

# AHMED DAWOOD

EMAIL ADDRESS Ahmed.Dawood@bhc-iq.com

PHONE NUMBER +1 703 899 7552 (USA)  
+964 7802 200 700 (Iraq)

LOCATION Washington, DC, USA and Baghdad, Iraq

LANGUAGES Arabic 5/5  
English 4/5

Include Speaking / Reading Level)  
5 = Functional Native Proficiency  
4 = Advanced Professional Fluency  
3 = General Professional Fluency  
2 = Limited Working Proficiency  
1 = Basic Knowledge

YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE 19

COUNTRY EXPERIENCE Iraq and USA

DEGREE(S) EARNED

- Master of Laws in International Legal Studies, American University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC – 2012
- Master's Degree in Commercial Law, Al-Nahrain University, Iraq – 2001
- B.A. in Law, Al-Nahrain University, Iraq – 1998

CERTIFICATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS

- Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Coach
- Iraqi Bar Association Practicing Courses and Certification
- Iraqi Special Legal Consultant - licensed by District of Columbia Bar, USA
- Iraqi Foreign Legal Consultant - licensed by Virginia State Bar, US

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE Iraqi Law, Public International Law, Trade and Foreign Direct Investment, International Investment Law, Institutional Development, Capacity-Building, Public Private Partnerships, Arbitration and Conciliation, Public

Procurement, Public Expenditures, Budget Preparation and Execution, Public Financial Management, Governance, Licensing, Contracting, and Project Management

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## BIOGRAPHY

Ahmed M. Salman Dawood is the Founder and Managing Partner of BHC, leading the firm's Corporate, Commercial and Intellectual Property practice. Mr. Dawood specializes in commercial and financial affairs related to Iraq, particularly trade and foreign investment, public private partnerships, public procurement, licensing, and contracting. He led and coached the Iraqi team in the 2016 Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Austria, Bahrain, and Jordan, and he is committed to developing the cadre of arbitration professionals in Iraq. Mr. Dawood advises members of the Iraqi government on arbitration-related issues such as the current draft arbitration law and Iraq's potential accession to the New York Convention.

Mr. Dawood holds a Juris Doctor from Iraq, a Masters in Commercial Law from Iraq, and a Master of Laws in International Legal Studies from American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., where he completed several courses on international arbitration. He speaks fluent Arabic and English has been a member of the Iraqi Bar Association since 1998. Mr. Dawood's clients have included major U.S. and international entities such as the World Bank, for which he coordinated the Iraq Doing Business Report in 2010.

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## EXPERIENCE

### **BAYT AL-HIKMAH LEGAL SERVICES AND CONSULTANCY LLC (BHC), IRAQ AND USA**

#### **Managing Partner, 2010 – present**

As the Founder and Managing Partner of BHC, Mr. Dawood is responsible for a variety of legal and consulting services for both small and large-scale projects, addressing and overseeing everything from major strategic issues to more basic problems affecting everyday business practices in Iraq, including the registration of Iraqi companies and licensing of foreign branches and representative offices in Iraq; improvement of internal auditing mechanisms and of the transparency and accountability within procurement recordation; and preparation of expert opinions on Iraqi law matters. Mr.

Dawood also advises companies on compliance issues with Iraqi laws and regulations, represents clients within the Government of Iraq and Iraqi Courts, and provides capacity-building on legal knowledge within government institutions. One of his most notable capacity-building programs is Iraq's potential accession to the New York Convention, to wit Mr. Ahmed advises high-level officials on the implications, benefits, and risks of accession, as well as the challenges of implementing the Convention in the Iraqi context.

**BAE SYSTEMS, INC. (AN IRAQI SUBSIDIARY), WASHINGTON, DC, USA**

*Iraqi Legal Advisor, 2010 – Present*

Mr. Dawood advises the company on Iraqi law, business compliance, and licensing requirements in regards to its in-country operations.

**WILLEM C. VIS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION MOOT, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

*Coach, 2016*

Mr. Dawood personally sponsored several Iraqi law graduates to participate in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition in Austria, Bahrain, and Jordan. As the Team Coach, her personally trained and developed the team on subjects of public international law and international commercial arbitration.

