

## NEW HORIZONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The legal sector is an area experiencing exponential growth, spanning across a vast variety of practice sectors in the Middle East. Being one of the most dynamic legal markets in the world at the moment, it is widely acknowledged as the business hub between the East and West. The majority of international law firms have harmonized a strong network within the region and are now creating more extensive office bases throughout. Furthermore, it is no surprise that sprouting interest in the area has consequently led over the last few years to formation of alliances between international such as Clyde and co and Clifford Chance and leading Middle Eastern Law firms signaling their commitment to the region.

With a large number of economic Free-Zones and growing, the Middle East offers a liberalizing framework with low regulation, making it a financial haven for international corporations to operate. This consequently provides increasing opportunities for lawyers looking to make their careers in a vibrant and meritocratic environment.

The roles are there for both new and experienced lawyers. However, the question is - how does the work compare to the quality of work on home soil? Within law firms in the Middle East, the work is derived both locally and internationally, with a range of sectors providing the clients full business services. The work is predominantly government and internationally led – with the obvious leaning towards Oil and Gas.....for the moment. However, other strong sectors which are only increasing are telecommunications, finance, insurance and the regulatory sector. Whereas construction has always been a staple given the infrastructure development wholesale throughout the region.

Lawyers seeking a fast paced, high quality work with ample client exposure will not be disappointed. As well as those who are exhausted of the corporate hierarchy experienced in UK and US firms, will have the chance abroad to be given early responsibility due to smaller departments. In addition, both private and in-house practice salaries closely mirror those in London, but with the added bonus of no income tax, the Middle East is a financially liberal and lucrative possibility.

Lucrative opportunities, all year round sunshine combined with sandy beaches and family focused communities make the GCC a perfect place for lawyers to enhance their career. Moving over seas can be a daunting prospect for any caliber of candidate. With the question posed; "are they going to be looked after throughout the seemingly complicated process?" Understandably candidates may be thrown off. However, with the aid of experienced and professional consultants who are dedicated purely on creating synergy with candidates and the correct opportunity – the strain can be reduced somewhat by providing these detailed insights into overseas markets and opportunities and assisting you avoid the pitfalls inherent in the process. You can look to the future with confidence knowing you are making a progressive step. Turning that once thought leap of faith into a precise and promising outcome.

If you believe an exciting Middle Eastern law career would suit you then do not hesitate to get in touch with Cameron Cole International by visiting [www.camcoleinternational.com](http://www.camcoleinternational.com)

