

# SETON HALL | LAW

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## **Samir Safar-Aly**

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Samir Safar-Aly is an English-qualified Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales and is a senior associate in the firm's Dubai International Financial Centre office (DIFC), with prior experience in London and Beijing (in both finance and energy matters). He advises a number of international financial institutions and global asset managers on financial services regulation (with a focus on the GCC, wider MENA region, Asia, and Africa), having extensive experience in liaising with the region's regulators and securities exchanges.

Mr. Safar-Aly has written a number of articles and industry publications on various issues of financial regulation, FinTech, financial crime, AML, and sanctions, and has mentored at the DIFC Fintech Hive. He was also a co-author in one of the first major studies on Green Sukuk and continues to be involved in sustainable finance related initiatives, including being a speaker at the World Green Economy Summit 2019, Dubai. In December 2019, he was invited to the 8th Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption, organised by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In April 2020, he was invited by the Dubai Government to be a member of Dubai's Sustainable Sukuk Standards Committee.

Mr. Safar-Aly's practice covers the full range of financial services and products, including the cross-border marketing of investment banking and corporate finance services, wealth management activities, investment funds, securities and investment banking services, as well as cryptocurrencies, digital tokens, digital assets, and FinTech-related matters generally. He has played a leading role in many key government advisory projects in the areas of legal and regulatory reform and strategy, including on a number of national economic blueprint plans. This includes advising the Governments of Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, and the UAE. This also includes advising on full scale projects to introduce the implementation of Islamic finance from a legal and regulatory perspective, to drafting legislation for the establishment of financial centers.

Mr. Safar-Aly's focus includes UAE, Saudi, and wider international anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing rules, anti-bribery and corruption laws (covering the GCC, UK and United States), and other areas of white-collar and financial crime. He has particular expertise in

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financial and economic sanctions and regularly provides guidance on UN, U.S. (OFAC), UK, EU, and GCC sanctions regimes and export-control issues across a wide range of sectors.

Mr. Safar-Aly's experience also includes representing clients on contentious regulatory matters and regulatory investigations across the Middle East, as well as conducting government and internal investigations on issues ranging from anti-bribery and corruption to AML issues.