



Sharkawy & Sarhan Law firm
Arbitration and Dispute
Resolution



El-Rifai Mosque - Cairo - Egypt

OUR ESSENCE

In 2006, Jim Wright, Ahmed El Sharkawy and Karim Sarhan established Sharkawy & Sarhan. Their extensive experience and different backgrounds combined to create a firm set up to provide high quality business law services. The firm extended rapidly to become one of the leading firms in Egypt.

Sharkawy & Sarhan have acted on some of the largest and most complex transactions in the Egyptian market. As an independent law firm, we work together with the leading international law firms, which do not have presence in Egypt, to represent clients in cross-border transactions and matters. We are the best friend firm for most of the Magic Circle and Silver Circle firms.

Through our excellent working relationships with leading international law firms, we provide seamlessly an integrated legal service to international clients. This is facilitated by the fact that all of the senior lawyers of the firm have been seconded to work with Magic Circle firms through the secondment program at Sharkawy & Sarhan.

We act as Egyptian legal counsel to major companies including; Nestle, Orange, GE, RWE, BG, Shell, DP World, Google, Barclays, WPP, Amazon, EFG-Hermes, Majid Al Futtaim Properties, Huntsman and DuPont .

We are one of few law firms on the IFC panel for Egypt.

We offer the following:

- A principled approach to the practice of law, including a commitment to integrity and confidentiality, and a scrupulousness regarding conflicts of interest to be expected of a leading trans-border firm.
- Detailed knowledge of Egyptian law and its practical application in a business context. Our lawyers are always up-to-date on the latest developments in their areas of law.
- A wealth of experience working with major global companies on complex transactions.
- A proactive, pragmatic approach and a “hands-on” mentality to identify issues and solve problems.
- A high degree of responsiveness from senior lawyers, in the time periods required to the particular needs of the client.
- A continuous training program for all staff, designed to ensure that our people have the most recent legal knowledge and skills required to deliver a high quality service.



Jim Wright and Karim Sarhan after receiving the IFLR award in 2010

Our Experience



High Court Complex

Our team members has represented multinational companies on ICSID arbitrations, ICC arbitrations and on arbitration cases before the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (**CRCICA**).

Our team also represented multinational and major regional companies on litigation cases before the Egyptian Economic Court.

Representative examples of the experience of our team members include:

Successfully representing a major fund management company on two cases before the Egyptian Economic Court regarding the liability of fund managers.

Advising and representing a major international company operating port terminals in an ICC construction arbitration against one of its contractors.

Advising and representing an international drilling company in a number of CRCICA arbitration cases against oil companies.

Advising and representing an oil company in a CRCICA arbitration relating to termination of franchise.

Advising and representing (with an international law firm) an Egyptian petrochemical company in an ICC arbitration against a German plant engineering and construction company relating to contractual breaches concerning transfer of technology and exclusivity rights.

Advising and representing an Egyptian industrial company in EUR 7 million CRCICA arbitration against a European company concerning international sale of equipment.

Advising and representing (with an international law firm) a Swiss manufacturer of steel equipment in an ICC arbitration against an Egyptian steel company in relation to contractual breaches.

Advising and representing an Egyptian state agency in an international arbitration against a US broadcasting Services Company in relation to claims arising from broadcasting agreements.

Advising Centamin Egypt on a high profile case in front of the High Administrative Court. The case relates to a concession for gold exploration and exploitation held by Pharaoh Gold Mines a subsidiary from Centamin. Centamin is appealing a judgment issued by the first-degree administrative court, which reduced the development area of the gold concession. Our role included advising Centamin Egypt on all the substantive aspects of the appeal and preparing the legal basis for challenging the judgement of the first-degree court.

Advising a major Chinese supplier on a contractual dispute in relation to a multimillion USD supply agreement. Our role included advising the company relation to their legal position under Egyptian law as well as negotiating a settlement between the disputing parties.

Advising and successfully representing (with Allen & Overy) six foreign exporters of polypropylene ("PP") in the safeguard investigations on PP imports to Egypt after the Egyptian authority has imposed provisional safeguard duties until completing its investigations. This was the first time the investigating authority issues a detailed report recommending the termination of a trade remedy investigation without the imposition of any definitive measures.

Handling all the employment litigations of a number of multinational companies in Egypt. Our role includes advising the companies on the substantive aspects of the litigations as well as handling all the procedural aspects.

