

## FOREIGN FIRMS

Allen & Overy	1
Clifford Chance	
Simmons & Simmons	
White & Case LLP	
Herbert Smith LLP	2
Shearman & Sterling LLP	
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP	3
Denton Wilde Sapte LLP	
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	
Linklaters LLP	

Mourahib and Anthony Giustini are recommended.

**Simmons & Simmons** has a long-standing commitment to Algeria, where it is known for handling work for Sonatrach and Sonelgaz, and has been involved in nearly all the major Algerian projects over recent years, including the first three Algerian IWPPs. The 'very good' Christophe Asselineau is recommended.

**White & Case LLP's** Paris-based energy and projects head Paule Biensan also works for Sonatrach. Biensan's team advised Sofert Algeria in the €1.1m financing of the construction of a factory, a landmark deal which created a new model for Algerian financings.

**Herbert Smith LLP** is one of the only international firms to have an Algerian-qualified lawyer, Paris partner Medhi Haroun, who is dual-qualified in France and leads the North Africa practice, which includes several Arabic-speaking French lawyers. Very active in energy work in Algeria, Haroun advised Denmark's Maersk Olie on upstream activities, Petrofac on a crude oil processing facility, and BP on a potential upstream acquisition.

**Shearman & Sterling LLP** is known for acting for Sonatrach, with Paris-based worldwide arbitration group head Emmanuel Gaillard handling the company's international arbitrations, including a recent arbitration it brought against two Spanish companies, under UNCITRAL rules in Geneva, over a \$3.5bn dispute.

**Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP** has a firm-wide focus on acting for international oil companies, and Sonatrach is an important client. Milan partner Galileo Pozzoli and Paris partner David Hesse advise Sonatrach subsidiary

## OTHER RECOMMENDED FIRMS

Ashurst LLP
Eversheds LLP
Lovells LLP
Norton Rose LLP

Firms are listed A-Z in bars

Sonatrach Gas Italia on importation and distribution.

**Denton Wilde Sapte LLP's** Paris partner Cyril Vock has an active energy practice in Algeria, and work has included advising a European oil and gas company on a utilisation agreement. The team has a formal affiliation with local energy firm Hadj-Hamou/Djouadi.

**Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP's** Paris project finance partner Amir Jahangulri has been advising on a methanol production project in Algeria.

**Linklaters LLP** has been active in petrochemical programmes and upstream financings. Paris partner Simon Ratledge co-heads the north Africa desk with London partner Manzer Ijaz, 'an excellent lawyer, combining a powerful analytical mind with a depth of experience and an understated negotiating style which is very successful in Algeria'.

The Paris-based north Africa desk at **Ashurst LLP** is visible in Algeria, while **Eversheds LLP's** Paris projects partner Boris Mator has recently worked on real estate investments and oil and gas. **Lovells LLP** has also recently worked in Algeria, for Australian mining company BHP Billiton and Norway's Statoil; and **Norton Rose LLP** is active in Algerian energy projects.

## Corporate and M&amp;A

**Ghella & Mekerba's** Amine Ghella is a 'superb lawyer, very well known, extremely respected', while Sid Ahmed Mekerba is 'excellent quality'. The firm - which works with many international firms but is 'best friends' with **Clifford Chance** - is part of 'the new generation of Algerian lawyers, Anglo-American trained and brilliantly fluent in English', and has 'responsive and creative professionals'. It has been advising French cement multinational Lafarge and German company Knauff on acquisitions, and Canadian construction company SNC-Lavalin on a desalination plant in Algeria.

**Hamza Law Office** is arguably the leading Algerian firm for financing, with the 'young, dynamic, Mustapha Hamza, who 'understands the concerns of lending institutions', described as 'one of the few lawyers in Algeria whom international investors and financiers feel comfortable working with'. Hamza's stable of banking clients includes Citibank, and he has been very active in project financing, including acting for the lender, the Fond National d'Investissement, in a new desalination project. The firm has a trade mark registration practice.

