

QATAR LAWS AND HEADLINES



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Hamad International Airport: Opened in April 2014 to accommodate 30 million passengers initially. The 60,000-sq.m. facility is expected to handle 8,700 passengers per hour.

Cybercrime Law: Enacted on November 11, 2014, to penalize crimes committed using the Internet, the Cybercrime Prevention Law No 14 of 2014 prohibits the use of Internet to “intrude on private lives” and imposes data storage obligations on “service providers”.

Foreign Ownership in Companies: Increased from 25% to 49% foreign ownership of shares in public companies.

Labor Law: Proposed reforms to the current law includes improvements to worker hours during the summer, use of e-wage system, changes to the Kafala system easing restrictions on travel outside Qatar.

FIFA Report: Qatar was cleared of corruption charges by FIFA internal investigation.

Economic Zones: Manatec is establishing three new economic zones to attract international businesses to Qatar to support the country’s rapid development.

QFC Expands Licensing Categories: The QFC is seeking approval to expand the permissible activities for licensing in the QFC. The new licensing categories are expected to include architectural and engineering firms, sports, and advertising companies.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015!

- New amendments to **Companies Law**
- New **Arbitration Law**
- Amendments to **Qatar Tender Law**
- New amendments to **Labour and Sponsorship Laws**

Contact

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Qatar Rankings

Global Peace Index (2014):
Ranked as most peaceful country
in MENA region (Source: www.visionofhumanity.org)

Economic Freedom Index (2014): Ranked 3rd in MENA region (Source: www.heritage.org)

Corruption Perception Index (2014): Moved up two places to 26th (on par with France) (Source: <http://www.transparency.org/>)



SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS IN 2014

June Merger

Patton Boggs merged with Squire Sanders to create a truly global platform with 44 offices in 21 countries, including offices in London and Paris, and in Asia and Australia.



Our Doha Team

Doha Office Events

- **US and Qatar Employment Laws** by Doug Mishkin and Mike Palmer
- **Intellectual Property Protection** by Deborah Lodge, Martin Goggins and Scott Chambers
- **US Sanctions** by Dan Waltz

Community Involvement

- **Support Qatar University** through an Extern Program with three law students participating this year. Susan Bastress also sits on the College of Law Advisory Board.
- **Robert Hager** continues as Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Qatar.
- **Charbel Maakaron** works closely with the Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- **Kristen Johnson** has been appointed to the International Chamber of Commerce Young Arbitrators Forum (ICC YAF), a forum that aims to strengthen ties among younger members of the international arbitration community by bringing together young lawyers and in-house counsel.



New Lawyers

The Doha office welcomed Arnaud Montouche as its new corporate law specialist and liaison to the French business community. Mr. Montouche advises international companies and private investors on a wide-range of cross-border and domestic issues.

Christabel Daugherty is a UK trained and qualified attorney with litigation experience in the areas of property, insolvency/debt and employment. As a staff attorney for the firm's Doha office, she currently works with clients on matters related to corporate structuring, international acquisitions, sports law and local laws.