

Luca Rayes Palacín

Associate

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Luca is based in Afridi & Angell's ADGM office and maintains a broad practice which spans cross border and domestic mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings, capital markets, projects, fund finance and formation and financial services regulation. His practice extends to compliance, corporate governance and transactional advice. He also advises on Federal and ADGM-related employment issues.

He regularly advises banks, clearing houses, market makers and other financial institutions when executing complex financial transactions including hedging, derivatives, securities lending and margin lending with UAE counterparties, as well as negotiating the terms of these agreements and assessing the credit risk of UAE counterparties.

Luca has represented clients on the acquisition, disposal, setup, repurposing and corporate governance of a wide range of funds spanning different strategies and is accustomed to liaising with financial services regulators. He also provides guidance on the UAE fintech regimes to custodians, exchanges and broker-dealers, and has advised on the setup and licensing of real asset tokenisation projects under the VARA regulatory framework.

Prior to joining Afridi & Angell, Luca spent four years in the corporate team of an international law firm, including setting up that firm's presence in the Abu Dhabi Global Market.

Some of Luca's notable matters include:

- Providing ongoing advice on the incorporation, governance and good standing of several ADGM-domiciled funds and investment vehicles.
- Advising a global hedge fund on the roll-out of its derivatives trading strategy in the UAE.
- Advising a listed global civil engineering firm on the disposal of a quarry and mining rights in the UAE.
- Advising on the acquisition of an FSRA-regulated fund manager.

Areas of Practice

- Corporate and Commercial
- Capital Markets
- Mergers and Acquisition
- Funds
- Corporate Governance
- Private Equity
- Venture Capital
- Employment

Admissions and Affiliations

- Law Society of England and Wales

Education

- LLB (Hons.), Lancaster University, 2019

Languages

- English
- Spanish

- Advising an Abu Dhabi family office on a multi-tranche convertible note subscription to a renewable energy and waste management entity.
- Advising on the merger of two DFSA-regulated asset management firms.

Publications

- Co-author of the UAE chapter of the *Fintech International Comparative Legal Guides* (ICLG), 2025
- *ADGM Distributed Ledger Technology Foundations Regulations 2023*, Afridi & Angell inBrief, March 2024