

**SABA**  
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**BULLETIN**

**June 2022**

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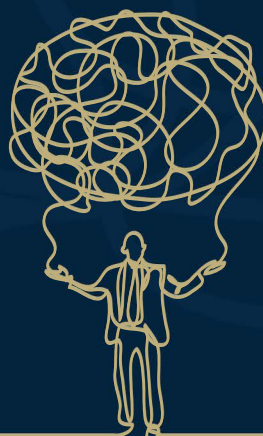
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**THE BIGGER YOU GROW,  
THE STRONGER WE GET**



**90<sup>+</sup>**  
YEARS

**50<sup>+</sup>**  
JURISDICTIONS

**1**  
FIRM

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COUNSELING | PROSECUTION | ENFORCEMENT

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UAE . LEBANON . IRAQ . GCC . MENA

## UAE | DESTINATION INNOVATION: DUBAI VIRTUAL ASSETS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ENTERS THE METAVERSE



**In a screen-shattering update, the Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (VARA) in Dubai, UAE, established the world's first regulator headquarters in the Metaverse.**

The expansion of VARA's resources to a borderless sandbox world is part of Dubai's strategy to create a decentralized regulator model. VARA also aims to facilitate engagement between virtual asset service providers, industry influencers, and global regulators - effectively making Dubai the world's virtual assets capital.

VARA's efforts are in line with the UAE's vision to continue to build a new, powerful economic sector that contributes to the nation's economy and creates new investment opportunities. VARA aims to create an advanced legal framework to protect investors and provide international standards for virtual asset industry governance to enable responsible business growth.

Moreover, as the UAE continuously views the virtual asset industry as the driver of the global future economy, it becomes more pressing to enter into this emergent digital world and understand the impact on intellectual property rights. For more on that topic, read our most recent article on NFTs [here](#).

UAE

## LEBANON | SAY THAT IN ARABIC: UPDATED REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGISTRATION OF MARKS



**The Trademark Office (TMO) in Lebanon announced that an application to register a mark that includes non-Arabic, -English, or -French wording must include a sworn Arabic translation of that wording.**

The new requirement also applies to compound word marks comprised of two or more distinct words that are represented as one word, in which one or more of the words in the mark appears to be foreign wording that would clearly be perceived as a distinct word(s) within the compound. The updated requirement was published in Memo No. 6/1/A.T. of 2022, which entered into force on May 10, 2022.

In order to properly register applications with foreign wording in Lebanon, it is recommended that the translation of the foreign wording be determined prior to performing a search of the mark. It is salient to note that a trademark in a foreign language could have a plethora of translations in Arabic due to the robust vocabulary of the Arabic language and a brand owner may consider many translation options depending on the intended meaning of the word. Our certified translators' native familiarity with local languages and dialects makes our translation department one of the leading service providers in the region. To learn more, visit our jurisdiction page for Lebanon.

## IRAQ | ALL ABOARD THE PCT TRAIN: APPLICATIONS STARTED DESIGNATING IQ



As of May 1, 2022, PCT applications started designating Iraq (IQ) for national entry phase.

To date, the Directorate of Patents and Industrial Designs Central Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC) has not issued new guidance on PCT-based filings and prosecution.

Under the Convention filings, applications are required to include legalized assignment documents and certified copies of the claimed priorities.

With the declarations generally made upon filing a PCT application, it is expected that these requirements will be abolished as it was done in other countries in the region upon acceding to the PCT.

# IRAQ



## GCC | PATENT UPDATES FROM THE REGION

### GCC REGION

January 6, 2021 marked the first day on which the regional GCC Patent Office (GCCPO) stopped accepting new patent applications claiming a 12-month priority. For those applicants that filed PCT applications as of that date and are considering the Arabian Gulf market for extending their patents, July 6, 2022 marks the first of 30-month deadlines for nationalizing such patents in each GCC member state, namely: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Now is a good time for applicants to re-assess their filing strategy and decide on the importance of each of these markets to their business today and twenty years down the road. It is worth pointing out that at the national level, the patent offices in the respective countries have taken different measures to address the potential in increased number of filings and examination.

### SAUDI ARABIA

As a recent signatory to the Hague Convention on Apostille, the Kingdom deposited its instruments to the Convention. As of yet, there is still no clear guidance from the relevant authorities on the validity of documents with an Apostille stamp only versus those with the foreign embassy legalization stamp.

### UAE

Following the publication of a new industrial property law and its related regulations, there is an expectation that the Ministry of Economy may soon publish a revised list of fees addressing such matters as accelerated examination, but also, revising the matter of re-examination especially as it relates to minor often non-technical, objections or remarks issued in an office action.



## MENA | USTR SPECIAL 301 REPORT



The Office of the United States Trade Representative published the Special 301 Report in April 2022, reviewing global developments on trade and intellectual property.

**The most notable update this year is that Saudi Arabia was removed from the Priority Watch List following a number of favorable steps taken by the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property ((SAIP). Lebanon was also removed from the Watch List, and based on this latest report, none of the**

**countries evaluated for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are on the Priority Watch List and only two remain on the Watch List, namely Algeria and Egypt. This reflects the continued efforts of the countries in the region in developing and enforcing intellectual property laws, regulations and guidelines.**

The Special 301 Report is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative under Section 301 as amended of the Trade Act of 1974.

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