

Saurbh Kothari

Partner

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Saurbh Kothari advises local and international clients on a broad range of corporate and commercial matters, with particular emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, corporate structuring, employment law, data protection and regulatory and licensing issues in the UAE. He has been with the firm since 2008 and brings deep experience in delivering pragmatic, commercially focused legal solutions across complex business transactions and regulatory landscapes.

Saurbh's practice encompasses all aspects of corporate work, including due diligence, transaction structuring, negotiation and documentation, and the drafting of commercial agreements. He regularly advises clients on the establishment and structuring of businesses in the UAE, both onshore and in free zones, and on navigating employment and data protection related legal challenges in a dynamic regulatory environment.

He has acted on a variety of significant cross-border and domestic matters, representing buyers and sellers in substantial share acquisitions, joint ventures, restructuring transactions, and asset sales across diverse sectors.

Representative transactional experience includes:

- Advised a Hong Kong company in a joint venture with a UAE entity relating advertising rights over Chinese digital media platforms.
- Advised a global private equity firm in its indirect investment in a UAE business regarding manufacturing and selling ready-to-cook fresh food products.
- Advised an investment firm in acquisition of majority interest in a UAE floral gifting and e-commerce platform business.
- Advised a Japanese client in the acquisition of indirect interest in UAE companies operating steak restaurants in the UAE.

Areas of Practice

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Corporate and Commercial
- Regulatory and Licensing
- Data Protection
- Restructuring
- Employment

Admissions and Affiliations

- Bar Council of Rajasthan

Education

- LL.M., University of California, Berkeley, 2018
- B.B.A. LL.B. (Corporate Honors), National Law University, Jodhpur, India, 2008

Languages

- English
- Hindi

- Advising an international used automobile trading business with structuring its presence in the UAE.
- Advising a buyer in the acquisition of 60 per cent shares and investment in a UAE-based aluminium extrusion company for AED 80 million.
- Advising the sellers in the sale of 100 per cent shares of a UAE-based carton boxes and packaging manufacturing company for approximately AED 50 million.
- Advising a U.S. food manufacturing and distribution company on a joint venture with a UAE-based food manufacturing and distribution company for setting up regional food processing and distribution plants.
- Advising the insolvency administrator of a German-listed company on the restructuring of the said company's UAE operations and asset sale to a Spanish multinational financial services company.
- Acting as local counsel for a Saudi Arabian multinational listed company in relation to due diligence over the UAE entities in the business of baking products manufacturing.
- Advising the sellers in the sale of shares of UAE entities in the water purification and bottling business for approximately AED 160 million.
- Acting as local counsel in relation to the sale of shares of UAE entities in the packaging materials business for approximately USD 199.70 million.
- Advising a UAE entity on a joint venture for the setup of restaurants in Dubai with an initial investment of approximately AED 29 million.

Publications

- Co-author of *Doing Business in the United Arab Emirates*, Practical Law Global Guide (Thomson Reuters), 2026
- Co-author of the UAE chapter of *Foreign Investment Review*, Lexology Panoramic, 2026
- *Amendments to the UAE Federal Companies Law - Key Changes*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 30 December 2025
- *Expanding Boundaries to Mainland Dubai: A Game-Changer for Free Zone Entities*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 30 October 2025
- *Ministerial Decision on Registration of Branches and Representative Offices of Foreign Companies*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 28 March 2025
- *Developments in Corporate Tax Compliance*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 29 February 2024
- *Executive Regulations concerning UAE Consumer Protection Law*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 2 October 2023
- *UAE: New End of Service Benefits Scheme for Employee in Private Sector*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 6 September 2023
- *UAE Unemployment Insurance Law*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 1 January 2023
- *Hiring an employee in the UAE - key considerations to be mindful of*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 31 August 2022
- *Dubai Development Authority - Filing of audited financial statements*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 24 August 2022
- *UAE Work from Anywhere Policy*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 2 August 2022
- *UAE Economic Substance Requirements (ESR) - New Penalties Imposed by the Federal Tax Authority*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 7 June 2022

- Co-author of *Foreign Investment Review*, 2022 (UAE chapter), Lexology Getting the Deal Through
- *UAE FDI: Latest Developments*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 15 July 2021
- *UAE FDI: the doors are open to foreign investors but what are the practical considerations?* Afridi & Angell inBrief, 4 July 2021
- *UAE Economic Substance Requirements – penalties imposed by the Federal Tax Authority*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 22 June 2021
- *Reinforcing business transparency*, The Oath, November 2020
- *UAE Introduces Filing Requirements Relating to Beneficial Ownership - Deadline of 27 October 2020*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 21 October 2020
- *Dubai Family Ownership of Common Property Law*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 22 September 2020
- *A Customs-free access?* The Oath, September 2020
- *UAE Foreign Direct Investment Law vs GCC Customs Exemption*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 30 August 2020
- *DIFC – Innovation License*, Afridi & Angell Legal Alert, 27 August 2020
- *DMCC: Expanding the Scope of a Service License*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 4 May 2020
- *DMCC Company Regulations 2020: Keeping up with international best practices*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 18 March 2020
- *Enforcement of UAE Judgments in India – Update*, Afridi & Angell Legal Alert, 20 January 2020
- *Dubai Development Authority – UBO Requirements*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 9 July 2019
- *BVI Companies – Economic Substance Law*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, 30 April 2019
- *New Administrative Fines Imposed by the UAE Insurance Authority*, Afridi & Angell Legal Alert, 7 March 2019
- Co-author of *Managers' Liability in UAE Limited Liability Companies*, India Business Law Journal July/August 2015
- *UAE Limited Liability Companies*, IFLR, April 2011

Presentations and Seminars

- Panelist, *Doing Business in the UAE*, 12th Annual Legal Era Conclave 2023, 24 August 2023, New Delhi
- Speaker, *New Year's Legal Update: UAE Labour Law*, Afridi & Angell's webinar, 10 February 2023