



**SABA**  
INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY

# BULLETIN

August 2020

## **QATAR**

Designing the Future: Industrial  
Design Law Enters into Force

## **TURKEY**

Destination Innovation: Protecting  
Employee and Student Inventions

## **EGYPT**

Major Strides on the Litigation Scene



## QATAR | DESIGNING THE FUTURE: INDUSTRIAL DESIGN LAW ENTERS INTO FORCE



**Qatar recently issued Law No. 10 of 2020 on the Protection of Industrial Designs in an effort to expand the intellectual property scene in the country.** Prior to the issuance of the Law, some sort of protection could be sought out by publishing cautionary notices at regular intervals in local Qatari newspapers. Such notices could have legal value when submitted in Court, in the event of infringement, thereby claiming ownership of the design and alerting third parties against further infringement.

Before the issuance of the aforementioned legislation, only limited provision was made for industrial designs in Law No. 9 of 2002, which provided that industrial designs would have the same protections as trademarks. Additionally, the Law did not define what an industrial design was, whereas the new Law does offer a robust definition.

**The new Law stipulates that an application for the registration of an industrial design can be submitted by the rights owner at the Industrial Property Office (IPO). Applications will be examined within 30 days from filing date and oppositions may be filed within 60 days by interested third parties.**

None of the following can be registered as industrial designs in Qatar: (1) designs or models serving the technical and functional features of a product; (2) designs or models comprising religious symbols and logos, or seals, emblems, symbols or flags relating to any country or international organization or contrary to public order; or (3) designs or models identical or similar to a registered or famous trademark.

Protection for industrial designs is granted for a term of five years and is renewable for two like periods upon payment of the renewal fees. The Law allows for late renewal which is contingent upon the submission of a proof of an excusable reason and the payment of a surcharge.

## TURKEY | PROTECTING EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT INVENTIONS



With their sights set to promote local innovation and nurture a creative ecosystem, the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TURKPATENT) published a set of guidelines on employee inventions and inventions made in higher education institutions.

With the newly minted guidelines in force, the TURKPATENT aims to provide information and guidance about practices related to inventions as regulated by the local Law. Nonetheless, these regulations, which are not legally binding, do not provide commentary on the provisions relating to the inventions.

They do, however, clarify several aspects regarding inventions, such as the uncertainties regarding entitlement among institutions concerning inventions involving multiple institutions.

**In practice, the regulations will offer guidance to the authorities concerned when applying the Law, and will foster the necessary landscape to promote innovation. With this in mind, we expect there will be increasing commercialization efforts of the inventions on the national level, promoting Turkish science and scientists, and the economy and society as a whole.**

## EGYPT | MAJOR STRIDES ON THE LITIGATION SCENE



**In the ongoing effort to address the delay in the litigation process, Egypt has been witnessing the issuance of new laws and much-awaited amendments to local legislation.**

This article offers a brief overview of the highly welcomed ratification of Law No. 146 of 2019 that amends provisions related to Law No. 120 of 2008.

**The new Law amends the Economic Court Law of 2008, which established eight Economic Courts all over Egypt since October 2008.** These Courts have a jurisdiction over criminal and civil cases stemming from investment operations, consumer protection, commercial, and banking transactions. The new Law, which stipulates the establishment of an electronic platform for the filing of cases, among other updates, is a much welcomed and needed addition to the enforcement arsenal of brand owners.

Over the course of a little more than a decade, the Economic Courts have been an efficient and indispensable partner in resolving disputes compared to the backlogged Civil and Commercial Courts. By way of background, the judicial system in Egypt was infamous for having major delays in litigation procedures, often lasting for years on end.

**With the establishment of the Economic Courts in October 2008, Egypt aimed to overcome this problem and the new Law seems to be another step towards modernizing the practice with the inauguration of an electronic platform for the filing of cases.**

**With these updates, Egypt is on its way to becoming a regional trendsetter in adopting an electronic litigation system that is expected to result in the resolution of disputes in a timely manner.**

EGYPT



## EGYPT | MAJOR STRIDES ON THE LITIGATION SCENE



**The new Law underscores the authorities' intention to create a space for litigants to settle disputes amicably. In this regard, the Law establishes a new specialized Committee that will act as a mediator between both parties, investigate cases brought before the Economic Court, check evidence and documents, and assign hearing sessions.**

As the Law promotes mediation and conciliation before the case is referred to a bench judge, the parties concerned will have the option to refer their dispute to a judge within the newly-established Preparation and Conciliation Department instead of filing a case.

**Should the parties arrive at an agreement, a judge from the aforementioned department will assist in concluding the settlement agreement, which will be considered as a writ of execution.**

We expect this update will result in an effective and efficient resolution of disputes in Egypt.

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BEING THERE.  
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BEING AWARE.



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