**Law Office Yamina Kebir's** name partner Yamina Kebir is 'a great, great lawyer, very competent' and 'speaks very good English, which distinguishes her'. Kebir is particularly active in infrastructure, and acts almost exclusively on international projects, including recently Algeria's

## CORPORATE AND M&amp;A

Ghella & Mekerba	1
Hamza Law Office	
Yamina Kebir, Law Office	
Gide Loyrette Nouel	2
Hadj-Hamou/Djouadi	
Aidoud Law Firm	3
Ben Abderrahmane (Dr) & Partners, Law Office of	
Bouchaib Law Firm	
Chemloul & Associés	
Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés	
Badri Cabinet for Intellectual Property Algeria	
CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre	
Ferchiou & Associés	
Guerrouche Mouloud MG Avocats	
Haroun & Associés	
Mustapha Hamdane, Cabinet	
Nouara Issad, Cabinet	
Saba & Co	
Samir Hamouda, Cabinet d'Avocats	
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal	

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motorway project and some major construction work.

**Gide Loyrette Nouel's** Samy Laghouati is 'active on the side of foreign companies' and 'a very good lawyer, brilliant, he's been exceptional in developing the office in a very difficult environment, been able to get a very, very qualified team, and is one of the only people in Algeria on whom we can fully rely'. A major client is BNP Paribas, which the team advised on its merger with Cetelem Algérie - the first, groundbreaking merger in the Algerian banking sector. Infrastructure clients include Suez Environment.

**Hadj-Hamou/Djouadi** is described as a 'fairly young, hungry firm, which responds quickly', and has a formal affiliation with **Denton Wilde Sapte LLP**. The two firms have worked together on real estate acquisitions, and to advise a pharmaceutical company on its Algerian subsidiary. Ahmed Djouadi is particularly 'professional and reactive'.

**Aidoud Law Firm's** Mamoun Aidoud, 'a very senior, well recognised lawyer', is 'specialised in banking', particularly in exchange regulations, and has also been advising East Asian companies on construction projects. The firm has a strong focus on employment law. Corporate clients include Samsung.

**Law Office of Dr Ben Abderrahmane & Partners's** Dahman Ben Abderrahmane is active in infrastructure projects, and corporate clients include Merck. The firm has a shipping law practice.

**Bouchaib Law Firm's** Adnane Bouchaib is 'very, very good, a pearl, extremely reactive, works

over the Algerian weekend (Thursdays and Fridays), his mobile is always on.' Bouchaib advised France-based Sogecap on its establishment in Algeria. Other clients include natexis, Peugeot, Maroc Airlines and RML.

**Chemloul & Associés's** Mohammed Chemloul is 'a very good lawyer' who is 'very reliable, with very good commercial sense'. Chemloul is active in construction projects, including Algeria's railway scheme, advises a world-leading pharmaceutical company on Algerian operations, and has a specialism in film law.

**Lefèvre Pelletier & Associés** undertakes banking work for clients including the Algerian Bank of Exterlor (BEA), which it advised on an insurance banking partnership with AXA. Fatima-Zohra Bouchemla and Vincent Lunel are 'very helpful and professional', 'very reliable' and create a 'welcoming atmosphere'.

**Badri Cabinet for Intellectual Property Algeria** is active in trade mark portfolio management and also has a commercial practice.

**CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre** is strong on tax and takes on major international corporate transactions. Office head Samir Sayah is 'a tax specialist but also has very good knowledge of general Algerian law'. Clients include Nestlé and BP.

**Ferchiou & Associés** has been advising an Algerian client in relation to an infrastructure project at the Oran container port. Ahmed Kallel heads the office.

**Guerrouche Mouloud MG Avocats** is known for its strong Latin American client base.

**Haroun & Associés** is led by Ali Haroun, who is active on foreign investment and financing matters.

**Cabinet Mustapha Hamdane** has particular expertise in the TMT sector.

**Cabinet Nouara Issad's** name partner Nouara Issad is an 'exceptional' lawyer who has been active in infrastructure and desalination projects, and in advising on investment projects and banking structures.

**Saba & Co** is a Lebanon-based intellectual property firm with an extensive network of offices across north Africa.

**Cabinet d'Avocats Samir Hamouda** is known for its relationship with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal** is a Jordan-based intellectual property firm whose Algeria practice is part of a network of international offices.

## Dispute resolution

**Chemloul & Associés** is widely respected for representing the Algerian state in arbitration. Clients say they 'absolutely rate' Mohammed Chemloul as a 'good arbitrator', who is experienced in ICC arbitrations.

