

Mohamed Ridza & Co: A top-class law firm

The desire to create a top class boutique law firm inspired Mohamed Ridza, the managing partner to set up Messrs. Mohamed Ridza & Co. in June 2005. Mohamed Ridza & Co. or its acronym "MRCO" is a leading legal firm specializing in Corporate, project work and finance with expertise in Islamic Finance. The firm has 4 highly qualified partners and 13 dedicated staffs who can offer a seamless service in the areas of Banking & Finance, Capital Markets, Construction, Corporate & Commercial law, Foreign Investment, Mergers & Acquisitions, Oil & Gas, Privatisation, Projects and Real Estate. It also boasts of having the largest legal team in Islamic Finance. Located in Kuala Lumpur, the firm has represented many local and international clients which include government agencies, private and public sectors.

MRCO is also a member of LaWorld. LaWorld is a network of independent law firms ranging across several continents globally. Being part of the international network, the firm is able to provide up-to-date legal advice covering a wide range of issues. LaWorld has member firms from 24 countries, and MRCO is the only member firm from Malaysia. This firm had been evaluated for its eligibility to join LaWorld based on its professionalism, reputation, areas of operations and quality of service, to name part of the criteria to being a member of LaWorld.

The Firm has been involved in some of Malaysia's largest and most complex corporate and financing transactions involving corporate and commercial law, mergers and acquisition and financing of both local and international companies. The firm also has a very close working relationship with many local and internationally based financial institutions, multinational corporations and public listed companies.

Among the major accomplishments which the partners have done includes:

- Advising Citigroup in the RM 1 Billion asset backed securitization based on Ijarah involving Telekom Malaysia Berhad.
- Drafting and advising Brunei LNG with respect to a BND100 million Sukuk Al Ijarah

facility in Brunei Darussalam.

- Drafting and advising Metro Ikram (Turkey) with respect to a proposed USD600 million Sukuk Al Ijarah Wa Intifa' facility for the financing of the construction of 100,000 homes in Turkey.
- Drafting and advising Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad with respect to approximately RM500 million Islamic collateralised debt obligations using Mudharabah notes.
- Drafting and advising HSBC Dubai relating to Amlak Sukuk Company Inc. United Arab Emirates on trust certificate.
- Drafting and advising RHB Sakura Merchant Bankers Berhad and various foreign and local underwriters with respect to the international and local underwriting and placement agreements in relation to the AirAsia IPO.
- Drafting and advising Tabung Haji Plantations on their listing exercise on the main board of Bursa Malaysia.
- Drafting and advising CGG France on their Technical Services Agreement.
- Drafting and advising VICAT, France on various corporate matters.
- Acquisition of the shares of PT Awair by AirAsia Berhad.
- Advising Kuwait Finance House (Kuwait) in relation to USD96 million Murabahah facility granted by Standard Chartered Singapore to Baitak Asian Real Estate Fund 1 (Labuan) Limited with respect to Kuwait Finance House (Kuwait)'s indirect investment in the Project Pavilion.
- Advising Kuwait Finance House (Kuwait) in relation to USD105 million Murabahah facility granted by Standard Chartered Singapore to Al-Nibras 2 Limited with respect to Kuwait Finance House (Kuwait)'s investment in Iskandar Malaysia.
- Advising Asian Finance Bank, Indonesia and Indonesian Banks in USD30.0 Million Syndicated Ijarah Financing for PT IAT Indonesia.
- Advising Kuwait Finance House in their real estate transactions, namely the Pavilion, Oval, Sunway South Quay and BU Development.
- Advised, negotiated and drafted various infrastructure agreements for TH Technologies Sdn Bhd with respect to various projects.
- Advised a company on the legal implications of transferring Malay Reserved Land and Bumiputra lots to a public listed company.
- Advising SP Setia Berhad in their various corporate transactions.
- Attended to applications to the Foreign Investment Committee for acquisition of landed assets by foreign individuals and companies.
- Drafting, negotiating and advising Mayban Securities Sdn Bhd with various parties in relation including share sale agreements and settlement agreements.
- Advising various clients on requirements and provisions for listing on Bursa Malaysia
- Advising Kumpulan Hartanah Selangor in their corporate transactions.
- Drafting and advising DRB Hicom on various corporate matters.
- Acquisition of EA Technique shares by Sindora Berhad.
- Advising Trenergy Malaysia Berhad and Trenergy FPSO Sdn Bhd in their various consortium and joint venture agreements.
- Drafting and advising Pertamina Indonesia with respect to the USD300 million Islamic Murabahah Trade Finance facility granted to Pertamina Indonesia.
- Advising UEM with respect to a RM200 million Sukuk Al-Ijarah Master Programme to finance the purchase of land and construction thereon of its headquarters.
- Advising Kuwait Finance House with respect to a Facility of USD250.0 Million investment in Nanhai, China.
- Advising Asian Finance Bank with respect to USD25 Million Istisna' Ijarah Facility granted to QWEC.
- Advising Kuwait Finance House with respect to a Syndicated Musyarakah Mutanaqisah Facility of RM90.0 Million and Syndicated Murabahah Tawarruq Facility of RM66,000,000.00 granted to Sunway South Quay Sdn Bhd.
- Advising Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Berhad in the drafting of the financing products (Murabahah madani & template) and BBA Vehicle financing.
- Advising EON Berhad in its capital reduction exercise.
- Advising a Middle East consortium in

