

# Speaker Bios

ISLAMIC & ETHICAL FINANCE

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Abdul Wahid Al Ulama

**Group Chief Legal Officer Dubai World**



**Place of Birth:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Abdul Wahid is a UAE national. Following his experienced legal career in private practice he was appointed to the position of Group Chief Legal Officer of Dubai World, one of the largest holding companies in the world.

Dubai World is a decree entity established in March 2006 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Dubai World is wholly owned by the Government of Dubai. Companies that are under Dubai World include Nakheel World (developer of The Palm islands, The World and various projects

representing in total more than a quarter of land space in Dubai), DP World (one of the largest Ports operator in the world), Istithmar World, Limitless World, Economic Zones World, Dubai Multi-Commodities Centre, Dubai Drydocks, Dubai Maritime City and numerous other companies.

In his capacity as Dubai World's Group Chief Legal Officer, Abdul Wahid reports directly to the Chairman, H.E. Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem. He plays a major role in Dubai World's strategy, corporate governance, planning, restructuring and expansion, and in leading Dubai World through major and complex financial transactions.

Abdul Wahid has been referred to in publications as being an "energetic and capable lawyer", and an "extremely business minded practitioner".

Abdul Wahid is a member of Dubai World's Board of Directors. He also serves as a board member of many other companies in the Dubai World group and other UAE companies. He represents Dubai World on the US-UAE Business Council which was recently founded in Washington and he has been elected as the Co Vice Chair of the Board. He is a member of the Dubai International Financial Centre's (DIFC) Islamic Finance Advisory Council (IFAC) in Dubai.

Prior to joining Dubai World, Abdul Wahid was a Partner with the largest UAE law firm, Al Tamimi & Company Advocates & Legal Consultants. He was also the Managing Partner of their associate office in Qatar.

Abdul Wahid has written articles on a variety of topics for his previous law firms's in-house newsletter and for external newspapers and magazines. He is regularly asked to speak at conferences on a variety of topics ranging from investment to Islamic Finance. Abdul Wahid is also regularly involved in legislative initiatives both on a governmental and federal level in the UAE.

Abdul Wahid was the first in his batch of students at law school at UAE University where he obtained his LLB. He is a Chevening scholar who later obtained his LLM (masters) from the University College London (UCL) specialising in international trade and maritime law.