seasoned governance and legal professional. He holds a law degree from the University of Rouen in France and currently serves as the Board Secretary at ALEC Engineering & Contracting LLC in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He is a licensed UAE lawyer and a Certified Board Secretary, fluent in Arabic, English, and French.

In his previous roles, Ahmed gained extensive experience in negotiating, drafting, and implementing a variety of complex, multi-party agreements, including joint ventures, acquisitions, licensing, and floating charge documentation. This legal expertise supports his ongoing responsibilities overseeing both local and international litigation and arbitration disputes.

As the Secretary of ALEC's Board of Directors, Ahmed ensures compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements, implements Board decisions with integrity, and maintains corporate records. He provides legal, financial, and strategic advice during and outside of Board meetings, keeping the leadership team informed on governance matters. His responsibilities include facilitating board meetings, managing resolutions, and overseeing compliance updates.

Ahmed plays a key role in maintaining the company's integrity by managing conflicts of interest and related transactions. With a versatile skill set, he seamlessly integrates legal expertise with corporate governance, making a substantial contribution to ALEC's success.



**AHMED MOHAMED KARAM**

Board Secretary - Legal  
ALEC

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022

Waleed Altamimi is an Emirati graduate of Saint Joseph University with a Bachelor's degree in Law, registered lawyer with the UAE Ministry of Justice, and a Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah- The Institute for Governance.

Waleed has over 9 years of professional experience in the legal and management fields.



## **WALEED ALTAMIMI**

Legal Services Manager  
Legal Department  
Jumeirah Group

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **SONG RUI**

Corporate Governance, Board  
Affairs Manager  
Port Qasim Energy Holding

Song Rui currently holds the position of Corporate Governance, Board Affairs Manager of Port Qasim Energy Holding at DIFC, as well as the Deputy Director of Port Qasim Electric Power Company in Pakistan, a supercritical coal-fired power plant invested under CPEC framework.

Song Rui is experienced in the international green-field investment in energy sector, including project development, financing, operation and risk management. Specialized in market analysis and production planning, budget control and contract management.

Song Rui holds Bachelor in Electrical Engineering, graduated from Northeast Electric Power University in China. He is a result-oriented, dedicated professional with five years' experience in energy sector, especially professional in the field of energy policy in Pakistan. He was awarded as Excellent Employee of PowerChina Resources Ltd. in 2021, and continues to work on corporate governance, power project investment, and operation management.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **ELIZABETH DONAGHY**

VP of Internal Operations  
Sarwa

Elizabeth Donaghy has over 18 years of experience in senior institutional stakeholder & investor engagement, international capital raising, strategic marketing and business operational management.

Ms. Donaghy works with leading clients to develop and execute investor & stakeholder engagement strategies, effective operating practices and corporate governance to international standards. Currently the Vice President and Head of Internal Operations at Sarwa, the United Arab Emirates' no. 1 personal finance and investment app, Ms. Donaghy leads c-suite's enterprise administration as well as overall governance, stakeholder & investor relations engagement. Her role includes oversight and direct reporting from the majority of functions including finance, compliance, people & culture, and information technology. Prior to joining Sarwa in 2020, Ms. Donaghy was the Vice President and Head of Marketing at Greenstone Equity Partners, the Middle East regions largest and most deeply-connected private fund placement firm, and was responsible for leading demand creation and marketing engagement strategies. Prior to this, Ms. Donaghy established and managed the investor relations function and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and integrity management activities of Gulf Capital's private debt platform. Ms. Donaghy previously held positions at Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (Government of Dubai), and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Additionally, Ms. Donaghy is an impact angel investor focused on women led entrepreneurship and fintech in the Middle East and supports environmental & sustainability awareness projects globally.

Ms. Donaghy holds a Bachelor of Business and Commerce (BBCM) in International Business (Distinction) from the University of Southern Queensland, Australia, is a Certified Investor Relations Officer with the Middle East Investor Relations Association (MEIRA) & United Kingdom IR Society , and holds the Board Secretary Certification with Hawkamah & the Dubai Financial Markets (DFM), United Arab Emirates.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



**ABEER HILWENJI**

Board of Directors Secretary  
RAK Insurance

Abeer has over 7 years of governance experience in the Insurance Industry. She is the Board Secretary and heads the investor Relations function at Ras Al Khaimah National Insurance Company PSC. Abeer communicates effectively and has instituted a strong relationship of trust with board members, members of the executive management and the shareholders. Her previous paralegal experience has reinforced her practical knowledge in the field of law, corporate governance, board affairs, and regulatory compliance. In the changing regulatory environment, she has implemented good practices to advance her organization in the area of board effectiveness, board meetings optimization, and disclosures.

Abeer is committed to a long-term learning journey and aspires to obtain a degree in law.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



### **RONG HONGCHENG**

Board Secretary

Port Qasim Energy Holding

Rong Hongcheng currently serves as Board Secretary and Assistant of General Manager of Port Qasim Energy Holding at DIFC and Port Qasim Power Co. at Pakistan, a joint venture of POWERCHINA and a Qatari investor. Mr. Rong is also the practicing lawyer with double certificates in Chinese Mainland and US New York state.

With over 8 years professional experience of overseas investment in power area, Mr. Rong has worked for Wild Cattle Hill Wind Farm Project in Australia, KYAUK PHYU Gas Project in Myanmar and several coal-fired power projects in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mongolia and Kenya.

Mr. Rong holds a Master of Law degree from University of Southern California of US, and also published several professional articles in national well-known journals.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



### **BASMA HILLAWY**

Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah – The  
Institute for Governance  
Board Secretary & Corporate Governance  
Manager  
Emirates NBD Group P.J.S.C

Basma Hillawy is a Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah Institute for Governance with over 17 years of experience in corporate governance, board secretariat, and legal administration. Holding a bachelor's degree, Basma has built a strong career in corporate governance, serving in key roles at major financial institutions.

Currently, as Board Secretary and Corporate Governance Manager at Emirates NBD Group, Basma oversees board and committee operations, regulatory compliance, and governance frameworks across local and international subsidiaries. Key achievements include implementing Nasdaq Boardvantage, leading board evaluations for directors and senior management, and driving governance policy development.

An experienced and highly motivated governance professional, Basma specializes in board administration, subsidiary governance, regulatory compliance, and corporate governance best practices. A skilled communicator and dynamic multi-tasker, she has a proven track record in enhancing board effectiveness, strengthening governance structures, and ensuring regulatory adherence.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **ROLA AL KURDI**

Senior Specialist - Corporate  
Governance & Company  
Secretariat  
Mashreq Bank PJSC

Rola is an Affiliated Member in the Chartered Governance Institute of UK and Ireland with an Advanced Certificate in the Corporate Governance and over 13 years of progressive experience focused in the Corporate Governance and Company Secretariat of major listed companies and banks in the UAE.

Prior to joining Mashreqbank PJSC, Rola has worked with Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank in the Board Secretariat function for the Bank and its subsidiaries for 12 years.

Rola holds a Bachelor's Degree with Honors in Finance and Management from Abu Dhabi University and is currently pursuing her qualifying program for Chartered Secretary from the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



### **FAWAZ AL-ENEZI**

Board Secretary

Health Assurance Hospitals

Company – Dhaman

Prior to joining HAHC- Dhaman, Fawaz has served as Deputy Board Secretary and Corporate Governance Manager at Burgan Bank Group - Kuwait. He has over 15 years in various sectors such as Maritime, Retail, and Banking across various areas including Board Affairs, Governance, Compliance, Process Improvement, and the establishment and maintenance of Corporate Policies and procedures.

Fawaz holds a bachelor's degree in English Translation from Al-Zaytoonah University and an MBA from Maastricht School of Management, He is a Certified Corporate Governance Officer – London School of Business and Finance (LSBF). He also holds various professional certificates in the fields of Corporate Governance and Compliance by international Compliance Association (ICA).

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **TARUN DALAL**

Managing Partner  
Tesseract Project Management  
Services LLC

Tarun is a Law Graduate, Company Secretary, Cost and Management Accountant and an MBA (Finance) with over 25 years of senior management experience in corporate advisory, corporate legal and secretarial affairs, risk assessment, general legal compliance, and financial documentation in large and cross-cultural organizations based in Dubai and India.

Apart from handling legal, Tarun has been Board, Audit and Investment Committee Secretary and a member of cross functional teams involved in transactions related to acquisition and divestment, documentation for fund raising through private placement, financial institutions, investor relations, and setting up a broad framework for corporate governance for major part of his professional career.

Tarun's primary area of expertise is corporate and transactional matters involving private equity transactions (acquisitions and disposals), joint ventures, sale of business, restructuring and reorganizations, risk assessment with considerable and in-depth experience in the UAE and India in documentation for transactions of various sizes and scope in varied sectors of construction, healthcare, education, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals. He has led his employer group in carrying out litigation as well as advising parties and, where necessary, negotiating settlements on group's behalf.

