

Shahram Safai

Partner

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Shahram is a partner and heads the firm's real estate, tax and venture capital teams. His practice focuses on representing leading multinational and domestic corporate clients, investment funds and high-net-worth individuals.

Shahram is ranked in the 'Hall of Fame' in real estate by Legal 500 EMEA and he is also ranked by Chambers Global. Clients described him as *"a stellar lawyer"* and *"a true star in the legal industry."* Clients highlight his *"exceptional knowledge, strategy, and technical skills"* and how his *"insightful, practical, and knowledgeable approach is unparalleled"*. He is widely recognised as a leading advisor in the UAE real estate sector and was awarded 'Real Estate Lawyer of the Year' by Legal Era.

He counsels clients on private equity and venture capital transactions, as well as advising clients on assessing and managing transactional risks. He has been highly sought after by boards and shareholders for strategic legal advice. He is active in lobbying for and providing constructive feedback to government organisations regarding regional laws and regulations pertaining to private equity/venture capital investment, corporate governance, tax and real estate.

Shahram also advises clients with respect to joint ventures, acquisitions and doing business in the region. Such advice involves investment fund formation, compliance advice, sanctions advice, anti-money laundering implications, and agency matters.

Shahram plays an active role in shaping the UAE's regulatory landscape. He is a regular speaker at seminars on legal developments and current issues in doing business, private equity, real estate and construction law. At the invitation of the Government of Dubai, Shahram regularly lectures on legal matters and policy. He served as the Chairman of the Board for the Canadian Business Council of Dubai and the Northern Emirates in previous years.

Prior to joining Afridi & Angell in 2002, Shahram was an associate at the law firm of Cooley in Palo Alto, California advising clients with respect to private equity/venture capital and mergers and acquisitions.

Shahram is also a registered professional engineer and he has previously worked as a design engineer, a hydroelectric dam manager and a construction engineer. He also worked for a global oil & gas company, supervising the pressure testing of gas wells.

Areas of Practice

- Corporate
- Real Estate
- Tax
- Dispute Resolution
- Private Equity / Venture Capital

Admissions and Affiliations

- State Bar of California
- Law Society of England and Wales
- Association of Professional Engineers of British Columbia

Education

- Juris Doctor, University of British Columbia, 1998
- Master of Business Administration, 2002
- Bachelor of Engineering, University of British Columbia, 1992

Languages

- English
- Farsi