**GRANT THORNTON LLP, IRAQ AND USA**

*Senior Manager / Senior Iraqi Attorney, Global Public Sector, International Vertical Sector Market, 2008 – 2010*

As a member of the International Vertical Sector Market, Mr. Dawood supported public sector clients around the world in a variety of efforts to improve governance, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness. He provided critical analyses and key strategic input for the firm's business development efforts in the MENA region. He also traveled internationally to represent the firm at international events, conduct business development, and provide expert legal advice to project teams. Mr. Dawood provided regular support to the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary for Business Transformation Task Force to Improve Business and Stability Operations in Iraq, and he also provided strategic analyses, research and advice related to Iraq's efforts regarding procurement laws, financial management, and the privatization of State-

owned enterprises. As the Senior Iraqi lawyer in a team of Iraqi and international lawyers, Mr. Dawood promoted foreign direct investment in Iraq.

#### **COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BAGHDAD**

##### **Deputy Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, 2006 – 2008**

Mr. Dawood accepted this position upon the request of the Deputy Prime Minister and served as the Director of the Secretariat of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI), which was an initiative of the Government of Iraq for a new partnership with the international community. The Compact was a five-year national plan that included benchmarks and mutual commitments from both Iraq and the international community, all with the aim of helping Iraq on the path towards peace, sound governance and economic reconstruction. Mr. Dawood also served as the Secretary of the High Economic Committee and the Secretary of the High Contracting Committee at the Council of Ministers for the Ministers of Oil, Trade, Finance, and Planning, the Governor of the Central Bank of Iraq, the Head of the Board of Supreme Audit, and the Deputy Prime Minister. As Chairman, Mr. Dawood regularly made decisions related to Iraqi financial and economic platforms, national federal budget allocations, and development plans. He also reviewed and approved government contracts of over 3 million US dollars, and supported federal strategic projects and anti-corruption initiatives, transparency and accountability improvements, and tax and customs policy developments. The Committee played a key role in coordination efforts between the Government of Iraq and international organizations, including the World Bank, the United Nations, and international donors. The Committee also coordinated work and communications between Iraqi government ministries and agencies on a regular basis.

Mr. Dawood worked directly with the Deputy Prime Minister and his advisors to develop and implement plans, policies and organizational changes that served the goals and programs of the Government of Iraq; coordinated the Deputy Prime Minister's programs with the United Nations, the World Bank, USAID, and Iraqi Ministers; participated in specialized committees in drafting laws and regulations; undertook the technical and administrative tasks of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on inter-governmental

and inter-ministerial communications and decisions; provided advice and counsel in defining and accomplishing the goals of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; managed more than 70 employees; and served as a member of the Iraqi Technical Committee on the ICI and the Iraqi Detainees Release Committee.

#### **INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ, BAGHDAD**

##### **Minister of Planning and Development Cooperation Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff, 2005 – 2006**

Mr. Dawood served as a member of the Privatization Committee, the National Identification Card Committee, the Public Distribution System Committee, and the Investment Laws and Organization Committee. He participated in the Iraq National Strategy Team and National Vision Statement; reviewed and drafted laws and regulations related to the Ministry; worked directly with the Minister and his advisors to develop and implement plans, policies and corresponding organizational changes; assisted the Minister in drawing up objectives related to the national development and governmental and non-governmental investment planning for Iraq; negotiated reconstruction and development projects with Iraqi Ministries and international donors as part of the work of the Iraqi Strategic Review Board; supported the Minister's participation in UNGA and UN meetings, World Bank Annual Meetings, World Economic Forum events, and Arab Business Council meetings; coordinated the meetings and activities of the Minister with the United Nations, World Bank, and USAID; provided advice and counsel in defining and accomplishing the Minister's mission and goals; and managed over 50 employees.