Tarun is well regarded by his colleagues / peers and superiors for his integrity, pragmatic approach and commercial awareness, and for his exceptional service oriented attitude. He has been a trusted advisor to all his group companies as well as associates. Tarun has been in Dubai since July 2006 and has worked as Manager Legal & Company Secretary with GEMS Education (2006-2008), Corporate Secretary with Maritime Industrial Services LLC (2008), Senior Legal Counsel & Company Secretary with Masharie LLC - Dubai Investments PJSC (2008-2020) and Managing Partner - Corporate Advisory with Tesseract Project Management Services LLC (2021 onwards).

Prior to coming to Dubai - UAE in 2006, Tarun was Deputy Company Secretary for Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd (2001-2006) and Company Secretary for Eicher Motors Ltd (1996-2001).

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



**RANA BAIDAS**

Well-seasoned, results-oriented, and proficient executive, with over 22 years of experience spanning corporate governance, project management and financial services.

A highly competent multitasker and meticulous professional, Rana has a proven track record of successful corporate governance skills demonstrated during her tenor as the Group Corporate Secretary for SHUAA Capital, a UAE public listed company for 8 years. Prior to that, she worked as a Project Manager for SHUAA managing, realizing deliverables, and meeting objectives for several projects related to acquisition and set-up of subsidiaries in various jurisdictions across the MENA region. Rana holds a Masters in Business Administration, from the American University of Beirut.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022

Sahar Shoaib is a Certified Board Secretary, holding a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the American college of Dubai. She has 14 years of experience in Islamic Banking & Finance. She has worked with different departments within the organization, which has enhanced her ability to understand the Islamic financing business thoroughly. She is currently serving as a Secretary to the Board at Mawarid Finance P.J.S.C, providing remarkable contributions to tasks related to the Board of Directors and the Executives. She has participated in various in-house trainings & workshops on Compliance, Credit Management and Shariah Audit.

### **SAHAR SHOAI B**

Board Secretary  
Mawarid Finance PJSC

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



### **BAYAN ALSHAHWAN**

Legal Affairs Mana  
Saudi Esports Feder

Bayan is a lawyer with over 12 years of experience, her expertise extends to the fields of law, governance, board affairs, and regulatory compliance with extensive knowledge relating the laws and regulations of the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Investment, Capital Market Authority, and Tadawul in addition to international best practices.

She gained her past experiences while working at various reputed entities in different sectors; She has Ability to ensure that the entity complies and operates in accordance with its statutory, legal provisions, and corporate governance. Moreover, her proven skills to function and to manage multiple tasks.

She is creative and innovative thinker, Self-motivated with excelling in a fast-paced environment; communicate effectively at all levels; manage competing priorities; and adapt readily to new challenges.

She is a professional communicator with the executive management & board members level. Highly efficient and methodical with great attention to details and skills of following up.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2022

Age 35 years, experience in leadership and management, where she worked as a college dean from the age of 27 years for a period of 6 years and a supervisor in educational supervision in the Ministry of Education and now a director in companies and Secretary of the Board of Directors



**ENAAM FAHAD ALQUBAISI**

Board Office

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **DENISE CHAMOUN – CG AFFILIATED**

Board Secretary at Alpha Dhabi  
Holding PJSC

Denise currently holds the position of Board Secretary at Alpha Dhabi Holding PJSC, she earned the 'Advanced Corporate Governance Certificate' from the Governance Institute – UK and is currently pursuing her qualifying program in the same institute to become a Chartered Secretary/Governance Professional.

Experienced and self – motivated professional with 15+ years of experience in the corporate world and notably in the Corporate Governance and Board secretariat fields for the last 5 years. Highly competent communicator skilled in multitasking and effectively communicating with others. Bringing forth a proven track record of successful Corporate Governance skills in managing entities and their subsidiaries.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



**JAD DEAIBES**

Board Secretary  
Response Plus Medical

Over 9 years of experience in legal counselling, from corporate governance to commercial litigation. Mr. Deaibes advised major companies including financial institutes, investment funds, aviation and telecommunications operators. He dealt with cases relating to contractual disputes and litigation, internal corporate investigations, financial restructuring, international arbitration and various other forms of business transactions, including forensic analysis of financial data. Our Secretary of the Board holds a bachelor's degree in law and has been a registered lawyer since 2014 in his native country.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022

Haitham holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Cairo University and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), USA.

Prior to joining Al Ramz, Haitham has served as Audit Principal for Abu Dhabi Accountability Authority (ADAA). He has led assurance and advisory engagements of multiple financial services entities and Sovereign Wealth Funds. Haitham also served as the Head of Investment Industry Sector at ADAA with proven track record of providing advisory and assurance services to several Financial Institutions. Prior to ADAA, Haitham was an Experienced Auditor at KPMG Egypt.

## **HAITHAM EL HARIRI**

Group Head of Internal Audit &  
Acting Board Secretary  
Al Ramz Corporation P.J.S.C.



# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022

A diligent Administrative and Information Technology Coordinator with more than 5 years of experience at AlAzem, AlSudairy, AlShaikh and Partners Co. - Member of Crowe Global - one of the ten largest professional services networks in the world.

Yackoob is a team leader and renowned problem-solver, his work is quite involved with interacting with Business Owners, Directors and Departments Heads.

He has worked on many projects regarding corporate and business initiation. He also supervised and organized many professional seminars and conferences. Yackoob also develops procedures, implements and evaluates them with team members to improve efficiency.

## **YACKOOB YASEEN TIRSEN**

Administrative and Information  
Technology Coordinator

AlAzem, AlSudairy, AlShaikh and Partners  
Co. - Member of Crowe Global

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



### **AHMED SAIF AL AAMRI**

Board Office

Sohar International Bank, Sultanate of  
Oman

A dedicated certified Board Secretary with years of experience in corporate governance and board administrative in banking and financial industry. Ahmed is a detail-oriented, meticulous professional with a proven track record.

He has fulfilled tasks related to Board Office management, communication in both English and Arabic, administration and translation. Provides exceptional contributions to tasks related to the Board of Directors and sub-communities' meetings, preparing letters and reports that are relevant to Board Office, and dealing with correspondence, complaints and queries relevant to the Board Office.

Ahmed holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Translation from Sultan Qaboos University (Oman), and has involved in multiple corporate governance, office management and administration trainings and courses.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **YAZAN ALKAYALI**

Chief People & Culture Officer and  
Company Secretary  
Zand Bank

Yazan is a Certified Human Resources Professional, Certified HR Auditor, and Certified Strategic Business Planner with 18 years of diverse experience.

At present, he's the Chief People & Culture Officer at Zand, where he translates visions and formulates them into HR strategies that improve performance, growth, organizational development, and corporate culture. Also, he was appointed as the Company Secretary.

His experience involves various industries such as banking, financial services, retail, media, engineering, investment, and hospitality. Moreover, he has extensive involvement in long-range strategic planning that resulted in innovative changes and promoted organizational efficiency, cost-effectiveness, systems & tools, and synergetic work environments.

He's passionate and well-versed in areas of recruitment & selection, people development, succession planning, project management, compensation & benefits, performance management, training & development, Labor Laws, and organizational development.

Yazan holds a degree in Organizational Leadership & Supervision from Purdue University and Business Management from Indiana State University, USA.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



### **PAULINE EMAURE**

Operation Director & Company Secretary at  
Embassy Capital Limited  
Company Secretary at the Alfardan's Group

Pauline is the Operations Director at Embassy Capital Limited, a multi-family asset management office located in the Dubai International Financial Center. With her experience in the financial sector, she plays a pivotal role in optimizing operations and ensuring compliance with the DFSA.

In addition to her role at Embassy Capital, where she also serves as Company Secretary, Pauline is the Company Secretary for the Alfardan Group, a pioneering family recognized for driving growth across a diverse portfolio in Dubai's real estate, investment, and hospitality sectors. Under her stewardship, the Group maintains its commitment to excellence, firmly rooted in family values that guide its continued success.

Pauline's leadership and dedication to fostering strong relationships with the shareholders make her an invaluable asset to both organizations, as she navigates the complexities of operation management while upholding the highest standards of governance and efficiency.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



## **AWATEF AL HALYAN**

Senior Specialist of Strategy and Corporate  
Excellence  
Dubai Customs

Awatef Al Halyan holds Executive Master of Public Administration, beside other academic and professional certifications, such as Bachelor in New media, Diploma in Business Administration, CIPD, Expert Corporate Excellence, and Certified EFQM Assessor.

She is an expert in Dubai Customs for more than 15 years, such as DG Office Manager, senior Specialist of Strategy and Corporate Excellence, Senior Specialist of Employee Relations Human Resource Management; Senior Specialist Strategic Project Management... etc.

She has several committees' memberships such as the Corporate Leadership Teams Rapporteur, the Steering Committee for the Department of Dubai's Categories and Requirements for Excellence in Government Performance member and the PCFC Board Coordinator... etc.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2022



**RISWANA GASWAN**

Head of Legal & Company Secretary  
Imdaad Group

A qualified lawyer enrolled in Bar Council with 14 years of legal experience in Dubai. Riswana is well versed in commercial and corporate contracts. She has demonstrated skill and knowledge in multiple mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, debt listings, and structural organizations. She has extensive experience in commercial and corporate transactions. Before joining Imdaad, she worked in various law firms as a legal consultant.

