



## News release

### Charles Russell expands Bahrain office with new hires

15 June 2010

Charles Russell has further expanded its Bahrain office hiring Nicholas Polley, a specialist in banking and finance with expertise in Sharia financing and Sherif Hampton a corporate commercial lawyer. They also welcome Basma AlAlawi as a new Bahraini paralegal.

Nicholas is a finance lawyer who has significant expertise in advising on international structured financing transactions. He has acted for the full range of transaction parties including Islamic financial institutions, borrowers, investment funds, venture capital houses, commercial banks, mezzanine financiers, project sponsors and shareholders, governmental agencies/departments and multilateral funding agencies. Nicholas trained as a solicitor in the City of London, and qualified in 2000. He has worked in the Middle East since 2004.

Sherif joins as a corporate commercial lawyer, specializing in M&A and banking. Sherif has experience in the oil and gas industry, both in the North Sea and globally and brings additional experience in the construction industry.

The expanding team has also appointed another Bahraini national, Basma AlAlawi, as a paralegal to support the Middle Eastern offering, bringing the Charles Russell Bahrain office up to a team of 10 fee earners.

Clive Hopewell, head of Charles Russell Middle East, commented: "We are delighted to welcome Nicholas, Sherif and Basma to the Bahrain office. We continue to expand the office to cover those disciplines where we see particular client demand and strategic advantage. Having been in the region for 6 years in both industry and private practice, Nicholas brings a wealth of experience in banking and Islamic finance to the team and demonstrates our firm's commitment to the financial services sector in Bahrain. We balance this with our continued investment in local Bahraini talent with exceptional academics."

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Notes to Editors:

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