

Chambers
RANKING GUIDE

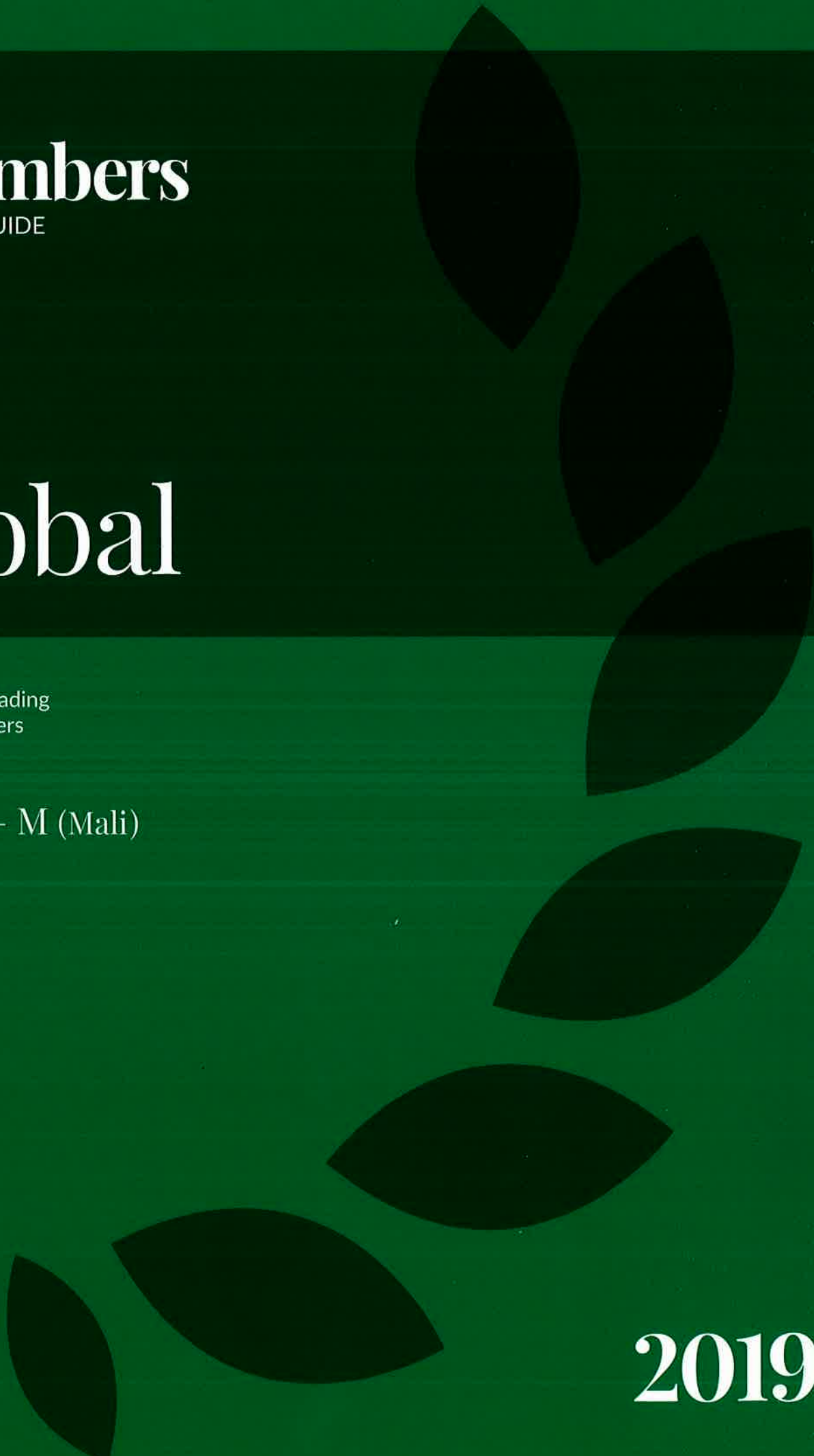
Global

The World's Leading
Business Lawyers

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How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL

Corporate/Commercial

Leading Firms

Band 1

Ghellal and Mekerba

Band 2

Bourablat Associés

Chemloul & Associés*

Lanouar Partners

Band 3

Cabinet D'Avocats Samir Hamouda

Cabinet Tabet

Hamza Law Office

Leading Individuals

Band 1

Ghellal Amine Ghellal and Mekerba

Mekerba Sid Ahmed Ghellal and Mekerba

Band 2

Bourablat Foued Bourablat Associés

Chemloul Mohammed Chemloul & Associés

Hamouda Samir Cabinet D'Avocats Samir Hamouda

Hamza Moustapha Hamza Law Office

Band 3

Aldoud Mamoun Aldoud Law Firm (ORL) ♦

Ait Belkacem Mounir Lanouar Partners

Benslimane Samir Benslimane A&C (ORL) ♦

Djadour Arezki Lanouar Partners

Kebrir Yamina Law Office of Yamina Kebrir (ORL) ♦

Tabet Lamine Cabinet Tabet

* Indicates firm with profile.

♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Ghellal and Mekerba

This dominant local firm is held in high regard for its impressive expertise in oil and gas work. Sources regard the group as "a benchmark for oil and gas and arbitration," while others continue: "They're the best local firm in the market." In addition to its energy and natural resources prowess, the team has further experience in TMT, intellectual property and project finance. It is a popular choice among leading international law firms seeking local counsel for construction disputes and a wealth of other matters.

Amine Ghellal is considered "an oil and gas expert" and is a pre-eminent lawyer in Algeria. He is esteemed for his abilities in international arbitration and is well versed in a range of projects and energy work, including project financing. Sources laud him as "one of the most respected guys in arbitration and the oil and gas sector." **Sid Ahmed Mekerba** is regarded as "one of the incumbent leaders in Algeria's legal market" and remains highly respected for his prominent hydrocarbons practice. He has significant experience in all aspects of oil and gas exploration and is well liked for his practical approach.

Band 2

Bourablat Associés

This is a dynamic and well-regarded firm with a formidable advisory practice. The team services an enviable client roster of multinational companies, financial institutions and infrastructure developers and demonstrates notable involvement in the TMT, energy and engineering sectors. The group has acted as local counsel on significant international transactions, including acting for Neptune Energy's private equity investors during Neptune's acquisition of a majority stake in ENGIE's upstream petroleum activities. It frequently advises on joint ventures and local investments, as well as engineering and construction projects.

Foued Bourablat is particularly active in the areas of M&A, project finance, joint ventures and commercial contracts. His recent highlights include advising on the local aspects of Linde's merger with Praxair, and he is further involved in EPC and infrastructure work. Oil and gas is a further notable area of activity. He is valued for his understanding of international transactions, and clients add: "He's very strong on financing matters and knows how to deliver work to international standards."

Chemloul & Associés

See profile on p.350

The firm remains a prominent fixture of the Algerian market thanks to its expertise in dispute resolution. It is especially well regarded for arbitration work and is often instructed by international law firms requiring heavyweight local counsel. Its recent work includes arbitral proceedings relating to bilateral investment treaties and infrastructure projects, while sources also refer to its oil and gas sector knowledge. **Mohammed Chemloul** is noted for his regular involvement in high-profile arbitrations. He often advises foreign investors, and is well equipped to provide guidance on matters of company formation, project finance and oil and gas issues.

Lanouar Partners

The firm is noted for its growing presence and dynamism in the Algerian market, with sources commending the group for its "high level of expertise" and involvement in significant joint ventures and corporate work. The team is particularly active in the pharmaceutical sector, as well as automotive, manufacturing and agribusiness. Its impressive client roster includes Toyota, LafargeHolcim, Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline. The team's strength in advisory matters is recognised by clients, who value its "ability to work with and understand the needs of multinationals." They add: "Lanouar is a firm that's really gaining ground in the market. It's a good firm with young, skilled lawyers." An independent law firm, Lanouar Partners is also the Algeria member of DLA Piper Africa.

Mounir Ait Belkacem is admitted to the Paris Bar and enjoys a strong advisory practice in Algeria. He frequently acts for foreign investors on significant M&A deals and is

also an expert in joint ventures. A recent example of his work was his advice to Lafarge Algeria on a capital increase relating to its CILAS joint venture with the Souakri Group. Peers consider him "a very solid lawyer and competitor in the market," adding that he is "a solid technician." **Arezki Djadour** is well regarded for his expertise in the automotive industry, with recent highlights including advice to Renault and its Algerian joint venture partners on the establishment of a new assembly plant. He also assists international clients with the set-up of local entities and joint ventures with local partners, including in highly regulated sectors such as pharmaceuticals and insurance. Clients commend his "helpful and collaborative approach" and say: "He is always at our disposal."

Band 3

Cabinet D'Avocats Samir Hamouda

This firm provides a broad corporate and commercial offering and is recognised by sources for its work on financings. Its expertise also extends to such areas as investments, commercial contracts and regulatory matters, with the team acting for a varied clientele of public and private entities. Peers highlight its established reputation in the local market.