She is well versed in strategic legal advice, corporate governance, managing litigations, and commercial disputes. She is certified in Governance, Risk Management and Compliance, Commercial laws in UAE, and Mergers and Acquisitions

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



### **MANAR IBRAHIM**

Board Secretary & Legal Manager

Manar Ibrahim is the Board Secretary for Union Properties PJSC, former Assistant Board Secretary for Drake and Scull PJSC and is based in Dubai. Manar qualified as a Certified Board Secretary with Hawkamah in 2021 and has more than 10 years of practice in Legal administration. She specialises in Board Secretarial Services, Corporate Governance and Strategic management with in-depth knowledge of Regulatory affairs She has worked for Private and Public listed companies in the UAE.

Currently holding the position of Board Secretary and Legal Manager at United Motors and Heavy Equipment CO. LLC. Her passion lies in guiding boards towards sustained organisation through effective governance practices by developing effective governance frameworks Ms. Manager holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Social Sciences dept. from the Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2021



### **SERREEN MAKAHLEH**

Board Secretary and Corporate Affairs  
United Arab Bank

SereenMakahleh is currently heading the Board Secretary and Corporate Affairs at United Arab Bank , She commenced her career at du “Telecommunication” in 2006 with 6 years of experience in multiple positions in esteemed and organizations as Mubadala, and Dubai Design District , before joining UAB in 2016 Sereen is a certified board secretary by Hawkamah Corporate Governance Institute and holds an executive certification in corporate governance from INSEAD Business School.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



## **YASSER AL DABACH**

Board Secretary  
Ghobash Trading & Investments

Yasser is a Hawkamah/DFM Certified Board Secretary who attained the certification with excellence. He has 16 years of corporate governance related experience in various ADX public listed companies and family business groups.

He has been involved in numerous industries including telecommunication, real estate, investments, healthcare, IT, energy, entertainment, retail and many more B2B and B2C businesses.

He currently serves as a Board Secretary at a reputable family-owned conglomerate in Dubai. Previously, he also served as a Company Secretary at other renowned and family businesses in Dubai and Sharjah.

In 2005, he joined a real estate company listed at ADX as a Board Secretary and Senior Manager of Shareholders' Affairs. Previously, he also served as a Public Relation Officer, Translator and Shareholders' Affairs at Etisalat for 6 years.

He is a strong advocate of pushing for Corporate Governance, and he extremely believes that Corporate Governance is not merely "tick box" process, rather it is a non-stop journey which requires strict discipline and high integrity that need to be embraced and sponsored by role model boards.

Yasser is a graduate of Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Department of English Language and Literature from University of Aleppo, Syria.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



Muna Mohamed Alqattan earned her BSc degree in Account and Finance from Ahlia University of Bahrain. She started her career in the banking sector with Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) 2016.

In 2016 Muna started assist in the Company Secretary role, like in all the administrative tasks related to the Board and its Sub-Committees, drafting minutes of meetings and improve corporate governance etc. Now she is able to be excellent successor for the Board Secretary Role.

### **MUNA MOHAMED ALQATTAN**

Assistant of the Secretary of the Board  
of Directors  
Bahrain Islamic Bank

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



### **MAI ALBAROUDI**

Assistant to Public Relations, Corporate  
Communication, and Protocol Director  
Qatar Investment Authority - CEO Office

Mai Al Baroudi is an experienced professional with a strong background in automotive, insurance, and medical device manufacturing. She currently supports the CEO Office of Qatar Investment Authority, focusing on governance, investor relations, and corporate affairs. With expertise in office administration, Board governance, and statutory compliance, Mai excels in managing tasks related to corporate governance, HR oversight, and investor relations.

Mai is pursuing the Chartered Board Secretary qualification from the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland. Her knowledge of Commercial Companies Law and public company regulations, along with her strategic and innovative approach, makes her a highly effective communicator across all levels of management and Board members. Known for her attention to detail and ability to manage multiple priorities, she is dedicated to supporting her organization's goals with professionalism and efficiency.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021

With 10 years' experience in financial market operations and Islamic Banking including investors relationship, board secretary affairs, dividend distribution, companies' AGMs and voting services, IPO support, share registrar services and customer service. Has master in law from Cairo university.



## **MOHAMED SHAABAN**

Senior Executive – Corporate Solutions  
/Financial Services  
Dubai Financial Market - DFM

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021

Zeina has over 15 years of experience in advising, consulting, training and taking on different roles in corporate governance across a number of sectors and industries including the financial and banking sector and private equity. She is an HBS Alumna and holds an MBA from the American University of Beirut.



**ZEINA SAMMAKIEH**

Company Secretary  
RAKBANK

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021

Mohammad AlSuwaidi has been selected as part of His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammad Al Maktoum's legal scholarship programme , he graduated from the United Kingdom with a Bachelor's in Law (LLB) with Honors.

In addition, he is working as a License Brokerage Analyst / Financial Analyst in the Capital Markets function at the Securities and Commodities Authority , and previously with Dubai courts as a Judicial Officer / Case Manager at the Commercial Courts of First Instance. His experience is gained in regulatory compliance, corporate governance, capital market transactions, legal and financial affairs, corporate structure and acting as custodian of statutory records, policies and procedures and monitoring the implementation thereof in an organization .Furthermore, he majored in International Commercial Law, Public International Law, and Employment Law including a wide area of subjects of a variety of laws. He is also an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators since he is a professional enthusiast in the legal field focusing on Arbitration, Mediation, and Alternative Dispute Resolution.



### **MOHAMMAD ALSUWAIDI**

License Brokerage Analyst – Capital  
Markets Intermediaries  
Securities and Commodities Authority

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



### **MOHAMMAD AL-BAZAIEH**

Corporate / Board Secretary  
Eshraq Investments PJSC

Mohammad is a Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah the Institute of Corporate Governance- Dubai Financial Market (DFM) and over 16 years of relevant experience in the Corporate Governance and Board Secretary of publicly listed organizations (PJSC and PSC.) regulated by SCA and the Central Bank of the UAE.

In addition to extensive expertise in the field of protocol and dealing with very important personalities

Experienced Board Secretary dedicated to achieving excellence in corporate governance, safeguarding stakeholder interests, and advancing the greater public good.

With a proven track record of ensuring compliance and ethical business practices, I am committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and transparency.

Passionate about leveraging my expertise to drive organizational success and contribute positively to the Company.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



## **MANAL YAQOUB**

Personal Assistance for the Chairman  
and legal to the Chief Legal and Governance  
Officer  
Commercial Bank of Dubai

Manal Hold a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Baghdad University, working in CBD for 15 years, started as a Secretary in the Credit department in 2005, she moved up the career ladder from Secretary to a Personal Assistance to the General Manager Credit and Risk.

Until in 2018, she started to work as PA to the Chairman and the CLGO starting to assist in the Company Secretary Role, and now she is a Certified Board Secretary.

She is an outstanding individual with team-working abilities, Able to adapt and work effectively in different environments with Excellent communication skills, her positive and outgoing personality enables her to interact successfully, she is working well under pressure and stress, and enjoy challenges and demonstrated skill in high level, Supporting end users.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



**NEHA SHAH**

Assistant Company Secretary  
Emirates Integrated Telecommunications  
Company PJSC (du)

Neha is a fellow member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India and has more than 15 years' experience in the field of Corporate Governance, Company Secretarial, Board and Shareholder relations.

Prior to joining Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company PJSC in 2019, she has worked with several leading companies and international law firms in the UAE like Meraas Holding, Dubai Properties Group, Hashoo Group, Clyde & Co LLP and Afridi & Angell. Before arriving to the UAE in 2006, she was working with P.K.Pandya & Co in Mumbai, India where she had also performed mandatory training to qualify as a company secretary.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree (passed in first class) from the University of Mumbai and had secured 6th rank at India level in the final year company secretary exams conducted by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2021



### **HAMISH JOOSTE**

Chief Legal Counsel and Company  
Secretary

National Central Cooling Company PJSC  
(Tabreed)

Hamish is the Chief Legal Counsel and Company Secretary at Tabreed (National Central Cooling Company PJSC), listed on the Dubai Financial Market. Hamish is a lawyer with over 20 years of post-qualification experience in corporate law, M&A, banking and utilities. Hamish has practiced law in four countries across three different continents at large international law firms.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



**DUAA BADREG**

Executive Manager – Performance &  
Reporting  
ACWA Power

Duaa is a seasoned executive with over a decade of expertise in corporate governance, performance management, and strategic reporting within the energy sector, across Canada and Saudi Arabia. At ACWA Power, she leads initiatives to enhance operational efficiency and align performance with organizational goals across global energy projects.

As a Certified Board Secretary, Duaa has guided governance frameworks and streamlined board operations for multiple companies. Her expertise spans financial modeling, valuation, and fostering board communication. She has honed her leadership capabilities through programs at INSEAD and Hult/EF Corporate Education, making her a distinguished leader in energy governance and corporate strategy.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



**MOHAMMAD HATIM  
ABEDALRAHMAN**

Senior VP – Legal & Company Secretary  
Aldar Properties PJSC.