#### **TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ, BAGHDAD**

##### **Deputy Prime Minister Senior Executive Secretary (Advisor Capacity), 2004 – 2005**

During his tenure with the Transitional Government of Iraq, Mr. Dawood researched, analyzed and advised the Deputy Prime Minister on issues related to Iraqi laws; analyzed and provided recommendations to the Deputy Prime Minister on matters related to Iraqi laws and policies, (including but not limited to matters of commercial law and issues concerning legal, commercial and economic activities in Iraq, and he provided opinions on international laws and fiscal laws); researched, analyzed, and advised the Deputy Prime Minister on Orders and Regulations

proposed by the Iraqi Interim Government; liaised with various US governmental agencies and the Deputy Prime Minister regarding high value detainees; liaised with various Iraqi Ministries and governmental agencies to facilitate the Deputy Prime Minister's goals and objectives; prepared analyses and studies related to ongoing reconstruction projects in Iraq, which the Deputy Prime Minister utilized when formulating new policies; coordinated the Deputy Prime Minister's meeting agendas regarding commercial, economic and financial matters; and provided support in drafting Iraqi laws.

**COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY (CPA), OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL, BAGHDAD**

*Iraqi Local Counsel, 2003 – 2004*

Mr. Dawood provided advice and legal services to the Office of the General Council of the CPA; researched, analyzed, and advised on Iraqi laws, including but not limited to, matters related to Iraqi commercial law; translated detainees' cases into English and provided related legal advice to the CPA; advised the Iraqi government and foreign agencies on projects, programs and laws concerning their clients; provided assistance in drafting laws, orders and regulations related to administrative laws, commercial law reform, international laws, and fiscal laws; coordinated between Iraqi and foreign institutions and the Iraqi Ministry of Justice on matters related to legal reform; reviewed and verified the Iraq Official Gazette before publication; and managed teams of Iraqi linguists and translators in the large-scale translation of CPA Orders from English into Arabic and the translation of Iraqi laws from Arabic into English.

**HIGH INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL STUDIES (IHIAFS), UNIVERSITY OF BAGHDAD**

*Assistant Teacher, 2002 – 2004*

Mr. Dawood started as an Academic Contractor in June 2002 and became a Civil Servant employee after the War on September 10, 2003, and he served as the Director of Legal and Administrative Affairs at the Institute's Legal and Administrative Office. He was also a teacher-in-training for courses on commercial matters, banking, insurance, and taxation, as well as a reporter of the IHIAFS Chartered Accountant Department. In addition, Mr. Dawood organized and managed IHIAFS's Human Resources, Communications, and Supplies Departments.

**GENERAL COUNSEL AND PRINCIPAL LEGAL ADVISOR FOR  
DR. ABDUL SAHIB SHAKIRY, BAGHDAD**

1998 – 2003

Mr. Dawood provided a full range of legal services for a number of prestigious companies, including but not limited to representation before the Iraqi Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction. He advised companies on their rights and duties towards the State and third parties.

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**PUBLICATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS**

- *Procuring Infrastructure PPPs Project, World Bank (forthcoming)*
- *Doing Business: Equal Opportunity for All, World Bank, 2017*
- *Benchmarking Public-Private Partnerships Procurement, World Bank, 2017*
- *Legal Guide to Investing in Power Generation in Iraq, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2016*
- *Legal Guide to Investment in Iraq, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015*

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**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- *Iraq Investment Promotion Project Workshop, World Bank – IFC, Amman, Jordan 2017*
- *Doing Business in Iraq, American Chamber of Commerce, Washington, D.C.*
- *Infrastructure Financing in Iraq, Iraqi Prime Minister's Office, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce*
- *Power Generation Projects, Iraqi Prime Minister's Office, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce*
- *Aircraft Financing, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce*
- *Legal Guide to Investment in Iraq, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce*

- *Legal Aspects of Conducting Business in Iraq*, Iraqi Commercial Attaché sponsored workshop, Washington, D.C., 2012
- Various investment policy and promotion workshops in Baghdad, Basra, Cairo, and Beirut

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#### FIELD MISSIONS

- Basra, Iraq, World Bank – International Finance Corporation, Investment Policy and Promotion Project, 2016 – 2017