boutique

Iskandar Project, Johor.

- Advising Pelaburan Hartanah in the acquisition of office building.
- Advising Lembaga Tabung Haji in various corporate acquisitions.
- Advising oil and gas companies in various offshore and onshore oil and gas contracts including M & A.
- Advising several institutions and banks in financing with the Government of Malaysia.
- Advising Amanah Raya Berhad in various corporate exercises.
- Advising several venture capital companies in their M & A exercise.

MRCO has in its five years of operation, won many accolades through its determination to offer a high quality service which are up-to-date, accurate and timely. Below is a list of the many awards which the firm had won:

- One of Asia's Leading Lawyer by Islamic Finance News in Islamic finance.
- Asialaw Leading Lawyers in the area of Banking, Capital Markets, Corporate Finance and Islamic Finance.
- Finalist for ALB SE Asia Law Awards for 2006 for Murabahah Facility for the amount of USD96 million granted by Standard Chartered Singapore to Baitak Asian Real Estate Fund I (Labuan) Limited.
- Finalist for ALB SE Asia Law Awards for 2007 for Structured Finance and Securitisation Deal of the Year for Sukuk Ijarah Issuance by Menara ABS.
- Legal adviser to Nibras 2 fund for the most innovative Islamic real estate transaction in Iskandar Malaysia investment during London Summit Sukuk Islamic Finance Awards in 2009.
- One of the top Asian law firms (ALB) in Islamic banking & finance.
- Nominated as one of the outstanding practitioners in the World's Leading Islamic Finance Practitioners by Legal Media Group's Guide.

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Mohamed Ridza graduated from the International Islamic University Malaysia with a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honors) degree in 1992 and was admitted to practice in Malaysia in 1993. He is also a graduate of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (London), a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Ridza also sits as an independent director on the board of several public companies and also their respective audit committee. He has also co-authored 2 books titled the "Law & Practice of Islamic Banking & Finance" and "Sukuk Islamic Capital Market Series" published by Sweet & Maxwell Asia. Ridza was named as one of the world's leading Islamic finance lawyers as voted by his peers in the industry.



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Hafidah graduated with an LL.B (Honours) from the University of Hull, United Kingdom and was admitted to practice in Malaysia in 1995. Hafidah advises on matters related to both Islamic and conventional banking and finance and also advises foreign and local companies in respect of various corporate and commercial matters including mergers and acquisitions of listed and non-listed entities, listings of public companies, joint ventures, consortium agreements involving foreign and multinational companies, leasing agreements and conveyancing matters.



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Shafika graduated from the International Islamic University, Malaysia with an LL.B (Hons) in 1993 and was called to the Malaysian Bar in 1994.

Shafika has advised on a wide variety of Islamic banking, real estate and corporate commercial matters and has contributed articles related to developments in Malaysia's capital markets and Islamic banking.

Being trained in Shari'ah as well as common law, Shafika has advised clients on various aspects of Islamic banking and finance utilizing various Shari'ah concepts such as Bai' Bithaman Ajil, Ijarah, Istis'na, Murabahah and the issuance of Islamic Securities under the Shari'ah principles of Bai' Bithaman Ajil, Ijarah and Murabahah.



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Nazran graduated with an LL.B (Honours) from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom and was admitted to practice in Malaysia in 1997. He was also qualified as a Trust Officer by Labuan Offshore Financial Services Authority.

Nazran advises foreign and local companies in respect of various corporate and commercial matters of listed and non-listed entities, including mergers and acquisitions, listings of public companies, joint ventures. He also advises foreign and local companies in matters relating to offshore business activities especially through Labuan which include advising clients on the setting up of public or private funds, advising on offshore leasing, offshore trusts etc.