Mohammad Hatim Abedalrahman is a highly accomplished legal professional with extensive expertise in corporate governance, compliance, legal consultancy, and the integration of advanced technologies into legal processes. He currently serves as the Senior Vice President, Legal & Company Secretary at Aldar Properties PJSC in Abu Dhabi, where he has been an integral part of the organization since 2011. Mohammad is also a certified Company Secretary from Hawkamah Institute in Dubai and has been appointed as the Compliance Officer by Aldar's Board of Directors.

In his role, Mohammad has demonstrated exceptional proficiency in managing and implementing corporate governance frameworks, ensuring compliance with the regulations of the Emirates Securities and Commodities Authority (ESCA) and the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX). He is adept at leveraging artificial intelligence and cutting-edge legal technology tools to streamline legal research, automate compliance reporting, and enhance document review processes. These tools include AI-powered contract analysis platforms (e.g., DocuSign Insight or Kira Systems) and compliance management solutions tailored to UAE regulatory requirements.

Key achievements include overseeing litigation and arbitration cases using predictive analytics tools to assess case outcomes, employing AI-driven translation software to ensure accuracy in bilingual legal documentation, and utilizing workflow automation platforms to manage governance calendars and board documentation seamlessly. Mohammad has been instrumental in leading digital transformation initiatives within his department, promoting the adoption of innovative solutions such as AI-based contract lifecycle management and e-discovery systems.

Before joining Aldar Properties, Mohammad served as a Legal & Leasing Consultant at Al Bena Real Estate Investment (PJSC) from 2008 to 2011. In this role, he handled legal coordination, contract review, ministry-related registrations, and leasing operations, while employing emerging technologies to enhance operational efficiency and reduce turnaround times.

Mohammad holds a Master's degree in Sharia and Islamic Law from Sharjah University (2007) and a Bachelor's degree in Law and Sharia from UAE University (2004), both with a perfect GPA of 4.0 and honor distinctions. He is fluent in Arabic and English and skilled in legal translation, utilizing AI-powered tools to deliver precise and expedited translations of contracts, legal documents, and corporate materials.

Known for his strong interpersonal, organizational, and technical skills, Mohammad excels in integrating traditional legal expertise with modern technology-driven approaches. His ability to adapt to rapidly evolving tools such as generative AI for drafting and summarizing legal documents, blockchain for secure contract management, and cloud-based platforms for real-time collaboration ensures his contributions remain future-focused and impactful.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



### **SAMY JARRAR**

Compliance Manager  
Nesma Holding Company Ltd.

Samy is a highly knowledgeable, results-driven governance and compliance subject matter expert with 15+ years of rich experience and proven history of credible leadership within corporate and financial organizations. Known for fostering a regulatory risk-aware culture, evaluating compliance issues and subsequently taking actions to enhance operational performance, measure effectiveness and mitigating risk.

Samy Joined the Nesma Group, a leading Saudi private company, 7 years ago as a Risk & Compliance Professional, moved on upward career trajectories, to merit promotions to the position of Group Compliance Manager, Ethics Officer and Company Certified Board Secretary.

Prior to joining Nesma Family, Samy was a Regulatory & AML/CFT Expert in Vakufska Bank Sarajevo/Bosnia and Herzegovina; he also served as the Deputy Head of Compliance where he was responsible for the implementation, integrity and on-going testing of the bank's compliance program. Samy received a Bachelor of Criminal Justice Science, Criminology and Security studies - and a Master of Transnational Law & Compliance from University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY

## YEAR 2021

Basel is an experienced and qualified business professional with over twenty-three years of practical experience in Finance across different sectors and industries within the region. Holds MBA in General and Strategic Management in addition to different professional qualifications including CMA, CFM, CVA, CSM, and CFC.



**BASEL ABU ALI**

Chief Financial Officer

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2021



**SEAN MAGEE**

General Legal Counsel – Legal  
National Central Cooling Company PJSC -  
Tabreed

Sean Magee is General Legal Counsel at Tabreed since 2020 and has served as Board Secretary since 2022 advising on Tabreed's corporate governance obligations as a listed entity on Dubai Financial Market (DFM).

Sean has advised on numerous development projects and investment deals and has deep experience advising on a range of corporate and commercial matters.

Prior to joining Tabreed Sean was Senior Legal Counsel at twofour54 and as a private practice lawyer, advised clients while working at Eversheds (London), Paul Hastings (London) and Clyde & Co (Abu Dhabi).

Outside of work Sean is on the Board of Governors at British School Al Khubairat (Abu Dhabi).

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2020



## **ABDULRAHMAN BASYOUNI**

Corporate Governance, Board Affairs,  
and Legal Affairs Manager  
Savola Group

Abdulrahman currently holds the position of Corporate Governance, Board Affairs, and Legal Affairs Manager at Savola Group (publicly listed - KSA) as well as the Board Secretary of AlKabeer Holding (UAE) and Savola World (non-profit organization - KSA). His expertise extends to the fields of law, governance, board affairs, and regulatory compliance with extensive knowledge relating the laws and regulations of the Ministry of Commerce and Investment, Capital Market Authority, and Tadawul in addition to international best practices. The skills that he is equipped with include developing, maintaining, and effectively establishing functions related to his areas of expertise.

He also participated and led a few projects that were recognized in the region such as participating in the governance function in an entity that was awarded 2nd place in the Annual Corporate Governance Award by Alfaisal University. In addition, an annual report project was successfully led and was recognized amongst the top 10 annual reports in the middle east in both digital and printed categories by MEIRA.

Moreover, he holds a degree in Commercial Law (L.L.B.) from the University of Westminster in London, UK. As well as being a Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah and Dubai Financial Market and is a Certified Enterprise Risk Manager by the International Academy of Business and Financial Management. he also attended several professional courses.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2020



### **HALA AL SAFADI**

VP – Company Secretary and Head of  
Investor Relations  
Commercial Bank International

Hala has more than 12 years of experience in Corporate Governance and Corporate Secretariat within the banking industry. She commenced her career at Emirates NBD in 2011, where she assumed multiple positions in the Legal and Corporate Secretariat departments before joining CBI in 2019.”

She currently represent CBI at the Corporate Governance committee of the United Banks Federation (UBF).

Hala is a certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah Corporate Governance Institute and holds an executive certification in Corporate Governance from INSEAD Business School. She holds a BA with honors in English Language and Translation from Petra University, Amman.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2020

Jean Fitzgerald is a Canadian lawyer with over 30 years experience and has been working in the UAE for 20 years. She has acted as the company secretary for both private and public companies and has headed up the governance and compliance functions for major companies in the UAE.



**JEAN FITZGERALD**

VP Legal GRC  
Binghatti

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019



## **HAMAD MOHAMMED SHARAF**

Deputy General Manager  
Noor Takaful Family PJSC

A highly accomplished, dedicated, and committed professional with strong tenure, with a proven history of credible leadership and guidance within his career. During the acquisition of Noor Takaful General PJSC and Noor Takaful Family PJSC by Dar Al Takaful PJSC. Hamad was a crucial member of a steering committee that supported the structuring of acquisition loans, collaborating with top consultancy firms to form the organization, structure, and leaderships assessments, making significant contributions to his leadership and operational capabilities through this exposure.

Today, Hamad can be found holding multiple leadership roles as a Certified Company Board Secretary in Dar Al Takaful PJSC, Deputy General Manager for Noor Takaful Family PJSC, and Head of Corporate Sales. Known for his expertise in medical, property, and motor insurance. Hamad is a bold driving force with relentless determination which has allowed his career to evolve and progress over the last nine years. He continued to gain experience and have successes with different business divisions in corporate sales, compliance, key account management, business development and more recently Noor Takaful Family PJSC, operational and commercial excellence.

Hamad is a constant advocate for excellence and is focused on achieving exceptional results in a highly competitive environment that demands continuous innovation, technological advances, good governance, and forward-thinking approaches that can successfully build high-performing teams.

Outside of his current venture, he is actively involved in multiple leadership roles as the Vice Chairman of Al Khaleej Sources, the Chairman & Co-founder of NooraShawqi Jewelry, the CEO of DriWay Middle East, and a Member of the Board in Waterwa. He is a conscious and commercially minded professional aiming to develop and lead successful ventures.

An inspiring young Emirati successfully reaching the summit of Kilimanjaro, and proudly displaying the UAE and Expo2020 flags on the summit.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019



## **ELNOUR ALI SAAD**

Executive Director, Legal &  
Corporate Governance and  
Board Secretary  
Savola Group

Elnour joined the Savola Group, a leading listed Saudi company in MENA Region, more than 15 years ago, he has held a number of positions in Savola Group including: Executive Director of Corporate Governance , Compliance and Legal Affairs, Director of CG and Board Affairs for Savola and its subsidiaries including (Foods and Retail Sectors), Senior Manager of Corporates, Board Affairs and Communication.

Elnour has a Master of Laws (LLM) from University of Cumbria, UK, and Bachelor's Degree and MBA, Sudan University of Science and Technology - Khartoum. As well as being a Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah and a Certified trainer by Washington University.

