

A new legal landscape

The UAE's revised Civil Transactions Law signals a significant shift for commercial contracts, risk allocation and day-to-day business practice. A session led by Chatura Randeniya and Mevan Bandara of Afridi & Angell.

Senior legal professionals and business leaders gathered at Horizon 52, DIFC, on June 18th for the latest edition of *The Oath GC Talk Series*, titled 'A New Legal Landscape – Preparing for the UAE's Civil Transactions Law'. The event was held in association with Afridi & Angell and legal research partner LexisNexis Middle East. The session was led by Chatura Randeniya and Mevan Bandara, partners at Afridi & Angell, who explored the significance of the UAE's updated Civil Transactions Law and its implications for the country's evolving business and legal environment.

The UAE's revised Civil Transactions Law, which came into effect on June 1st, represents one of the most notable developments in the country's civil legal framework in recent years. Against this backdrop, the session brought together senior legal and business leaders to discuss

the wider impact of the reforms and how organisations can prepare for the changes. The speakers examined the opportunities and challenges arising from the new framework, highlighting its potential to influence contractual relationships, commercial obligations and day-to-day business operations across a wide range of sectors.

Throughout the discussion, the presenters highlighted the importance of understanding how the updated legislation is expected to shape commercial practices in the UAE. Particular attention was given to the law's broader objectives, including promoting greater transparency, fairness and certainty in business dealings. Participants gained valuable insights into the evolving legal landscape and the need for organisations to assess how the changes may affect their existing practices and future strategies.



The session covered a number of key themes that are expected to have relevance for businesses, investors, lenders, contractors and other stakeholders operating in the UAE. The discussion touched on developments relating to contractual obligations, the allocation of risk between parties, and the growing emphasis on accountability and compliance within commercial relationships. The speakers also addressed how the revised framework seeks to provide greater clarity in areas that have historically been subject to interpretation, helping organisations navigate increasingly complex commercial environments.

Another important focus of the session was the practical impact of the reforms on commercial transactions and contractual arrangements. Attendees heard how the new framework may influence the way agreements are negotiated, structured and managed, as well as the importance of ensuring that contracts remain aligned with current legal requirements. The discussion reinforced the value of proactive planning and regular review of contractual frameworks in light of evolving legislation.

The speakers further examined the potential implications of the reforms for dispute avoidance and dispute resolution. While the updated law introduces changes across several important areas, it also reflects a broader effort to strengthen confidence in the legal and commercial framework governing business activity in the UAE. Participants were encouraged to consider how the developments may affect risk management approaches, internal policies and long-term commercial planning.

In addition, the session explored the impact of the reforms on sectors that rely heavily on contractual certainty and effective risk allocation. The speakers noted that the changes are likely to influence commercial decision-making across industries and may require organisations to reassess certain practices to ensure continued compliance and operational effectiveness.

A recurring message throughout the event was the importance of preparation. As businesses adapt to the updated legal landscape, organisations were encouraged to review existing arrangements, identify potential areas of risk and ensure that relevant stakeholders understand the implications of the changes. The session underscored the role of legal and business leaders in helping their organisations navigate the transition and respond effectively to evolving regulatory expectations.

The event concluded with an engaging discussion among participants on the practical opportunities and challenges presented by the reforms. Overall, the session provided a valuable platform for examining one of the UAE's most significant recent legislative developments and its implications for the business community. As organisations begin adapting to the new Civil Transactions Law, this edition of *The Oath GC Talk Series* provided attendees with valuable perspectives on the evolving legal framework and its potential impact on commercial practices across the UAE. 📖

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Chatura Randeniya



Mevan Bandara