

Shahram Safai

Partner

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Shahram's practice focuses on representing leading multinational and domestic corporate clients, investment funds and high net worth individuals. He counsels clients on private equity and venture capital transactions, as well as advising clients on assessing and managing transactional risks.

Shahram heads the firm's venture capital and real estate teams and 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 organizations 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 (including COVID-19 pandemic legal implications). Such advice involves investment fund formation, compliance advice, sanctions advice, anti-money laundering implications, and agency matters.

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 is a member of an economic advisory committee to the Government of Dubai and has also been selected to represent the Dubai Land Department as a Dubai RE Ambassador 2020.

Prior to joining Afridi & Angell in 2002, Shahram was an associate at Cooley Godward in Palo Alto, California advising clients with respect to private equity / venture capital.

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.

Shahram is well recognised by the leading international legal industry publications such as Chambers Global and Legal 500 EMEA. He is consistently recognised as a 'Leader in their Field' in Chambers Global. He is described as "quick, responsive and forthright" and he "is a well-known figure in the UAE real estate sector", Chambers Global. "Clients highlight his ability to deliver tailor-made advice", Chambers Global.

Areas of Practice

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

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

Shahram is also described as “a cut above the rest with thorough knowledge, sharp analytical prowess, understanding of the industry, good relationships with government authorities and the best of communication skills”, Legal 500 EMEA.