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IFLR AWARDS MIDDLE EAST 2020 WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT



MATOUK BASSIOUNY & HENNAWY WIN M&A DEAL OF THE YEAR AND EGYPT LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR AT THE IFLR MIDDLE EAST AWARDS

Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy (“MBH”) is delighted to announce that it has won two awards at this year’s IFLR Middle East Awards.

National Firm of the Year, Egypt: Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy

MBH has been awarded *National Firm of the Year* in Egypt for the fourth time since 2014. IFLR’s commercial editor, James Wilson, says:

IFLR Middle East Awards has recognised MBH as the 2020 Egypt law firm of the year. This award recognizes innovation in the firm, both in its approach and in its transactional record over 2019-2020.

During the research, peers regularly praised Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy’s leadership team for its astuteness. Among its most pioneering initiatives, the firm has continued its transformation into a hub for a full service and multijurisdictional MENA operation under the brand Matouk Bassiouny.

Elsewhere, the firm has launched a diversity and inclusion programme in a commitment to drive up standards; notably, the founding partners of both Matouk Bassiouny’s Khartoum and Algiers offices are women. The firm has also implemented other innovations, such as setting up a dedicated venture capital and start-ups legal incubation practice and creating 16 sector-focused groups that cut across all its practice areas.

Among its most innovative transactional work, the team advised ADNOC on its awards-shortlisted JV with OCI, resulting in the creation of Fertiglobe. It acted for Lekela Egypt Wind Power BOO in a financing from a syndication of development banks for its 250MW wind farm project, only the second BOO wind farm in Egypt. Teams also advised Thebes on its sale of education provider Taaleem Group and Export Development Canada on the financing of Egyptian National Railways’ (ENR) fleet procurement agreement with General Electric, as well as a series of interesting private equity and equity capital markets deals.

M&A Deal of the Year: Uber / Careem – Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy

MBH managed the local Egyptian part of the large Uber / Careem acquisition. Wilson says:

IFLR Middle East Awards has recognised Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy for its role on Uber's acquisition of Middle East taxi hailing company Careem, which won M&A deal of the year 2020.

The transaction covered a vast amount of uncertain legal ground across the jurisdictions of the Middle East and Egypt, especially in terms of developing competition law regimes but also on myriad other regulatory issues impacting M&A practice. In Egypt, the transaction marked a change in approach by Egypt's competition watchdog, the Egyptian Competition Authority (ECA), which approved the deal with a range of conditions to protect customers, drivers, market innovation and adjacent markets.

The deal also implied a vast cross-border effort, with the Egypt leg of the transaction having to dovetail with the rest of the multi-jurisdictional acquisition driven out of the US. This transaction was one of several complex M&A deals that Matouk Bassiouny & Hennawy's corporate practice worked on.

MBH would like to take this opportunity to thank the IFLR team for the dedicated exceptional work in throughout the research process, namely to James Wilson and Liam Sharkey (Head of Business Development) for organizing and presenting this year's IFLR Middle East Awards results.

To see the full list of shortlisted firms please visit IFLR's website:

<https://www.iflr.com/article/b1n3wmd7wq0q6l/iflr-middle-east-awards-2020-shortlist-revealed>

To see the full list of winners please visit:

<https://www.iflr.com/article/b1ns5nyl8s0kf3/iflr-middle-east-awards-2020-winners-announced>

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