Advising a major developer on a dispute with one of its consultants regarding a major construction project in Egypt. The dispute was successfully mediated to a settlement by our firm.

Advising a major Gulf real estate company on several matters of Egyptian law in the context of a claim before an English court related to a property in Cairo.



Karim Sarhan

Partner

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Karim has more than fourteen years of experience and his practice focuses on international arbitration, oil & gas, mergers & acquisitions, capital markets and finance.

He represented clients in a number of international arbitration cases, and represented a number of oil & gas companies in commercial negotiations with **EGPC** and **EGAS** for concession agreements, gas sale agreements, and oil services agreements. He advised numerous multinational companies, banks and international financial institutions on transactions in Egypt often involving cross border elements.

Arbitration and Dispute Resolution

Successfully representing a major fund management company on two cases before the Egyptian Economic Court regarding the liability of fund managers.

Advising and representing a major multinational company operating port terminals in an ICC construction arbitration against one of its contractors.

Advising and representing an international oil drilling company in a number of CRCICA arbitration cases against oil companies.

Advising and representing an Egyptian industrial company in EUR 7 million CRCICA arbitration against a German company concerning international sale of equipment.

Advising and representing an Egyptian contractor in a USD 2 million CRCICA construction arbitration against a multinational company.

Advising and representing an Egyptian contractor in EGP 5 million CRCICA arbitration against the Egyptian government concerning a BOT project.

Advising and representing a tourism company in EGP 5 million arbitration against an engineering consultancy firm concerning the development of a tourism project.

Advising (with Allen and Overy) an Egyptian industrial company in an international ICC arbitration in London.

Advising Centamin Egypt on a high profile case in front of the High Administrative Court. The case relates to a concession for gold exploration and exploitation held

Education:

LLM, Faculty of Law,
Cairo University.

Post graduate diploma in
Islamic Sharia, Faculty of Law,
Cairo University.

Post graduate diploma in
Business and Investments
from the School of Business &
Economics, American
University in Cairo.

LLB, Faculty of Law, English
Section, Cairo University, and
qualified in 2000.

Languages:

Arabic and English.

Testimonials:

Karim is recognized as a
"Leading Lawyer" in Banking
& Finance, Capital Markets
and Mergers & Acquisitions
by IFLR1000, 2014 edition.

by Pharaoh Gold Mines a subsidiary from Centamin. Centamin is appealing a judgment issued by the first-degree administrative court, which reduced the development area of the gold concession. He advised Centamin Egypt on all the substantive aspects of the appeal and on preparing the legal basis for challenging the judgement of the first-degree court.

Publications & Speaking Engagements:

"The ABCs of WTO Dispute Settlement", an article in the American Arbitration Association Handbook on International Arbitration (2010).

Chapter on Egypt, in Guide to dispute resolution in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, (Herbert Smith, 2010).

"Developing Local Capital Markets in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region": Co-authored the section on Egypt in the article "Developing Local Capital Markets in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region" (an IFI Journal Law in Transition, Spring 2013)

"The Constitutional Assembly", a lecture organized by Arab Forum for Alternatives Research Centre, (Cairo 2011).

"Global Trends 2030- The Future of Democracy", a conference organized by the European Institute for Security Studies, (Brussels 2011).

"The Arab Democratic Wave", a conference organized by the European Institute for Security Studies, (Paris 2011).

The Annual Conference of the International Bar Association, (Dubai 2011).

"Constitutional and Political Reform in Egypt Post Revolution", a series of lectures held, (Cairo 2011)."

"The Possible Impact that Political Reform can have on the Legal and Business Environment", The Future of Egypt Conference, (Cairo 2011).

"Islamic Finance," a conference organized by the American University in Cairo, (Cairo 2010).



Ahmed Haggag

Partner

ah@sharkawylaw.com

Ahmed's practice focuses on general corporate, project financing and M&A. He joined Sharkawy & Sarhan in 2007. Ahmed was seconded to Clifford Chance Dubai for a period of six months during 2011.

Ahmed's experience includes:

Arbitration and Dispute Settlement

Advising Centamin Egypt on a high profile case in front of the High Administrative Court. The case relates to a concession for gold exploration and exploitation held by Pharaoh Gold Mines a subsidiary from Centamin. Centamin is appealing a judgment issued by the first degree administrative court which reduced the development area of the gold concession. Our role included advising Centamin Egypt on all the substantive aspects of the appeal and preparing the legal basis for challenging the judgement of the first degree court

Advising a major developer on a dispute with one of its consultants regarding a major construction project in Egypt. The dispute was successfully mediated to a settlement by our firm.

