

BRIEF PROFILE OF COMMON LAW CHAMBERS

Common Law Chambers (Registered) (CLC) is a lean and well-structured law firm with a well established office complex and focal lawyers in Pakistan. CLC provide all encompassing legal services including transaction advisory support; complete representation before judicial and administrative forums; and policy solutions to governments under one roof to range of its clients. Since its inception in 2008, CLC has rapidly emerged as a successful professional service firm to the satisfaction of its local and international clientele. The firm attracts best legal talents and provides accurate and expeditious legal advice and pragmatic solutions. CLC has successfully assisted world's leading companies in construction, energy, banking, pharmaceutical, sugar, media, automobile, aviation, technology and telecom sectors etc., from China, United Kingdom, UAE, France, Singapore, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, India, USA, Turkey and Pakistan.

CLC is a progressive and solution focused firm where client service is partner-driven, professional, confidential and pragmatic. Our team provides a comprehensive multidisciplinary service to extensive portfolio of clients, which include but not limited to multinational companies, energy groups, telecommunication networks, technology hubs and media houses, pharmaceutical groups, sugar industry, NGOs, government and public bodies, regulatory authorities and HNWIs. We focus on efficient legal support and propose viable solutions as per the business requirements of our clients. CLC team understands the challenges of the global economy particularly during the ongoing pandemic and advises corporations pragmatically. We particularly understand the issues of today's integrated world market when the businesses are to take place in transitional and developing economies.

In the context of Pakistan, the partners and senior associates at CLC have been involved in authoring of key legislative & statutory instruments; conceptualizing administrative rules and regulations; drafting of complex agreements & contracts; facilitating financial transactions; collaborating as transactional advisors; worked in the area of Public Private Partnership; soliciting advise to high level government authorities and political leadership on range of key policy and constitutional issues; and ensuring successful representation before higher courts and tribunals. The CLC partners have also been involved in judicial training and are part of legal faculty at leading law institutions of Pakistan.

CLC cater to the needs of its corporate clients and litigants. The well-stocked libraries and access to important digital legal resources enable the firm to dispense its work in an efficient and comprehensive manner. The firm operates on modern lines while being fully cognizant of conventional ways of local legal practice. The unique organizational pattern of CLC makes it a distinctive professional service unit that allows a flexible working environment to attract the best of available legal talents and leading working partners from multiple jurisdictions.

CLC lawyers have consistently been ranked by clients as reliable, diligent, thorough, confidential and practical. CLC Team believes foremost in building long term professional relationships.

OUR PRACTICE AREAS

Constitutional Law Practice:

CLC team has vast academic and practical litigation experience of handling constitutional law petitions. In major cases wherein, law points have been interpreted, partners had played a key role. The firm members have also been *amicus* to the Higher Courts and authored academic papers on key constitutional points at international conferences and premier law schools.

Corporate Practice:

Our well-respected corporate team is the largest practice in the Firm and our highly skilled professional have experience advising on mergers, acquisitions, restructuring, private equity, joint venture, foreign investment, investment funds, company commercial, intellectual property, technology, media and telecommunications. The Firm advises both domestic and international clients on all aspects of their activities including integrated services.

Energy Laws Practice:

Our team has been involved in preparation of comprehensive legal feasibility study for restructuring, revamping and transformation of an electricity department. This work involved thorough legal review of entire energy sector of the country and complete administrative practices of NEPRA and energy departments. In addition, the lawyers have also supported a major Independent Power Project in dealing with the Government. CLC has also advised on Energy Purchase Agreements, reviewed facility agreements and developed regulatory frameworks for clients desirous of constructing coal, wind and small hydel based projects.

Regulatory Compliance:

This practice includes monthly, quarterly and annual set of compliances for corporations and notfor profit entities. The regulatory compliance relates to filings with labour authorities, environment department, municipal government, developmental authorities, revenue hierarchies, and several other statutory bodies. The regulatory compliance requires extensive understanding of administrative setups and a certain skill-set to deal with enforcement officials. Our firm lawyers successfully deal with compliance matters of individuals and entities on routine basis.

Food and Drug Laws Practice:

This practice includes knowledge of laws as they apply to restaurants, hotels and pharmaceutical industry. Our firm has successfully advised local and foreign pharmaceutical groups in regards to their drug registration and compliance matters with DRAP. CLC lawyers have also dealt with health sector establishments and assisted in securing licenses for specialized medical equipments and import of drugs to Pakistan. In addition, CLC has also assisted several hotels and restaurants in dealing with compliance regime of provincial food authorities.

