



**Adam Vause**

**Partner**

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Adam Vause advises major corporates and financial institutions on a broad range of large commercial disputes, with a particular focus on fraud, asset tracing, compliance and investigation matters.

Adam is Co-Chair of DLA Piper's Global Investigations Group.

He has significant experience advising in relation to regulatory/criminal investigations and anti-corruption/business ethics (FCPA, UK Bribery Act and Middle East legislation) in connection with companies' internal compliance policies and procedures and disputes arising from joint ventures, distribution agreements and a wide range of corporate and banking transactions.

Between 2002 and 2004 Adam undertook a secondment working for the UK government in the Serious Fraud Office as an investigative lawyer and prosecutor, primarily focusing on white collar crime, restraint/confiscation of assets and the Government's reform of fraud/corruption legislation.

- Advising a global provider of consumer products in respect of integrity and compliance issues raised by a whistleblower and conducting the related investigation.
- Advising a global pharmaceutical company in relation to a wide ranging investigation into compliance issues across numerous jurisdictions in the Middle East.
- Advising a global construction company on a compliance investigation in the Middle East and related negotiations with the Serious Fraud Office.
- Advising a global pharmaceutical company in relation to an investigation and related disputes concerning its distributor in a Middle East jurisdiction.
- Advising an international information and communications technology company on an internal investigation regarding allegations of corruption and fraud within its Middle East operations.
- Advising a global financial institution in relation to ICC arbitral proceedings concerning a shareholder dispute with a value of USD75 million.

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- International Trade, Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Cross-Border Litigation
- Banking and Finance Litigation
- Restructuring
- IT and Telecoms Disputes
- White Collar and Corporate Crime
- International Arbitration
- Global Governance and Compliance
- Investigations
- Technology
- Financial Services

- Acting for a global financial services provider in relation to all aspects of an internal and regulatory investigation concerning Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait and the US.
- Representing an international financial institution in its attempts to recover over USD65 million from a defaulting Saudi Arabian borrower, co-ordinating global attempts (including an UNCITRAL arbitration) to recover the sums owed and advising in relation to proceedings in Bahrain and the UAE, dealing with a number of related pieces of litigation in the Saudi Arabian court system.
- Advising a Middle East-based financial services provider in respect of a central bank regulatory investigation.
- Advising an international bank in respect of an internal investigation concerning allegations of improper conduct and regulatory issues.
- Acting for a provider of services in proceedings before the Dubai World Tribunal in respect of a USD50 million claim for conspiracy and damages.

## CREDENTIALS

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### Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

### Recognitions

- Adam has been ranked Tier 1 in Corporate Investigations by *Chambers Global* each year since 2015 and in *Chambers Global 2021* commended for his anti-corruption and anti-bribery practice and advice on regulatory and compliance issues." A client noted "I always find him to be incredibly responsive, with an understanding of business issues well beyond the confines of his day-to-day practice, which makes him an excellent relationship partner and advocate."
- Adam has previously been described in *Chambers Global* as a "first rate lawyer", "incredibly responsive, very clear and concise in communication, and very pragmatic, "very calm and pleasant to work with; take that personality trait and combine it with his expertise, and it's a very comforting experience" and is "extremely well versed in different sectors, and has a good working relationship with local companies", "widely recognised for his expertise on contention work in Bahrain, in particular for representing financial institutions on cross-border disputes", "acclaimed for his broad experience locally and regionally", "very competent and very strong in investigations" with a "strong track record in regulatory mandates" and "a lawyer with significant experience and a clear cut approach" with "a track record of advising international companies in Bahrain and the wider region".
- Adam is ranked as a Leading Individual by Legal 500.
- Adam is also independently rated by *Acritas Stars*.
- Adam is Co-Chair of the firm's Global Investigations Group.
- Adam Vause is commended for his anti-corruption and anti-bribery practice. He frequently advises clients on regulatory issues as well as internal compliance policies. His experience as a former UK SFO prosecutor provides him an unique understanding of the UK Bribery Act and fraud matters.

### Education

- University of Nottingham, BA (Hons) Law, 1995
- The College of Law, Legal Practice Course, 1996

### Memberships

- Registered DIFC Courts' Practitioner

## INSIGHTS

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Adam regularly undertakes speaking engagements at conferences and other events. In recent years he has spoken on issues including anti-corruption compliance, the development of fraud litigation in the Middle East, international trends in corporate integrity

enforcement/the UK Bribery Act, international sanctions, the Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution, civil unrest and force majeure and the Bahrain Corporate Governance Code.

Adam has also contributed articles to a number of publications including the *IBA Arbitration newsletter*, *Business in Gulf*, *Arbitration: the International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management*, *Getting the Deal Through* (chapter on arbitration in Bahrain), *complanet.com*, *Gulf Construction* and *Islamic Business and Finance*.

## Publications

### Corruption Perceptions Index 2020 – a Middle East and North Africa perspective

11 February 2021

The CPI uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean) to rank countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption.

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### SFO Operational Handbook - Evaluating a Compliance Programme

22 January 2020

On 17 January 2020, the UK Serious Fraud Office updated its Operational Handbook regarding Evaluating a Compliance Programme (the Handbook). The Handbook is an internal tool for SFO prosecutors, investigators, auditors, lawyers and compliance professionals that sets out standard processes, instructions and guidance on the conduct of SFO casework.

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### UAE Court Judgments automatically enforceable in the Courts of India

21 January 2020

On 17 January 2020, the Indian Ministry of Law and Justice published a notification in the official gazette, which means that judgments rendered by both the onshore and offshore Courts of the UAE will be enforceable in the Courts of India without a re-examination of the merits.

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### Kuwait - Global bribery offenses guide

4 December 2019

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### Oman - Global bribery offenses guide

4 December 2019

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### Qatar - Global bribery offenses guide

4 December 2019

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### Saudi Arabia - Global bribery offenses guide

4 December 2019

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## United Arab Emirates- Global bribery offenses guide

4 December 2019

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## Bahrain - Global bribery offenses guide

4 December 2019

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- Corruption Perceptions Index 2020 – a Middle East and North Africa perspective, 11 February 2021
- No "one-size-fits-all": Read the SFO guidance on evaluating compliance programmes, *Thomson Reuters Regulatory Intelligence*, 3 February 2020
- The UAE's fight against bribery and corruption, 16 July 2019
- Saudi Arabia expands anti-bribery legislation to the private sector, 16 May 2019
- Whistleblower protections and disclosure obligations - recent developments in the DIFC, 7 April 2019
- Pursuing non-performing loans in the Middle East, 22 May 2017