He has extensive experience in corporate governance, compliance, legal, board of directors' and committee's affairs, investor relations and shareholders' matters and corporate communication. He led Savola CG & compliance function since the company adopted CG leading practices in 2003.

He had various training courses & workshops in leadership, setting KPIs, negotiations skills, projects management, Corporate governance , legal and Risks area and Company Secretary role facilitated by many institutes such as Hawkamah institute for CG, IIR Middle East in Dubai, and Institute of Directors in Egypt. He attended many CMA and Tadawul workshops and training courses related to CMA regulations, Companies law, stock markets and listing rules and regulations and their enforcement in Saudi Arabia.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019



## **NAZISH ESMAIL**

Corporate Secretary  
SHUAA Capital PSC

Nazish Esmail has over 15 years' legal and corporate secretarial and administrative experience in the financial services industry in the UAE.

She currently acts as the Corporate Secretary of SHUAA Capital psc, a publicly listed financial organisation in Dubai., where she has been employed for the last 13 years.

Prior to joining SHUAA, she held positions at Dubai Bank pjsc and Gulf News (Al Nisr Publishing). Before moving to the UAE, she was employed at the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), and also has experience in the educational sector in the UK. Nazish has also lived, studied and worked in other countries i.e. France, South Africa and Syria.

Nazish holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Middle Eastern, Arabic & South Asian studies from the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) in London, United Kingdom. More recently she has completed the Certified Board Secretarial Diploma from the Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance (in conjunction with the Dubai Financial Market) in the UAE.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019



**XIAO XIN**

Chief Legal Officer  
Port Qasim Energy Holding

Xiao Xin serves as Dy. General Manager & Chief Legal Officer of Port Qasim Energy Holding at DIFC and Port Qasim Power Co. at Pakistan, a joint venture of POWERCHINA and a Qatari investor. Previously he served as the Company Secretary from 2016 to 2020.

Xiao Xin is experienced in the full circle of greenfield investment in energy sector, including project development, financing, construction, operation and risk management. He is specialized in market analysis and production planning, budget control and contract management. He has published a series of academic writing on a range of journals.

Xiao Xin graduated from Beijing Jiaotong University in China with a bachelor degree and a master degree. He received an award of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons of POWERCHINA Group in 2019. He loves traveling, reading and has hobby of jogging when there is time.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019



### **AHMED HUSSEIN ZEKRY**

Head of Legal  
Banque Misr

Ahmed is a legal expert with over 20 years of experience in Corporate Law, Litigation, Negotiations, Consumer Rights, Legal Research, Labor Law, and Real Estate. As the Head of Legal at Banque Misr, Ahmed oversees the bank's legal framework, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and providing strategic counsel to safeguard the institution's interests.

Ahmed's career spans several prestigious institutions. Before joining Banque Misr, he served as Head of Legal & Compliance and Board Secretary at Emirates Development Bank (EDB), where he played a pivotal role in regulatory compliance and legal structuring. He also held Legal Manager positions at Mashreq Bank PSC (UAE), Ahli Bank QSC (Qatar), and Commercial International Bank (Egypt), where he led legal teams in resolving multifaceted issues and ensuring adherence to local and international laws.

Among his notable achievements, Ahmed contributed to groundbreaking projects, including the issuance of the first federal bonds in the UAE and the credit rating process for the first federal institution in the region. His ability to navigate complex regulatory landscapes and provide innovative legal solutions has distinguished him as a leader in his field.

Ahmed holds an LLB from Cairo University and a Master's degree in International Business Law from the University of Liverpool, UK. With a commitment to excellence and a deep understanding of legal intricacies, Ahmed continues to be a key player in the legal and compliance sectors.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019

Ibrahim retired Captain from Dubai Police, worked in many years sections especially in quality and excellence. Had experience more 23 years in the governmental sector. Currently work in Ajman Municipality as a head of section of Quality and Excellence programs, I do work as an auditor for the excellence awards. Am the secretary of the supervisory board of Ajman Municipality.



## **IBRAHIM AL-RIYAMI**

Head of Quality & Excellence  
Programs Section  
Ajman Municipality & Planning  
Department

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2019



### **SAHEM ABDEL HAQ**

Head of Legal & Compliance -  
Board Secretary  
Dubai Insurance Co.

Sahem Abdel Haq is a head of legal & compliance, also he is the company secretary of Dubai insurance Co., have more than 21 years of experience in Legal Fields; about 11 of them in the UAE.

In 2006, he joined Jordan Military Court as a general prosecutor till 2006. Sahem has an experience as a civil law and insurance contracts lecturer at the Hashemite University in Jordan.

Sahem Graduated from Yarmouk University in 1999 Bachelor Degree in Law, and he got the Master Degree in Business Law from Coventry University in England.

He holds membership of listed as Assistance to Counsel – International Criminal Court – Hague -The Netherlands, Member of Jordan Bar Association , Member of International Criminal Court Bar - Hague – Netherlands, Certifies as Board Secretary from HAWKAMAH Institution – Dubai, and Preparing to register as English solicitor via Qualified Lawyer Transfer Scheme.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



### **HELEN AHERN**

Corporate lawyer acting as  
Senior Group  
Corporate and Legal Counsel  
for DP World

Helen Ahern is a corporate lawyer acting as Senior Group Corporate and Legal Counsel for DP World. She spent 10+ years at magic circle firm Clifford Chance both in the UK and Dubai. She has a high level of expertise in public markets facing transactions, having specialised in advising corporate and investment banking clients on a wide range of public corporate issues and having spent time in the execution team of global bank, Morgan Stanley. Helen also specialises in governance and strategic thinking and is valued for her ability to understand complex issues, problem solve and translate legal advice into practical advice. She has led the implementation of a number of high profile projects for DP World, the most recent being bringing the first hybrid AGM to the UAE region and is responsible for delivering DP World's commitments in relation to the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce. In her spare time she has run the London Marathon, wing walked and raced a rickshaw from Shillong to Goa.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



### **GABRIEL KHOURY**

General Counsel  
Shuaa Capital

Gabriel has been part of SHUAA's team since September 2017, where he is working on several transaction and licensing projects for SHUAA in the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Prior to joining SHUAA, Gabriel worked for Standard Chartered Bank in the United Arab Emirates for nine years. During that period, Gabriel advised on a wide range of Transaction Banking and Corporate Finance matters with emphasis on Local and Regional Regulations. He also advised on Trade Finance and Cash Management. Prior to joining Standard Chartered Bank, Gabriel worked for Ashurst LLP in Dubai where he was involved in Mergers and Acquisitions, Investment Funds and Project Finance matters. He also worked in Riyadh for Squire Sanders and Dempsey where he advised on Conventional and Islamic Finance, Capital Market Regulations and handled Initial Public Offerings. Gabriel holds a JD law Degree (Saint Joseph University – Beirut), a Master in International Project Management (ESCP-Europe – Paris) and an LLM (Northwestern University – Chicago). Gabriel is a member of the Beirut Bar Association and has Arabic and French language skills along with numerous certifications related to his profession in Legal and Compliance.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



## **EMAN WAQAS**

Board Secretary  
Emirates Refreshments P.J.S.C

Eman is known as being versatile, Dynamic and Goal-oriented Management Professional equipped with 10+ years of diverse experience in orchestrating successful business turnaround and growth ventures within diversified industry in UAE. Manifest broad experience in directing whole gamut encompassing Secretarial, General Administration, Human Resource, Marketing & Customer Service. Currently working with Emirates Refreshments PJSC as a certified Board secretary"

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



### **HAMAD AL HOSANI**

Group Company Secretary  
Emirates NDB Bank

With more than 12 years professional work experience in the Middle East Region, Hamad is able to draw on his experience working, managing and leading in various organisations, utilising this to become an indispensable member of a fast moving, reward driven industry. Hamad's education started in graduating with a Bachelor of Law at Sharjah University in 2005, then he went on to further continue his studies at the Judicial Institute achieving his UAE Licensed Advocate Lawyer Certification in 2008, and then graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Law at Sharjah University in 2014. Hamad prides himself on his business development and networking skills that have been developed through his years, he held position as Advocacy Lawyer and Legal Counsel as well was Managing Director for a reputable UAE law firm for 7 years, then he took on a role as Legal Counsel at National Bank of Abu Dhabi, covering various legal cases with his wide knowledge and expertise. Following this, he took on the role as Assistant Vice President – Legal Counsel at EmiratesNBD Bank covering many industries including financial, insurance, advising on corporate and commercial matters, litigation, labour law, civil and criminal matters/disputes. Hamad has since excelled in his career very recently by taking a further successful step within EmiratesNBD Bank as Group Company Secretary. Hamad is very cooperative and collaborative, and always looking for the best outcome. Extremely committed to meeting tight deadlines aligned with high quality standards. Hard working, reliable and diligent with a genuine interest in helping his team to meet their beyond their goals and aspirations.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



### **HUSSAM ABU HAMDEH**

Legal Officer  
Ghobash Trading & Investment

Hussam Abu-Hamdeh is an experienced bilingual in-house legal professional with extensive regional and international exposure to sophisticated legal environments, focused on commercial and corporate law as well as corporate governance aspects. He is currently an inhouse legal advisor, a Board Secretary and Investment Committee Secretary at a reputable family-owned conglomerate in Dubai with a portfolio spanning the globe but centered around the GCC. He started his career in private practice in one of Jordan's reputable law firms, focusing on corporate/ commercial fields, he then worked for the United Nations as a legal advisor. Through his 7 years career, he has been engaged in different consultations with senior officials, governments, regulators, international industry associations and professional bodies on corporate compliance, corporate governance and legal aspects. Hussam promotes the use of simple language in the legal and governance fields, he gives particular attention the importance of clear and simple corporate communication and his work was commended by the teams he worked with in terms of bridging the communication gaps both in his legal and governance roles. Hussam holds an LLB degree from the University of Jordan and is a member of Jordan Bar Association, Secretary-General of Jordan's National Center for Environmental Justice (nonprofit organization), Certified Board Secretary by Hawkamah/ Institute of Directors and Dubai Financial Market and has received a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Commitment from Yale Law School.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018

Mr. Omran Al Zamani, Board Secretary and Senior Legal Counsel has held this position since December 2019. He is an Emirati qualified lawyer who joined Dana Gas as Senior Legal Counsel on 27th May, 2018.