Finance Practice:

The practice includes projects, banking; corporate debt restructuring, bankruptcy and recovery proceedings; securitization, derivatives and structured products. The Firm acts for banks, financial institutions and corporates. We have assisted many of these institutions in planning their strategy, providing general advisory services and work with them on a continuous basis on transactions from time to time. Our firm has meaningfully helped international banks in making recoveries from Pakistan based defaulters. In addition, CLC has also been advising a leading microfinance bank to address its operational matters.

Dispute Resolutions Practice:

The Firm has a robust dispute resolution practice with experience and capabilities dealing with a wide variety of disputes for our clients. We have expertise to handle complex commercial cases, including disputes relating to joint ventures, shareholder rights, real estate transactions, commercial and infrastructure contracts, and much more. In all cases, we seek to defend our clients interests vigorously, whilst working to resolve problems as quickly and efficiently as possible, without incurring unnecessary costs.

Competition Law Practice:

Competition legislation is still an evolving area in Pakistan. The Firm is positioned at the very cutting edge of developments, with expertise in all of the emerging competition rulings that are relevant to our clients. Our exclusive group of lawyers, all well-recognized experts to this field, handle complex competition law matters involving innovative solution-oriented structuring, interaction with the regulator and economists with a multidisciplinary approach and also give advice on the full range of competition matters including, merger control, enforcement (cartel investigations and abuse of dominance) and competition audit as well as compliance.

Specialized Industry Practice:

The need for specialized industry practice is generally scattered in Pakistan. Over years, CLC has developed expertise in dealing with certain sectors that have dedicated scheme of laws and rules. The senior partners on continuous basis deals with Sugar Industry, Automobile Sector, Print and Electronic Media Houses, Specialized Transaction Advisory Work, Telecommunication and IT Service Providers, Software Houses and Large-Scale Construction Projects.

Civil Law Practice:

CLC lawyers have dedicated expertise in civil laws of Pakistan including but not limited to contractual disputes, family laws, rent and property matters. The Private Client practice pertaining to civil laws is dedicated to servicing promoter families and high net worth individuals as they develop policies, frameworks and structures for the administration of businesses, the management of wealth and for succession planning. This includes preparation of wills, trusts, family governance constitutions and resolution of family conflicts. We combine an in-depth knowledge of the Pakistan market with experience in corporate governance to assist private clients with rapidly growing Pakistan's economy.

Accountability Laws Practice:

The anti-corruption body in Pakistan has become robust in recent years. This has led to increase in prosecution of white-collar crimes. The partners of CLC have been advising senior politicians and businesses that are dealing with National Accountability Bureau and other anti-corruption bodies in the country. The senior partners have substantial experience of working for the anticorruption entity as well.

Criminal Law Practice:

CLC has a criminal law practice from the trial level to appellate forums. A senior partner has successfully handled complex murder trials, terrorism cases and kidnapping/abduction matters. Moreover, CLC is also managing cases of politically exposed persons at appellate and trial level.

CLC Team Members:

S. Ali Raza Shah

Advocate High Courts of Pakistan

HP: +92-333-4242527

Ali is a lawyer and rule of law expert from Pakistan. He is a Draper Hills Fellow from the Stanford University, USA and an LL.M. Graduate in International and Comparative Laws from the National University of Singapore. He has also advised the Office of Chief Minister of Punjab on various legal, public policy and institutional reforms initiatives, primarily in the areas of criminal justice system; urban planning and development; youth and sports; public private partnership prospects; and environment and wildlife. In recognition of his successful legal reforms work in the Punjab Solicitor's Department, UNDP selected him to represent Pakistan in Young Leaders in Governance Program at Bangkok, Thailand.

Malik Nousherwan Awan

Advocate High Courts of Pakistan

HP: +92-300-4494674

Mr. Malik completed his LL.B. in 2006 from Pakistan College of Law, Lahore with distinction. He was a continuous position holder at the Law School. Subsequently, he did his Diploma in Intellectual Property Laws from the University of the Punjab. His core expertise is on the corporate, labour, real estate and intellectual property laws of Pakistan. He advises on all aspects of corporate law; excels in property due diligence; managing matters of financial institutions; mortgages & Intellectual Property Rights across multiple jurisdictions. Nousherwan also excels in dealing with regulatory authorities of Pakistan including but not limited to NEPRA, DRAP, NADRA, SECP, PFA, CCP and PTA etc.

Wajahat Ali Mian

Advocate High Courts of Pakistan

HP: +92-331-4258352

Wajahat Ali obtained his law degree in 2009 and initially worked with leading law offices of the country. Wajahat represents and advises clients in a range of contentious and non-contentious matters. His practice primarily focuses on complex commercial, civil, constitutional, taxation (litigation) and telecommunication matters. In 2019, he played a major role in successfully defending legislation relating to validation of actions undertaken by Punjab Revenue Authority; the case involved revenue of billions of rupees for the provincial government.

