

# Dubai Attorneys Discuss Women Practicing Law in the UAE with *Hia Magazine*

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Winston & Strawn Dubai-based Associates Marwa Al Siyabi, Rajwah Al Kuhaymi, and Sara Al Awadhi are featured in *Hia Magazine's* article titled "Three Female Law Professionals from the Gulf Participate in Global WIL Economic Forum 2018." *Hia Magazine* met with the attorneys during the Global Women in Leadership (WIL) Economic Forum 2018 in Dubai November 14 -15, 2018. The article provides insight into their careers as women practicing law in the UAE.

In the article, Marwa discusses her experience working for Winston & Strawn, "I was keen on working in the Dubai office after my graduation in 2015, because I wanted to be part of the female empowerment movement in the Arabian Gulf...My father, although conservative, did not discourage me when I decided to travel to the UK to study, but I faced opposition and incredulity from the community, not just because I was a girl traveling away from her family, but also because of my chosen field, which means that my voice could outweigh the voice of some men in the court." Marwa adds, that as a woman studying law, "I am proud to be part of a generation that is pursuing female empowerment not just in Oman, but in the Arabian Gulf in general, and I am very happy with the significant shift in the region."

Rajwah discusses the major shift in the fields of work for women in KSA in line with the 2030 economic vision and notes that there is a strong push and major empowerment from the leadership in KSA and the Arabian Gulf. Female leaders in the Arabian Gulf are sending the message to women that they are not just supporting women, but they need women to play their vital role in society. "I never thought I would experience this shift at the beginning of my career, I thought it would be seen in future generations, like in the lifetime of my daughter," she explains.

On the topic of the challenges facing Emirati women working in law, Sara encourages young men and women to join training programs in the field of law to learn about it firsthand as she believes there is an information gap regarding the legal industry. Commenting on future aspirations and Expo 2020, she says, "I am very happy to live and work in a city that has become a global platform that attracts prestigious events and investments from around the world."

Learn more about UAE diversity and inclusion in the workplace and Winston's commitment to this initiative.

*This article was originally published in Hia Magazine in arabic.*

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