Experienced corporate and commercial practitioner **Samir Hamouda** possesses additional expertise in tax and regulatory work. Sources highlight him as "a very experienced lawyer and very focused on banking and investment work." They further highlight his in-depth knowledge and say: "He's very good at advising on the local context."

Cabinet Tabet

This firm has been involved in a number of significant mandates in the Algerian market, including large-scale oil and gas transactions. In addition to its experience in the energy sector, it is equally well equipped to support clients seeking advice on telecoms and pharmaceutical matters. Sources recognise its presence in the intellectual property sphere, as well as its work on technology mandates. It is a popular choice of local counsel among international law firms and is further equipped to advise on PPPs, investments and financings.

Lamine Tabet is recognised for his involvement in corporate matters, notably advising on investments and transactions in the oil and gas industry. He possesses further notable experience in the pharmaceuticals and telecoms sectors.

Hamza Law Office

This long-established firm has a formidable track record in project finance and energy work. It has acted as Algerian counsel on a number of significant oil and gas projects and demonstrates further expertise in TMT and capital markets matters. It is also frequently involved in banking and

CHEMLOUL & ASSOCIÉS

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Firm Overview:

Since its creation in 2002, Chemloul & Associés law firm has experienced a steady development through the mobilisation of all its partners and associates. It is their availability and responsiveness to serve clients, bringing new skills and the interactivity of all specialties, which places the firm among the renowned law firms in Algeria. Alongside its expansion, the firm has consolidated and expanded its field of competence by developing new sectors of practice.

Main Areas of Practice:

Negotiations & Contracts:

Public procurement contracts of high importance, including the following achievements of projects.

Energy—Oil & Gas, & Power:

C&A Handles a panoply of energy-related M&A, private equity, capital markets, project finance, regulatory, tax, environmental and litigation matters in the oil and gas, power and renewable energy sectors.

Litigation:

Commercial litigation; civil litigation; social litigation.

Finance:

C&A has the knowledge and experience to advise on structuring, documenting and negotiating a vast array of development and financing agreements, as well as the related issues—from commercial, energy and environmental issues to tax, banking and real estate law.

Real Estate:

C&A handles a variety of matters, including real estate finance, development, land use and environmental.

Arbitration:

C&A is widely known as the Algeria's premier law firm for dispute resolution. It is consistently recognised by clients and competitors alike as a relentless advocate for clients focused on resolution and results. Its international arbitration team is equally committed to marshaling its considerable expertise, strategic know-how, acumen and experience to advance its clients' positions and obtain solid outcomes.

With a strong foundation in corporate commercial litigation and domestic arbitration, C&A's international arbitration expertise includes:

- ad hoc arbitrations, including under the UNCITRAL and ICSID Arbitration Rules, ICC ARBITRATION; international trade, investment treaty disputes and contractual investor protection.

Publications:

Articles by C&A:

- *'Liber Amicorum en l'honneur de Serge Lazareff' Contrats Internationaux/ Approche Culturelle*
- *'ENERGY' Algeria chapter, edited by GLOBAL LEGAL INSIGHT, JULY 2012*
- *'ENERGY' Algeria chapter, edited by GLOBAL LEGAL INSIGHT, JULY 2013*
- *'ENERGY' Algeria chapter, edited by GLOBAL LEGAL INSIGHT, JULY 2014*
- *'ENERGY' Algeria chapter, edited by GLOBAL LEGAL INSIGHT, JULY 2016*
- *'ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF HYDROCARBONS', edited by ENI, 2007*

Article on C&A:

- *Jeune Afrique n°2065 December 2015, Mohammed Chemloul, militant de l'arbitrage*
- *Institut du droit des affaires internationales ICC, Président de la Formation niveau 1 Contrats Internationaux négociation, rédaction, résolution des litiges, approches culturelles et juridiques 20-23 April 2015 Paris*

PRACTICE AREAS

Hydrocarbons Exploration & Production Contracts
 Oil & Gas Engineering Contracts
 Hydrocarbons Piping Contracts
 Construction Contracts
 Public Works Contracts
 Project Funding
 Privatisation
 Investment
 Corporate
 Insurance
 Shipping
 Social
 Commercial
 Banking
 International Arbitration

OFFICES

ALGERIA

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Conference:

- Marseille, November 12th, 13th, 2015 *'Journées méditerranéennes de l'arbitrage et de la médiation'*
- Algiers, March 14th, 2016 *'Journée d'Etude sur les Difficultés de l'Arbitrage International, état des lieux'*
- Mohammed Chemloul has organised as his quality of Président of ICC National Committee a conference: *'4eme Journée Maghrébine de l'Arbitrage: l'Algerie acteur majeur de l'arbitrage international.'* Alger, November 7th, 2017