He holds a Master's degree in International Law, Diplomacy and International Relations with focus in International Business Law from Paris Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and a Bachelor's Degree in Law from University of Sharjah. He has more than 16 years of experience in corporate commercial practices in the region. Prior to joining Dana Gas, he was with ABB Group of Companies as Legal Counsel & Data Privacy Officer for UAE & Oversight Countries (Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, and Afghanistan).

Mr. Omran Al Zamani is a certified Board Secretary by The Institute of Corporate Governance (Hawkamah) and Dubai Financial Market (DFM) and certified by the GCC Board Directors Institute and the Financial Academy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



**OMRAN ISMAIL ABDALLA  
MOHAMED ALZAMANI**

Board Secretary and Senior  
Legal Counsel  
Dana Gas PJSC

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



### **SHAFIQ JAMOOS**

Legal Counsel  
Majid Al Futtaim Properties

Acting as Legal Counsel for “Majid Al Futtaim Properties” and previously as Legal Manager for the reputed real estate developer “Deyaar Development”, Shafiq advised and worked as lead counsel during the past years on a variety of complex commercial transactions in and outside the UAE, mixed use projects and master communities in UAE, Oman, Turkey and Lebanon, as well as some of the largest real estate disputes in Dubai and DIFC Courts. He further advised on the drafting of the real estate chapter of a new UAE federal law and another Dubai real estate law under drafting.

Prior to moving to Dubai in January 2013, he worked as private practitioner and professor of international law and commercial law at An Najah National University in his hometown, Nablus-Palestine. He was also member of the first Arbitration Committee of ICC Palestine in 2012.

Shafiq received his Master of Laws from the University of Pittsburgh- US, trained at a prominent law firm in Pittsburgh, US and he is Alumnus and Ambassador of the Arbitration Academy in Paris, France. Shafiq is also Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in London and the Arab and International Arbitrators group in Dubai and is a frequent speaker on in-house practice, real estate and arbitration. Shafiq was “Highly Commended as Senior Corporate Counsel of the Year 2017- Middle East” by the Association of Corporate Counsels.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



## **ALIA AL HATTAB**

Board Secretary  
Alliance Insurance

During my 25-year career journey, I have been a Board Secretary, Executive Assistant, and Office Manager within the Vice Chairman's and CEO's office. I have consistently demonstrated unwavering dedication, exceptional organizational skills, and a keen ability to navigate the complex dynamics of corporate governance and executive leadership.

As a Board Secretary, I have been responsible for critical corporate records. I ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and facilitate seamless communication between the board of directors and executive management. My meticulous attention to detail and thorough understanding of corporate governance principles have been instrumental in maintaining the organization's transparency, integrity, and accountability.

As an Executive Assistant, I have provided indispensable support to top-level executives. I manage their schedules, prioritize tasks, and coordinate high-level meetings and events. My proactive approach and ability to anticipate the needs of senior executives have enabled them to focus on strategic decision-making, driving the company forward amidst evolving market dynamics and competitive pressures.

Within the Vice Chairman's office, I have played a pivotal role in liaising between the executive leadership team and various stakeholders, including investors, board members, and government agencies. My practical communication skills and adeptness at building solid relationships have fostered collaboration and alignment across different levels of the organization, contributing to achieving key business objectives and enhancing corporate reputation.

As an office manager in the CEO's office, I oversaw the smooth functioning of day-to-day operations. I ensured efficiency, productivity, and a positive working environment for staff members. My ability to multitask and problem-solve in high-pressure situations has been critical in managing challenging situations and resolving conflicts effectively, fostering teamwork and resilience within the organization. Throughout my career, I have continuously demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to excellence, earning the trust and respect of colleagues at all levels of the organization. My wealth of experience and institutional knowledge have been invaluable assets in guiding the organization through periods of growth, transformation, and adversity.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2018



### **TIM TRAVERS**

Senior Counsel, Head of DIFC  
Office

Ahmed & Rashid Alrasheed  
Advocates & Legal Consultants

Tim is managing partner of the DIFC Office of Ahmed & Rashid Al Rasheed Advocates & Legal Consultants since its opening in April 2018. He began his career in London as a trainee solicitor with Clifford Chance in 1985 after graduating with a degree in Law from the University of Cambridge, Churchill College. He was admitted as an English solicitor in 1987. Tim's core practice areas have developed from an initial base in banking and finance into various aspects of commercial and corporate business. He has a strong background in continuous business improvement programmes designed to leverage the knowledge economy and technological advances. Tim has developed special interests in corporate governance, insurance, Islamic finance and IT contracts. Tim's notable positions include in-house legal counsel roles, most recently as Senior Vice President, Legal, for over five years at United Arab Bank in the UAE, and also as its Head of Contracting & Insurance; and partner and associate roles in the banking and finance groups of global, international and local law firms in the UK, Netherlands and UAE. Tim also has an Executive MBA with Distinction from Cass Business School (2008-10) and recently completed the Certified Board Secretary Workshop run jointly by Hawkamah and the DFM (2018).

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **JOELLE MAKHOUL**

Projects Manager – Shared  
Services  
Emirates District Cooling  
(Emicool) L.L.C

Worked in the position of Company Secretary between 2013 – 2020 with deep experience in Board Affairs, negotiating contracts and establishment of new subsidiaries & licensing. Having a deep knowledge in corporate governance and managing legal activities.

Joelle has over 13 years of experience in UAE working in district cooling services with demonstrated ability to lead projects focusing on customer satisfaction, digital transformation and regulatory compliance.

She has a bachelor degree in Business Administration from Holy Spirit University – Lebanon (2008).

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **AWSIM ASMI**

Projects Manager – Shared  
Board Secretary  
Saudia Aerospace Engineering  
Industries

Awsim Asmi started his career as an Avionics Engineer in the engineering configuration management. He handled several major projects in the communication and recording systems, as well as auto flight and navigation systems. He obtained licenses and training both in engineering and project managements. After a successful career in the engineering department, Awsim sought out a different journey in the entrepreneurship arena which earned him tremendous experience in corporate governance of the LLC's laws and regulations. He led the structuring of new born companies, and was instrumental in developing the departments and the information flow within the company and with regulators and government agencies. The endeavor of establishing a company from scratch allowed Awsim to gain a deeper depth of understanding about corporate governance. Currently as of 2017, he is handling Board activities and general corporate affairs as the deputy board secretary in the largest aviation maintenance and repair companies in the MENA region with over 5200 employees.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **AYMAN HAMDY**

Executive Director Legal and  
Company Secretary  
Emaar Properties

Ayman Hamdy, Executive Director, Legal and company Secretary joined Emaar Properties PJSC in 2006 and was appointed Company Secretary in 2007. He is responsible for establishing the Emaar Group's legal strategy, overseeing its legal and governance functions, securing legal protection for the company's assets, structuring major transactions and supervising the implementation of the company's bylaws, places and regulations. He started his career with a large law firm in Egypt, working on international business transactions and foreign investment matters. He served as a public prosecutor for three years before joining Unilever in Dubai as their Regional Head of Legal. He was also the Resident Partner of the Dubai office of a regional law firm, Shalakany Law Office. Ayman is a member of the Egyptian Bar Association, the Egyptian Association of Judges, the Egyptian Association of Public Prosecutors and a fellow of the International Bar Association. He sits on the Board of Directors of a number of real estate companies in many countries including Jordan and Morocco and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Executive Leadership Institute of the Association of Corporate Counsel,. Mr Hamdy earned an LLB from Alexandria University, a joint LLM from Cairo University and Université Paris Dauphine and LLM in U.S. Law from Washington University in St. Louis. He won the General Counsel of the Year Award (Highly Commended) in the Corporate Counsel Middle East Awards 2016.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **BRITTANY BRESE**

Business Services Manager  
Pearl Initiative

Brittany Brese is a business professional working with international organisations to continuously improve internal operations, accounting, reporting and communications capabilities that are required to support sustainable success, by developing efficient and effective business processes. Brittany started her career as an accountant for small businesses in based in Washington, United States. Brittany then joined the US based professional services firm, CliftonLarsonAllen as a part of their tax service line. In 2014, she relocated to Dubai, working for a short time with KPMG before joining the Pearl Initiative in 2015. The Pearl Initiative who works with Private Sector organisations to foster a corporate culture of accountability and transparency in the Gulf Region. Brittany is a Certified Board Secretary. Brittany holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Central Washington University and a Master's in Business Administration from Hult International Business School."