Advising a major Chinese supplier on a contractual dispute in relation to a multimillion USD supply agreement. Our role included advising the company relation to their legal position under Egyptian law as well as negotiating a settlement between the disputing parties.

Handling all the employment litigations of a number of multinational companies in Egypt. Our role includes advising the companies on the substantive aspects of the litigations as well as handling all the procedural aspects.

Education:

LLB, Faculty of Law, English Section, Ain Shams University, and qualified in 2007.

Languages:

Arabic and English.



Ahmad Farghal

Senior Associate

af@sharkawylaw.com

Ahmad's practice focuses on corporate, finance and oil & gas. He joined Sharkawy & Sarhan in 2009. Ahmad was seconded to Allen & Overy Dubai for a period of four months during 2013. Ahmed's experience includes:

Arbitration and Dispute Settlement

Advising a Gulf Developer on an English court case filed by its investment manager for unpaid fees under a management agreement for a prime property in Cairo.

Advising and representing a major international company operating port terminals in an ICC construction arbitration against once of its contractors.

Advising and representing an international drilling company in a number of arbitration cases against oil companies.

Advising and successfully representing (with Allen & Overy) six foreign exporters of polypropylene ("PP") in the safeguard investigations on PP imports to Egypt after the Egyptian authority has imposed provisional safeguard duties until completing its investigations. This was the first time the investigating authority issues a detailed report recommending the termination of a trade remedy investigation without the imposition of any definitive measures.

Publications & Speaking Engagements:

"Document Retention: An International Review": Co-authored the Egypt chapter of the 2nd edition of Herbert Smith Freehills's popular guide 'Document Retention: An International Review', which provides guidance on key document retention obligations and data management issues in 28 jurisdictions worldwide. (Herbert Smith Freehills, 2013)

"Developing Local Capital Markets in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region": Co-authored the section on Egypt in the article "Developing Local Capital Markets in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region" (an IFI Journal Law in Transition, Spring 2013)

"Global Data Privacy Directory": Authored the section on Egypt in Norton Rose's guide for clients on data privacy laws around the world, which includes an overview of the relevant laws (if any) in each jurisdiction, the type of data that is protected and whether there are restrictions on offshore transfers. (Norton Rose, 2012)

Education:

LLB, Faculty of Law, English Section, Ain Shams University, and qualified in 2009.

Languages:

Arabic and English.

Heba Raslan

Senior Associate

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Education:

PHD in Philosophy of Law,
King's College London,
University of London.

LLM, The George Washington
University Law School.

Masters in Private law and
Intellectual Property Law,
Faculty of Law, Cairo
University.

LLB, Faculty of Law, English
Section, Cairo University (with
distinguished honours as the
highest-ranking LLB candidate
in the English Section), and
qualified in 2001.

Languages:

Arabic, English and German.

Awards:

Winner of the Third Place
award of the 2004 Marcus B.
Finnegan Prize Competition
established by the law firm of
Finnegan, Henderson,
Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, in
cooperation with the George
Washington University Law
School.

Heba's practice focuses on arbitration, general commercial intellectual property and labour law issues. She joined Sharkawy & Sarhan in 2012.

Prior to joining Sharkawy & Sarhan, Heba worked at Rouse & Co. International, where she advised various clients on a number of trademark issues in the MENA region. She assisted in carrying out administrative enforcement and anti-counterfeiting services. Heba also assisted in a domain name recovery for a well-known trademark in Morocco.

Heba's experience includes:

Arbitration and Dispute Settlement

Advising and successfully representing (with Allen & Overy) six foreign exporters of polypropylene ("PP") in the safeguard investigations on PP imports to Egypt after the Egyptian authority has imposed provisional safeguard duties until completing its investigations. This was the first time the investigating authority issues a detailed report recommending the termination of a trade remedy investigation without the imposition of any definitive measures.

Advising and representing (with the litigation team) a multinational company in a dispute regarding fraud misdemeanour.

Publications & Speaking Engagements:

"The Balance of Copyright in Comparative Perspectives-Country Reports: Egypt," The XVIIIth International Congress of Comparative Law, (Washington, D.C, (2010) (co-author).