**Ghella & Mekerba** is one of the few Algerian firms able to handle international arbitration.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Chemloul & Associés	1
Ghella & Mekerba	
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Aidoud Law Firm	2
Ben Abderrahmane (Dr) & Partners, Law Office of	
Bouchaib Law Firm	
Hamza Law Office	
Haroun & Associés	
Saba & Co	
Samir Hamouda, Cabinet d'Avocats	
Sator, Cabinet	
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal	
Yamina Kebir, Law Office	

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Amine Ghella has a 'well-regarded, broad-based arbitration practice', and sits as an arbitrator on energy and industrial mechanics matters in Paris and Geneva. Ghella recently handled an arbitration arising from a dispute between major French companies and an Algerian chemical company.

**Hadj-Hamou/Djouadi's** Ahmed Djouadi advises parties to arbitration in the petroleum and shipping sectors and is also a 'good litigator'.

**Aidoud Law Firm's** Mamoun Aidoud is frequently engaged in commercial and IP litigation, including anti-counterfeiting disputes.

**Law Office of Dr Ben Abderrahmane & Partners** has a Paris office, and name partner Ben Abderrahmane sits as an arbitrator in Paris and Geneva on issues including infrastructure contracts. The firm also handles wet shipping litigation and debt recovery work for banks.

**Bouchaib Law Firm's** Adnane Bouchaib is a 'very good lawyer on contentious matters, serious, who feels like part of the team, really integrated'.

Leading financing firm **Hamza Law Office** has two lawyers handling banking litigation.

**Haroun & Associés** is one of the oldest firms in Algeria, with particular strengths in litigation, arbitration, and intellectual property.

**Saba & Co** is an IP firm which undertakes litigation on IP matters, particularly anti-counterfeiting.

At **Cabinet d'Avocats Samir Hamouda** name partner Samir Hamouda is strong on corporate work and also recommended for corporate litigation.

At **Cabinet Sator**, name partner Kaddour Sator is known as a 'good litigator'.

**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Legal** is a Jordan-based intellectual property firm generally active in trade mark litigation.

**Law Office Yamina Kebir** has been handling commercial litigation for a major Korean company and IP litigation for an international pharmaceutical company.

## ENERGY

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Thompson & Knight LLP	

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## Energy

Both name partners at **Ghella & Mekerba**, Amine Ghella and Sid Ahmed Mekerba, are highly experienced in the country's petroleum industry, with Ghella particularly praised as 'a leader', 'very reliable and one of the main players', advising Spanish multinational Abengoa on the project financing of its successful bid for a pioneering solar energy electricity plant in Algeria.

**Gide Loyrette Nouel** is 'very visible', and 'well known among French clients'. Samy Laghouati advised CGG Veritas on setting up an oil and gas services joint venture with Sonatrach subsidiary ENAGEO. Other clients include Russia's Gazprom.

**Hadj-Hamou/Djouadi** has a leading reputation for petroleum-related work. Ahmed Djouadi 'knows the petroleum sector very well' and is 'good in energy'. Djouadi advised an Australian mining company and its Algerian partner on the potential acquisition of mining interests.

**CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre** opened its Algeria office to service petroleum and infrastructure clients, to which it offers 'good knowledge' and 'pertinent advice'. It is particularly heavily engaged in tax advice to oil and gas companies.

**Chemloul & Associés's** Mohammed Chemloul is a former Sonatrach lawyer whose clients include General Electric.

The name partner at **Guerrouche Mouloud MG Avocats**, Guerrouche Mouloud, has a strong reputation for petroleum work.

The 'very good' **Hamza Law Office** has been working for Asian and European energy companies investing in Algeria, and for Canada's First Calgary Petroleum.

**Cabinet Nouara Issad's** name partner Nouara Issad is a former Sonatrach lawyer who is active in energy-related project financing and in renewables, and has been advising Chinese and Russian energy companies. Clients say 'the advice we got from her on regulatory issues was very good'.

US-based **Thompson & Knight LLP's** Hassan Yassine has an excellent reputation as a result of his background with Sonatrach, and is 'active in hydrocarbons'. Yassine is known for advising energy investors in Algeria.