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **DR. FADYKAYYAL**

General Counsel & Company  
Secretary

Al Ramz | Corporation Investment  
& Development PJSC

Dr. Kayyal, Head the legal department of Al Ramz Corporation Investment & Development a public joint stock company listed in DFM since 2015 with a paid-up capital of AED 549,915,858, Al Ramz provides a diversified basket of investment products through the company and its subsidiaries such as Asset Management, Market Making, Liquidity Providing, Research, IPO and Advisory Services & Brokerage services in the UAE Stock markets. Dr. Fady has a legal experience for more than 11 years and a holder of diploma in general law and holds a prestigious corporation in order to provide support and back-up for its incorporation and/or completion of its daily businesses in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. He holds membership with Arbitrator at the Chamber of Commerce – Abu Dhabi – UAE and Member of Syrian bar Association, Damascus , Syria

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **DR. MOHAMED ABDULSALAM**

Head of Sharia & Corporate  
Secretary  
GFH Financial Group

As Head of Sharia and Corporate Secretary at GFH, Dr. Mohamed Abdulsalam supervises all the transaction at the Group to ensure that these are conducted in compliant and in accordance with the teachings of Islamic Sharia. Furthermore, Dr. Mohammed assumes the fiduciary duty of ensuring that the records, meetings and minutes of GFH Board and its committees are proper and according to policy. This is in addition to handling the project company's boards, effectively moderating all its meetings, writing and keeping record of all the minutes. Prior to joining GFH in 2006, Dr. Abdulsalam worked with some of the most prestigious Islamic financial institutions in Bahrain. He was a Sharia Auditor at Kuwait Finance House (KFH) and an Internal Auditor at Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB). Dr. Abdulsalam obtained his Islamic Accounting Bachelorette in 2003 from Al-Imam Mohammed Ibn Saud University one of the oldest and most renowned institutes of higher education in Saudi Arabia. He is also a holder of an Accounting and Financial Control MBA and a Ph.D in Accounting from United State, California. He also pursued additional qualifications including a Masters of Sharia and Accounting Standards for AAOIFI and the Sharia Control Fatwa of Islamic banks. To further enhance his knowledge in arbitration as a more viable option in dispute resolution, Dr. Mohammed has successfully completed the third module of the International Arbitration Certificate from Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution (BCDR-AAA) in 2014. Passionate about his field, Dr. Abdulsalam regularly attends specialized courses covering topics such as: Sharia Auditing, Sharia Standards, Sharia Products and many others in order to expand his knowledge of Islamic finance on an ongoing basis.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **HASSAN MURAD AGHA**

Group Head of Compliance &  
Internal Control  
Gulf General Investment Co.  
(PSC) (GGICO)

Over 22 years of experience in areas of Internal Audit, Strategy, Board-level Communication, Corporate Governance, Compliance, Enterprise Risk Management, Business Advisory, Project Management and Resource Management; in different business segments mainly in Heavy Industries, Manufacturing, real-estate development, construction, EPC, FMCG, hospitality and Logistics. Started his career with Arthur Anderson (external audit), then moved, in 1999, to Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority (ADWEA) (internal audit), in 2004, joined 'SENAAT' as the Group Internal Audit & Risk Director, reporting to SENAAAT's Audit Committee, in addition of being an Audit Committee member at all SENAAAT's Subsidiaries', including two public joint stock companies "Agthia and ARKAN" which are listed on Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange "ADX"; and was also appointed as an independent Audit Committee member at Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development. In 2014 he Joined Gulf General Investment Co. P.S.C. "GGICO" a public stock company listed on Dubai Financial Market "DFM", as the Group Head of Compliance & Internal Control, reporting to the Audit Committee and Board of Directors on all aspects of GGICO's system of internal control including, but not limited to, Corporate Governance, Risk Management, Compliance, Internal Audit, Investor Relations, and was appointed in 2017 as the Company's Secretary working closely with the Board of Directors. He holds a university degree in Finance & Commerce and is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) USA since November 2002, and a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) as well as other professional bodies.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



## **KURIAN CHACKO**

Group Legal Advisor  
Dubai Investments PJSC

Kurian Chacko, with more than 35 years of experience as in-house General Legal Counsel, has been with Dubai Investments PJSC (a worldclass company that invests in viable and profitable entities having more than 40 subsidiary associate companies in its fold) for the last nineteen years and looks after the Group's Legal Affairs, and was also Group Company Secretary of Dubai Investments PJSC, as well as its sub-holding Companies and various Committees in the Group till 2024. Prior to joining Dubai Investments, he was with the Varkey Group, Dubai, where he served as their Legal Advisor & Head of HR for 6 years. Kurian has also worked with leading multinationals and reputed industrial houses in India such as Godrej, BASF, WIMCO and Wockhardt Limited. He has a B.Sc in Chemistry, and has done his Bachelor's and Master's in Law from the University of Bombay, India, specializing in Commercial and Corporate Laws, including Intellectual Property Law.

As Head of Legal Affairs he directs and manages all legal activities across the Group, provides specialist and expert legal and commercial advice to the Board, the MD & CEO and the Executive Management team. He also coordinates with GM's and other senior members of the Subholding companies to ensure that Dubai Investments Group is operating in compliance with applicable laws, guidelines and regulations. He represents Dubai Investments in the resolution of legal issues that impact the Group and is involved in drafting, vetting, negotiating and finalizing various documents such as Non-Disclosure Agreements, Land Lease Agreements, Facility Agreements, Joint Venture Agreements, Agency Agreements, Power of Attorney, Sale/Acquisition of business, Engineering and Construction Agreements for buildings and facilities, Supplier contracts etc. He also provides advice on various legal issues like commercial contracts, dispute resolution, funding agreements, regulatory, employment laws and governance matters.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **MOHAMED GHANEM**

Vice President- Legal & Board  
Secretary  
Dubai Financial Market PJSC

Mohamed, is a VP – Legal & Board Secretary at the Dubai Financial Market PJSC since April 2017. In this role, he participates as a senior member of management, working directly with the executive team to understand strategic initiatives and business needs, providing legal and business counsel, and establishing and influencing appropriate ethical standards and legal considerations. Consulting with senior management in the presentation of strategic initiatives to the Executive Committee and/or Board and implementing such initiatives as adopted by the Board. He also oversees and involves in leadership of the day-to-day operations of legal representation of the Company; managing, evaluating and guiding an 8-person team comprised of 3 dedicated in-house attorneys as well as an experienced staff of paralegals and legal secretaries. He provides advice on developing, implementing and managing a strategic plan for the provision of legal services, in accordance with and in support of, business objectives to include the selection and management of outside counsel. His key role is also negotiating, drafting and implementing a wide variety of complex, multi-party agreements, including real estate development, joint venture, acquisition and disposition documents. Prior joining DFM, he has worked with different companies - Kuwait Investment Authority (Kuwait), Ryada Capital Investment – Kuwait & United Kingdom., Al-Sarraf and Partners Law Firm “ASAR” and his key role as a legal counsel was to review and scrutinize various legal documents and rendering advices. To senior management on certain strategic issues. He was involved in corporate and international acquisitions and corporate governance work.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **MOHAMMAD RASHED AL MUTAIRI**

Board Member of Mabanee  
Company National Industries  
Group Holding Company (NIND)

Mr. Mohammad Mutairi has been working with National Industries Group Holding Company (NIND) " a GCC company currently manages multiple activities in a diverse range of industries including building materials, petrochemicals, oil and gas services, mechanical industries, utilities, real estate, infrastructure and financial services" since May, 1992 as the Board Secretary. He holds Bachelor of Commerce Ain Shams University and Master on Business Administration (MBA) from Cairo University further Computer & information System certificate from Epping Forest College - UK. He has attended prestigious training programs as "Management, Decision-Making and Leadership" from Sciences Po.- Paris 2013 , "High Potentials Leadership Program" from Harvard Business School - Boston 2009 and "Program of the Development Leading Certificate" London 2006 . He has also received many an international and professional certificates in the field of Leadership, Strategy and Corporate Governance. He is currently Board Member of Mabanee Company "a Kuwaiti real estate shareholding company". and Kuwait Livestock Transport & Trading Company "Al Mawashi is a Kuwaiti public shareholding company established in 1973" In addition to his previous experiences as Executive Chairman of Loloah National Industries Trading Company. And Board member of National Combined for Slaughterhouses & Meat Industries Company. And Gas & Oilfield Services Company. And National Industries Economic & Industrial Investment Company. Beside that he worked as Volunteer at The Higher Committee for the implementation of Sharia principles in 2014 and also at Center of Excellence in Management – Collage of Business Administration - Kuwait University in 2014. Active member at Mabarrah National Industries Group - Charity works from 2007 up to date.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



