



**Beacon
Legal**

RELOCATING TO THE U.A.E. AS A KIWI LAWYER

SPECIALIST LEGAL
RECRUITMENT



INTRODUCTION

MOVING TO THE U.A.E.

The UAE is a vibrant legal hub, offering a compelling mix of economic opportunity, diverse legal challenges and a unique cultural experience for lawyers seeking career growth. Amid global geopolitical tensions and economic volatility, the Middle East's business landscape remains robust and forward-thinking.

With invigorated international interest from foreign lawyers across many common law jurisdictions during the past 12 months, we experienced numerous Associates and Senior Associates focusing their preference on the Middle East, over more traditional markets such as the US and UK.

Ambitious state-led investment has promoted substantial growth in the UAE economy. In turn, the legal recruitment market has thrived, as established global firms in the region and those that are looking to enter the market, look to capitalise on the region's economic surge with consistent hiring.

Keep reading to find out why the UAE may be the right place to take the next step in your legal career...





OVERVIEW

THE MIDDLE EAST | 2024

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During 2024, M&A activity is up, which is a trend we expect to continue for the year. In addition to the Governments' efforts to diversify economies, the influx of large-scale foreign investment across the GCC is driving the expansion into non-oil sectors (e.g. technology and clean energy) making the Middle East an increasingly attractive option for investors.

Projects & Energy practices remain core revenue generators for most firms, driven by the ongoing and newly established "giga projects" across the region.

The main drivers for migration to the region remain the competitive tax-free salary offerings, high quality of life, significant and sophisticated deal flow and proximity to other global locations. The Middle East continues to be one of the most active legal markets in the world and we expect this trend to continue for many years.

If you're a lawyer interested in the Middle East market, reach out to one of the Beacon Legal team for advice and assistance structuring your move.



JAMES ANDREW
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DUBAI



TOP FIRMS

MOVING TO THE U.A.E.

التصنيف و مشاركونه
AL TAMIMI & CO.

CLYDE&CO

WHITE
& CASE

DLA PIPER

CMS
law·tax·future

Al Tamimi & Co.

Clyde & Co

White & Case LLP

DLA Piper

CMS

WHICH ARE THE LARGEST LAW FIRMS IN THE UAE?

Top Companies Hiring Professionals in the UAE	Lawyers	Growth
Al Tamimi & Company	171	+1%
A&O Shearman	66	No data due to merger
Clyde & Co	63	-5%
Clifford Chance	61	-3%
White & Case	54	+2%
Hadef & Partners	48	+20%
DLA Piper	44	+7%
Freshfields	40	-5%
Pinsent Masons	39	-3%

*FROM AUGUST 2023-AUGUST 2024



REMUNERATION

MIDDLE EAST | 2024



PRIVATE PRACTICE SALARIES (MONTHLY)

PQE	US Firms	Magic Circle	International Firms	Regional Firms
NQ	40,000 - 60,000	40,000 - 41,666	33,333 - 37,500	26,666 - 31,666
1 Year	43,333 - 63,333	43,333 - 45,833	36,666 - 40,000	29,166 - 34,166
2 Years	46,666 - 66,666	46,666 - 50,000	39,166 - 44,166	31,666 - 36,666
3 Years	50,000 - 70,833	50,000 - 54,166	42,500 - 48,333	33,333 - 39,583
4 Years	53,333 - 75,000	54,166 - 58,333	45,000 - 54,166	36,666 - 43,333
5 Years	56,666 - 79,166	58,333 - 62,500	48,333 - 60,000	40,000 - 46,666
6 Years	60,000 - 83,333	62,500 - 66,666	51,666 - 65,000	44,166 - 52,083
7 Years	63,333 - 87,500	66,666 - 70,833	54,166 - 68,750	48,333 - 58,333
8 Years +	66,666 +	70,833 +	58,333+	54,166 +

Salaries are listed in AED.

