

NOTICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 18 OF THE QATAR FINANCIAL CENTER
AUTHORITY REGULATIONS REGARDING LEGAL SERVICES

WHEREAS:

1. Article 11(1) of the Qatar Financial Center Law (Law No. (7) of 2005) ("QFC LAW") provides that:

"[n]otwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any other law or regulations of the State but subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, the QFC Authority shall have the exclusive power to approve, authorise or license corporations, individuals, businesses and other entities to incorporate or establish in the QFC or to carry on Permitted Activities in or from the QFC and to determine the terms and conditions on which such approvals, authorisations or licences may be issued, the conditions which must be satisfied for the grant of any such approval, authorization or license and the types of business which may be conducted pursuant thereto".

2. Article 18(1) of the QFC Authority Regulations ("QFC REGULATIONS") provides that "*[t]he Permitted Activities may be conducted in or from the QFC to the extent, and subject to any limitations or conditions, designated by the QFC Authority by notice published from time to time*".
3. Permitted Activities are defined in the QFC Regulations as "*the activities listed in Schedule 3 of the QFC Law or designated by the Council of Ministers under Article 10(1) of the QFC Law*".
4. Schedule 3 of the QFC Law divides Permitted Activities into:
 - (i) Part 1 - activities which, subject as provided in Regulations, shall be Regulated Activities (paragraphs 1 to 9 of Schedule 3 of the QFC Law); and
 - (ii) Part 2 - activities which, subject as provided in Regulations, shall not be Regulated Activities (paragraphs 10 to 15 of Schedule 3 of the QFC Law).
5. Paragraph 13 of Schedule 3 of the QFC Law includes legal services as an activity, which, subject as provided in Regulations, shall not be Regulated Activities.
6. General Rule 16.3.1 of the QFC Authority Rules defines "Legal Services" as:

"...the application of legal principles or judgment with regard to the circumstances of another Person, including but not limited to:

(A) giving legal advice or counsel to such a Person as to his legal rights or the legal rights or responsibilities of others;

(B) giving legal advice or counsel to such a Person in relation to any QFC Law, or any Regulations or Rules issued thereunder or the laws of any other jurisdiction;

(C) drafting or completion of legal documents or agreements which affect such a Person's legal rights;

(D) representation of such a person in court proceedings or in an administrative adjudicative procedure in which legal pleadings are filed or a record is established as the basis for judicial review; or

(E) negotiation of legal rights or responsibilities on behalf of such a Person; but excluding acting as a lay representative authorised by an administrative agency or tribunal, serving as a judge, mediator, arbitrator, conciliator or facilitator; and participation in employment negotiations, arbitrations or conciliations.”
(all together "LEGAL SERVICES").

THEREFORE,

7. The Board of the Qatar Financial Center Authority, pursuant to Article 18(1) of the QFC Regulations, hereby designates a limitation in respect of the provision of Legal Services as follows:
 - a. The QFC Authority, as of the date of this Notice, shall, until further notice, not issue any new license to any person, company or other entity that applies for a license to provide Legal Services (or any part thereof);
 - b. the limitation imposed in Paragraph 7(a) of this Notice shall not affect any QFC Firm that is, as of the date of this Notice, licensed by the QFC Authority to provide Legal Services; and,
 - c. the limitation imposed in Paragraph 7(a) of this Notice shall not affect the ability of any QFC Firm that is licensed by the QFC Authority to transfer its shares to, subject in any event to the rules, regulations and policies of the QFCA, including without limitation, the provisions in relation to Consideration of Controller Notices of the QFCA Rules.

ISSUED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF THE QATAR FINANCIAL CENTER AUTHORITY ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016.



NASSER AL-TAWEEL

Chief Legal Officer & Board Secretary