**MOHY ELSONA BABIKER  
ELTAYEB**

Board of Director Secretary  
Al Salam Bank Sudan

Mohy Elsona an expert in banking, mainly in planning and researches areas, He has served as a banker since 1990. He worked for Export Development Bank in Sudan with series of different positions. He is qualified company secretary and has over 10 years' experience in the corporate governance and secretarial field in Alsalam Bank Sudan. He holds a Bachelor, Master and PHD degrees in Economics plus graduate diploma in banking. MohyElsona has attended numerous conferences, workshops and courses related to banking, financial and governance business, throughout Sudan, middle East and USA.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **MOHAMMED ABDULLA SALEH**

AGM - HR & Corporate  
Communications  
Khaleeji Commercial Bank,  
Manama, Bahrain

Mr. Mohammed Abdulla Saleh holds Master of Laws in IT, Media & e-Commerce, beside other academic and professional certifications, such as B.Sc in Law, Diploma in Business Management, Diploma in Police Sciences, ICA International Diploma in Compliance, Advance Islamic Banking Diploma and Leadership Grooming Certification. As for his practical knowledge, he has over 15 years of experience in Management, Islamic Banking, Corporate Governance, Compliance, Anti-money Laundering, Law & Human Resources. Mr. Saleh joined Khaleeji Commercial Bank (KHCB) in 2009 and currently occupies the position of Assistant General Manager of Human Resources & Corporate Communications, in addition to being a member of several Executive Management Committees at the Bank and serves as a board member of a number of KHCB's associates. He was awarded with "First Class Medal of Recognition" by UAE Vice President, Prime Minister & Ruler of Dubai His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in honor of his achievements in 2001. He was also awarded the "Exceptional Achievement Award for Advanced Islamic Banking Diploma" by Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) in 2008.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017

Mohamed Mansour joined NAEEM in 2015 as Head of compliance & AML and is responsible for compliance & AML oversight for the company. He is responsible for identifying, assessing, and monitoring compliance risk, establishing appropriate compliance policies and procedures in line with regulatory obligations, and setting in place the necessary anti-money laundering arrangements for the business. Prior to joining NAEEM, Mr. Mansour spent seven years as a head of Inspection department at Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority (EFSA) and three years as senior external auditor at MAZARS Mostafa Shawki & Co. Mr. Mansour is licensed as the designated Compliance & the money laundering reporting officer from the Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority (EFSA). He has participated in numerous courses arranged by U.S. Securities and exchange commission (SEC), Central Bank of Bahrain, the International Center of Information System and Audit (India), the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI). Mr. Mansour also is a member of the institute of internal auditors (IIA), the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI) and the Egyptian Society of Taxation. Mr. Mansour graduated from Helwan University, Cairo with a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, and a post graduate diploma from the Faculty of economics & political science Cairo University.



**MOHAMED MANSOUR  
MAHAMED**

Head of Compliance & Anti  
Money Laundry Officer  
Naeem Holding for Investment

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **NABEEL MIRZA**

Senior Compliance Director & MLRO  
GFH Financial Group

Mr. Nabeel Mirza is associated with GFH Financial Group since April 2012 and holds the position of Senior Compliance Director & MLRO. He is responsible for ensuring and maintaining the establishment of a robust and effective compliance framework according to the regulatory requirements and industry legislations. He is also responsible to ensure the compliance of the bank's activities with the rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Bahrain, Bahrain Bourse, Dubai Financial Markets, Securities & Commodities Authority (UAE), Boursa Kuwait, and Capital Markets Authority-Kuwait. Mr. Mirza has vast exposure and knowledge in the field of Compliance, Anti-Money Laundering, Governance Frameworks, methodologies and emerging practices in the GCC financial markets and is well versed with regional and international regulations. He works closely with the CEO and other members of the management committee and reports independently to the Board Audit & Risk Committee of GFH. He has worked with known International financial institutions, such as Mashreq Bank (Dubai & Bahrain) and Citi Bank (Bahrain & Pakistan). Mr. Mirza holds Master's in Public Administration from University of Karachi and has completed many professional courses in compliance and risk management.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



## **DR. OSAMA ISSAQ ALHAJ**

Senior Vice President, Head of Legal  
Dubai Islamic Bank

Dr. Osama Issaq Alhaj is Senior Vice President, Head of Legal at Dubai Islamic Bank. Dr. Osama, a dynamic and knowledgeable legal expert, has over 20 years' experience in banking and finance sectors and also a qualified company secretary. Demonstrated success in organizing board of directors meetings and annual general meetings of shareholders and ensuring government regulatory compliance. Well-versed in managing high-stakes, international business negotiations, drafting legal documentation, actuating hundred million dollar transactions. Proactive leader, organizing units and reporting structure for legal department, and empowering colleagues to accomplish objectives within uncompromising timeframes. Key contributor to policy & procedure design, improvement, and application. Prior to joining Dubai Islamic Bank, Osama worked as Senior Lawyer for Islamic Development Bank "IDB" in Jeddah -KSA, where he engaged in several multinational Islamic conferences and acquaint with many modernized and innovated Islamic structures in Africa, Asia and Middle East countries. He holds "PHD" Doctor of Philosophy in Law, LLB "Bachelor" and LLM "Master" degrees in Law, Certified Shari'a Advisor and Auditor CSAA from the Accounting & Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions AAOIFI, Bahrain. Dr. Osama has been recognized as the top General Counsel and Head of Legal in the GC Powerlist Middle East 2024. He has received the Legal Tech Innovation Award-2024 from Lexzur for his role in integrating technology into legal processes. Under Dr. Osama's leadership, the legal team was bestowed with ISO 9001:2015 accreditation, a testament to his dedicated and systematic approach in ensuring quality in line with international standards.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017

Rana joined Emaar Properties PJSC in 2008 and currently holds the position of Director Legal and Assistant Company Secretary at Emaar. Rana holds a law degree from the St. Joseph University in Beirut and an LLM in business law from Assas University in Paris. Rana started her career with leading law firms in Lebanon with international exposure before moving to Dubai. She is a member of the Beirut Bar Association and fluent in 3 languages (Arabic, English and French).



### **RANA R. MATTAR**

Director Legal and Assistant  
Company Secretary  
Emaar Properties

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **SIBA ITANI**

Group Legal Counsel & Compliance  
Officer  
Marka PJSC

Siba joined Marka PJSC as a Group Legal Counsel & Compliance Officer in January 2017, she is responsible for overseeing the Legal and Governance Functions in Marka PJSC, securing legal protection for the Company and Corporate Compliance Program, and supervising the implementation of the company's bylaws, policies and regulations. She has over 14 years' experience in all aspects of corporate law, Corporate Governance and Compliance having previously worked with MTC Touch Lebanon managed by Zain telecom, Ernst and Young and International Golden Group, Abu Dhabi. Siba holds a Master's Degree in International Trade Law from Beirut Arab University, and an International Diploma in Corporate Governance, Risk and Compliance - International Compliance Association. She is a Member of the International Compliance Association in UK and a Member of Dubai International Arbitration Centre , and a Certified Board Secretary.

## CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



### **SYDNEY SACKETT**

Williams Business Services Specialist  
A.T. Kearney Middle East

A UAE resident for the past 11 years, Sydney turned her degree in Literature/Writing from Concordia University into a career in office administration with a strong focus on corporate writing/editing. She has served A.T. Kearney Middle East for the past decade in various capacities, most recently putting her new Hawkamah/DFM certification to good use as Business Services Specialist.

# CERTIFIED BOARD SECRETARY YEAR 2017



## **AYED TADROS**

Group General Counsel  
Aramex

Ayed Tadros is an accomplished General Counsel with nearly twenty years of experience in corporate affairs, aviation, and transportation law. A qualified lawyer, board member and certified board secretary, Ayed brings a wealth of expertise in general corporate transactions, including corporate structuring, restructuring, cross-border mergers and acquisitions, and joint ventures.

Over the past 15 years at Aramex, Ayed has played a pivotal role in negotiating and closing numerous acquisitions, significantly contributing to the company's growth and expansion. As the leader of Aramex's global legal team, Ayed also acts as the global head of corporate governance and is responsible for managing relationships with capital market authorities in the UAE, ensuring compliance and fostering strong partnerships.

Prior to joining Aramex, Ayed worked with Royal Jordanian Airlines as part of its global legal team based in Amman, Jordan for over 4 years. During his time with RJ, Ayed was part of the privatization project of RJ, and he has also worked on the aircraft lease agreements and delivery of the new fleet of RJ at the time.

Recognized by the Legal 500 GC Powerlist for the Middle East in 2023 and 2024, Ayed is committed to driving excellence and innovation within the legal field.

In addition to his legal expertise, Ayed is dedicated to mentoring emerging legal professionals, sharing insights gained from a diverse and dynamic career in international business.

Ayed holds a bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Jordan and a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in International Business Law from Kings' College London.