

## **Law Firm Acquisitions Arrive in MENA: Levari Further Expands Footprint to the United States and Jordan**

A mainstay of US and UK legal markets, law firm acquisitions have finally arrived in MENA with Levari's second acquisition in the last five years of [Kassim Legal](#), a 50-year-old M&A boutique in Washington DC and Amman specializing in US tax and M&A transactions.

Levari, headquartered in Cairo and with offices in London and Dubai, undertook its first acquisition in 2018 acquiring a local emirate firm, Al Mashreq International Advocates. Looking to grow further, Levari and Kassim Legal have joined forces positioning Levari as the only MENA-based firm with a presence in both the United Kingdom and the United States – two crucial markets for its client base in the Middle East.

With the acquisition of Kassim Legal, Levari becomes one of the few regional firms in MENA with US-specific tax, corporate, and venture fund expertise. The acquisition also establishes Levari as one of the largest law firms in MENA, making it the first local, but global law firm in MENA.

“In this competitive market, clients expect law firms to deliver a full range of legal services in a variety of geographies with local presence. Adding a US and Jordanian presence opens up doors for our clients looking to expand,” says [Sherif Hefni](#), Senior Partner at Levari.

“We have seen an enormous increase in US related venture work. Kassim Legal, a specialist firm with excellent expertise in this area, can now scale on our growing platform,” says Hefni.

“We have been working with [Hisham Kassim](#) for many years and have always felt he would be a perfect fit in the Levari family. We are extremely happy and proud to have Hisham join us. With his experience and specialization, we are now able to offer our clients in MENA and afield, US and Jordanian legal support at the highest quality,” says [Mohamed Raslan](#), Senior Partner at Levari.

According to market analysts, the pace of international law mergers and acquisitions is set to rise next year, as firms look to increase market share and enhance their depth and scale. Levari is the first to lead the trend in MENA.

An Altman Weil report released earlier this year predicted that law firm mergers may reach 100 transactions after cratering in 2020, when offices struggled to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. This is part of a generalized trend for law firms who appear to be returning to a longer-term, strategic focus.

“Setting up law firms in different geographical locations is actually very complex, therefore acquiring Kassim Legal's offices is a big win for us,” says Hefni.

Hisham A. Kassim, Managing Partner of Kassim Legal says: “I'm delighted that we will be able to deliver our niche expertise to a much larger network of clients. I have been working with Levari for many years and we share the same ethos of quality and professionalism. I cannot be happier to be joining the Levari partners on the next chapter of its growth.”