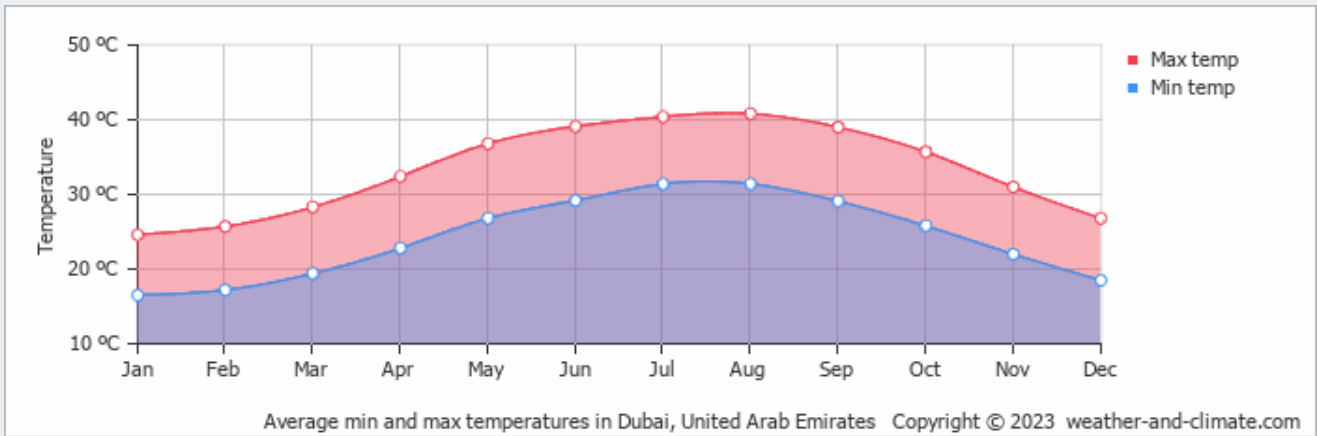




WHAT TO EXPECT MOVING TO THE U.A.E.

For New Zealand lawyers, the UAE offers an attractive lifestyle with year-round sunshine, luxurious amenities, and a blend of modern and traditional culture. Cities like Dubai and Abu Dhabi provide a cosmopolitan atmosphere with world-class dining, entertainment, and shopping. The UAE's strategic location also makes it easy to travel to Europe, Asia, and Africa.

AVERAGE MIN & MAX TEMPERATURES - Dubai



Housing options range from high-end apartments to more affordable suburban villas, with the absence of income tax allowing you to maximise your earnings. The UAE's focus on safety, infrastructure, and cleanliness further enhances its appeal as a dynamic yet stable place to live and work as a Kiwi lawyer.

RENTAL PRICES PER MONTH

2 bedroom apartment

Dubai	Average (NZD)
Dubai Marina	\$4,782
Jumeirah Beach	\$7,467

Abu Dhabi	Average (NZD)
Khalifa City	\$2,213
The Corniche	\$3,688





LIFESTYLE

MOVING TO THE U.A.E.

The UAE is home to some of the world's most iconic attractions, offering endless opportunities for exploration and leisure.

The **Burj Khalifa** in Dubai, the tallest building on the planet, provides breathtaking views and is a symbol of the UAE's architectural ambition. For those who love shopping, **The Dubai Mall** and **Mall of the Emirates** are retail paradises, offering everything from luxury brands to unique experiences like indoor skiing. The **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque** in Abu Dhabi, with its stunning white domes and intricate architecture, is a must-visit for anyone interested in cultural and spiritual experiences.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find plenty to enjoy, from the serene beaches of the **Arabian Gulf** to the adventure of desert safaris, dune bashing, and **camel riding**. The UAE also boasts numerous **world-class golf courses**, theme parks like **Ferrari World** and **Warner Bros. World**, and cultural hubs such as the **Louvre Abu Dhabi**. Whether you're interested in arts, sports, or just relaxing in luxurious surroundings, the UAE offers an array of attractions to enrich your lifestyle.



BURJ KHALIFA



DUBAI MALL



SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE



MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE



CAMEL RIDING



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CONTACT US

If you have any questions about the content of this Guide, or are interested in a new role in the UAE, please reach out. We have an office based in Dubai.

We're happy to provide tailored market and salary advice based on your unique circumstances.



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