Syed Salman Ali Mohsin

Advocate High Courts of Pakistan

HP: +92-300-4845062

Salman Ali Mohsin has over 9 years of legal experience in general corporate, civil, labor, insurance, consumer protection and intellectual property laws. He has rights of audience before the Tribunals and High Courts of Pakistan. As a practicing Lawyer, Mr. Salman has advised various companies, firms, telecom operators and charitable organizations, on their legal rights and duties. He has also represented/advised and/or managed portfolios of various local and foreign clients, for Intellectual Property protection in Pakistan and abroad. Apart from advisory and opinion work, he has been actively involved in litigation before Civil Courts, Districts Courts, Tribunals and High Courts. He also has considerable experience and advises on competition law including those related to IPRs. He has also assisted some significant cases related to patent, copyright and industrial design infringement in Pakistan.

Zohaib Imran Sheikh

Advocate High Courts of Pakistan

HP: +92-321-4847948

Mr. Zohaib Imran Sheikh has been practicing before district and higher courts of Pakistan since 2007. His priority areas of practice include criminal laws, service laws, employment laws, regulatory & administrative laws, and constitutional law. There are several leading and reported cases to his credit. Zohaib has particularly excelled in providing proficient legal support to public sector employees including officials of corporate and autonomous institutions before all legal forums. He has also been assisting senior judicial members and judges as *Amicus Curiae* in important cases where lawpoints have been conclusively settled. Apart, Zohaib has been a visiting faculty member at various law colleges of Lahore. At present, he is also sub-editor of Pakistan Law Journal, a leading and authoritative publication of precedents of higher courts that is managed by Punjab Bar Council. In April 2017, European Institute of Community Services (EICS - Netherland), a subsidiary of European Union appointed Zohaib as a *Vigilant Monitor* for legal help and support of vulnerable groups in Pakistan.

Bilal Hussain

Advocate High Courts of Pakistan

HP: +92-321-4858182

Mr. Bilal is a lawyer who is enrolled with the Punjab Bar Council since 2019. He started working as a Paralegal in JJ Law Associates. After completing his legal education, he interned in the same office for six months as a Legal Associate before moving to Ahmed Waheed Khan Law Associates where he worked for almost eight months. He joined CLC as a Legal Associate in July 2020 where he is primarily handling litigation in District and High Courts of high-profile clients including renowned politicians, multi-national banking companies and several other corporate entities. Among several other tasks, he provide services related to due diligence of banking transactions while watching and securing the interests of banks, drafting pleadings for various clients to be represented before various competent courts; authoring of contracts and drafting of agreements.

Zaira Anwar

Advocate

Zaira Anwar joined CLC after successfully completing her LL.B. with a distinction and overall position at Pakistan College of Law in 2019.

At CLC, she is working on corporate and regulatory affairs; opinion works pertaining to cyber laws and foreign laws. She is managing social media presence of CLC as well. Earlier she has carried out specific assignments for the legal branch of Pakistan Air Force and various other internships. She has served as the Secretary Information of the International Affairs Committee at Lahore High Court Bar Association (LHBA) as well.

During her law school, she has also worked as a Research Assistant on a writing project related to Evolution of Religious Penal Clauses in Pakistan. The paper was presented at National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law and has been published. She also worked as a legal writer for LEAP-Pakistan. Her works have also been published numerous times including for PCL Journal of Law, Vol.2: Issue 1, 2018.

Zaira is also one of the Heads at Pakistan's largest legal video development project, Qanoondan – The Legal Diaries where young lawyers endeavors to spread legal awareness among the people of Pakistan to make law accessible to every citizen.



Mudassar Abdul Majeed

Advocate

Mudassar Abdul Majeed is an associate at CLC. He graduated in 2019 from Pakistan College of Law. He is currently doing his LLM in Commercial Law. At CLC, he has the responsibility of handling the work related to legal drafting and assisting the partners in some of the most complex litigation that the firm handles. He regularly represents different clients of CLC before Courts, Tribunal and administrative bodies.

Irfan Bin Amanat

Manager

HP: +92-321-7775932

Irfan is a manager at Common Law Chambers. He has the responsibility of looking after all administrative and financial affairs of the office. Prior to CLC, he has also worked in Sports Board Punjab for almost five years. He completed his graduation studies from Allama Iqbal Open University.

Fazal Abbas

Paralegal

Fazal is responsible for looking after specific tasks related to the legal procedure, legal files and document management etc. before High Courts and District Courts.

Abu Bakar

Office Boy

Abu Bakar is an active office boy who takes care of day to day work at the office.
