



Gide Loyrette Nouel
International Law Firm



2011

ALGERIA

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Gide Loyrette Nouel Algeria

Gide Loyrette Nouel (GLN) was the first international law firm to open in Algeria. Established in 2003, GLN Algeria - a legal consultancy - has a team of ten Algerian and foreign specialist legal advisors who combine a thorough knowledge of Algerian law and business practices with acknowledged expertise in all areas of international business law.

GLN Algeria advises mainly international investors on the legal and tax aspects of their activities, in all sectors and in all areas of business law for acquisitions, privatisations, and joint ventures. Our team assists clients in their dealings with the Algerian authorities to obtain the necessary authorisations to conduct their business. All legal documents can be drafted in English, Arabic, and French. And the Algiers Office can also call upon the support of all the Gide Loyrette Nouel specialist practice groups to satisfy client needs.

Since 2001 - before the opening of the Algiers Office - the Firm has been involved in the law reform process in various business sectors and has helped introduce reform proposals. We have assisted the Ministry for the Promotion of Investment and Equity Ownership to implement its privatisation reform programme, the Ministry for Post and Telecommunications to consolidate reforms in the telecommunications sector, and the Transport Ministry to define the legal and regulatory framework for the operation of Algerian ports to encourage the private sector to adopt a more active role.

Expertise and Practice Areas

Foreign Investments

GLN Algeria is regularly consulted by foreign companies and the Algerian subsidiaries of international firms to assist with their business dealings in the country. We advise on choosing and setting up the most appropriate structures for their activities, and handling all legal formalities and procedures with the local authorities. The Firm has advised in sectors such as telephone services, energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and food, the automotive industry, and banking.

Exchange Control

Our legal advisors have expert knowledge in the field of exchange control, which is one of the principal brakes on foreign investment in Algeria. The team handles routine transactions and implements financing structures for complex projects.

Tax

The Algiers Office has widely-recognised expertise in Algerian tax law and advises clients on all tax aspects of their business including the optimisation of complex transactions, negotiating investment agreements with the Algerian government to obtain tax and customs duty advantages, and guarantee their right to repatriate earnings from their Algerian business ventures.

Algiers

Algeria



The legal press regularly singles out Gide Loyrette Nouel Algeria as one of the best law firms in the market. In 2011, it is ranked Tier 1 in *Chambers Global*, *EMEA Legal 500* and *IFLR 1000*.

"This has been a pre-eminent firm in Algeria for a number of years and remains one of the most respected for a wide variety of corporate law matters. Recently the firm has been focusing notably on M&A, joint ventures, privatisations and project finance. The practice is primarily transactional, assisting clients such as BNP Paribas, Cetelem, GlaxoSmithKline and Johnson & Johnson, but it is also equipped to handle contentious work where necessary. It has also assisted on a large number of financings, working with both local and international banks. Clients view the Algiers team as 'responsive, dedicated, and always capable of achieving good results.' Samy Laghouati heads the office and is fluent in French, English and Arabic. Commentators note his 'excellent knowledge of the local business environment and ability to provide clear advice:'"

Chambers Global 2011 - Algeria
Corporate/Commercial (Band 1)

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Gide Loyrette Nouel

Mergers & Acquisitions, Corporate Law, Privatisations

GLN Algeria assists foreign investors in various areas of corporate law including company incorporations and acquisitions, privatisation, equity interest acquisitions, joint ventures, and other cooperation agreements. These instructions include pre-transaction due diligence, drafting and negotiating agreements, and handling the procedures and formalities when dealing with government bodies such as the National Trade and Companies Registry and the tax authorities.

Banking & Finance - Capital Markets - Insurance

Our team assists international banks and financial institutions established in Algeria with loans and credit transactions, and establishing security interests and guarantees. We also assist in more complex operations involving credit derivatives and project finance, and in the first local financing projects involving private operators.

Economic Law

The Algiers Office advises European and international companies on distribution and competition law, areas in which it has recognised experience as evidenced by its instruction by the Algerian Government to review the Competition Ordinance of 19 July 2003.

Employment Law

GLN Algeria can handle the various formalities related to employment law issues in the country and advises foreign groups with subsidiaries in Algeria on the negotiation and drafting of their employment agreements, obtaining work and residency permits, recruitment formalities with the local authorities for social security, redundancy, the tax and welfare status of expatriate managers, and the formalities for their postings.

Real Estate

Thanks to its in-depth knowledge of Algerian real estate law, the team advises on issues concerning business leases, assists clients with land purchases and obtaining the necessary building permits, and assists with the development of large integrated real estate projects.

Major Infrastructure Projects

The Algiers Office advises clients on major industrial projects and their financing (concessions, BOO, BOT, BTO and BT) in the energy, infrastructure (motorways, metro), and water treatment sectors. Our team has also been instructed in the telecoms services sector.

Energy

GLN Algiers has wide experience in the hydrocarbons and electricity sectors and assists various operators at the different stages of their energy projects in Algeria. In the hydrocarbons sector, our team has advised on the development, in association with Sonatrach, of the largest integrated gas project ever undertaken in the country.

Public Law

Foreign companies regularly seek advice from our team with regard to international invitations to tender governed by the Algerian Public Contracts Code. Most available land for industrial and infrastructure projects is held in public ownership.