"Shari'a and the Protection of Intellectual Property: The Example of Egypt," IDEA, (2007).

"Protecting Domain Names," Thesis (2003).

"Protection of Rights Neighbouring to Author's Rights in the New Egyptian IP Law of 2002," Thesis (2002).

"Electronic Commerce and Digital Signature: A Comparative Study," Paper (2003) (co-author).

"Protection of Works of Applied Art: A Comparative Study," Paper (2001).



Osama El Sharkawy

Of Counsel

Mr. El Sharkawy is a litigation and real estate specialist with more than twenty-three years of experience in handling complex commercial and civil law disputes. He also has extensive experience in handling labour disputes. He represented several of the Firm's general corporate clients in various employment law disputes including negotiations of settlement agreements with employees and negotiating collective bargaining agreements. Mr. El Sharkawy is the lead lawyer of our litigation team which also includes our litigators, Mr. Ahmed Shawky and Mr. Thabet Taha, who have extensive experience in property registration and due diligence.

Mr. El Sharkawy's experience includes:

Advising and representing Nestle on several employment related disputes and various commercial litigations in addition to land due diligence.

Advising a Gulf Developer on an English court case filed by its investment manager for unpaid fees under a management agreement for a prime property in Cairo.

Education:

LLB, Faculty of Law, Mansoura University, and qualified in 1992.

Languages:

Arabic.



What people say about us

“The firm has maintained a solid team over the past year and maintains a reputation as a quality outfit particularly in banking and finance and in banking sector M&A.” (IFLR1000, 2015 edition)

“According to one recent client on a high value financing: “Sharkawy & Sarhan (S&S) provided advice on all Egyptian law matters. They have been, and continue to be, efficient and helpful, with clear advice. [What is] particularly useful is their responsiveness. One rarely waits more than a couple of hours for an answer and replies usually come much more quickly than that. S&S are my first-choice law firm in Egypt”. (IFLR1000, 2015 edition)

“Sharkawy & Sarhan has been on the ascendency in the market of the past years and despite the unpredictable conditions has maintained a strong reputation” (IFLR1000, 2014 edition)

“Very responsive indeed...including on Fridays which is the start of the weekend in Egypt. [The] team is dedicated and with enough depth to cover intensive demands from clients”. (A client for corporate and capital markets advice to IFLR1000, 2014 edition)

“The firm has been focusing on the big-ticket transactions as a matter of strategy...” (IFLR1000, 2014 edition)

“The firm is active in the debt markets and claims some of the biggest M&A transactions of the year.” (IFLR1000, 2014 edition)

“Clients are happy with the firm's work. According to one, it was "very good" for due diligence and structuring. "We had a demanding client with very complex and technical questions and they were always spot on, very clear". Another client adds that the firm is "very good at coming up with ideas on how to get what we wanted.” (A client to IFLR, 2013 edition).

“They are developing a good practice for the future.” (One peer to IFLR, 2013 edition).

“Sharkawy & Sarhan has maintained its reputation and the general consensus is that it is continuing to entrench itself at the top end of the market.” (IFLR, 2013 edition).

“It is a fantastic young team.” (A client in IFLR1000, 2012 edition).

“Sharkawy & Sarhan remains one with a prominent presence and is respected by its competitors as a solid practice with quality lawyers.” (International Financial Law Review IFLR1000, 2011 edition).

“Sharkawy & Sarhan maintains the reputation honed since its founding in 2006 for consummate ability on high-value finance deals. In 2009, the firm acted in the

closing of a \$360m facility for cement business Lafarge Egypt, advising the initial mandated lead arrangers and lenders on the transaction.” (Legal 500, 2009)

“A strong market contender. Its involvement in a number of significant bank finance deals, along with positive feedback from clients and competitors, earns the firm a promotion in this category. Partners Karim Sarhan and Ahmed El Sharkawy are named as rising stars by competitors, one of whom describes them as ‘very solid’.” (International Financial Law Review IFLR 2008)

“The firm has advised on a slew of cutting edge finance deals, including Egypt’s largest private equity and sharia compliant. With a focus on projects and finance, Sharkawy & Sarhan is noted for the quality of its general corporate work, being the trusted referral partner of many London City law firms, including Allen & Overy LLP and Clifford Chance.” (Legal 500, 2008)

Sharkawy & Sarhan

2015