

## MOROCCO

Established in Casablanca since 2003, Gide is one of the few law firms in the country to provide legal services in all areas of commercial law, advising clients throughout the Kingdom. It can prepare documents in French, English, Spanish or Arabic. Spanish-Portuguese firm Cuatrecasas has been operating out of Gide's offices since October 2014, thereby strengthening and consolidating Gide's team and positioning in North Africa.

The firm's clientele comprises institutions, banks, leading Moroccan groups, public bodies, government agencies, and foreign investors active in a number of sectors including banking, insurance, telecommunications, agribusiness, services, real estate, tourism, industry, utilities, and infrastructure.

### Areas of Expertise

Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca provides its clients with a service of international standing, combining in-depth legal knowledge with a practical understanding of the business environment and all aspects of commercial law in Morocco, with particular expertise in the following areas:

#### Moroccan and Foreign Investments

The firm works with clients wishing to set up in Morocco, giving advice on the most suitable structure for their business, such as joint ventures, subsidiaries, holdings, agencies, representative offices, etc., and handling all legal aspects of the operation (negotiations, drafting contracts, tax structure and contacts with the local authorities).

Over the years, we have built up a solid expertise in foreign exchange control regulations, negotiating investment agreements and development projects in partnership with the State, particularly in tourism, real estate, telecommunications, the construction of large industrial complexes and major infrastructure projects.

#### Mergers & Acquisitions / Corporate - Privatisations

Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca assists domestic and international investors in their acquisitions of public, private, listed and non-listed undertakings in all sectors. This includes due diligence procedures, drafting and negotiating the various transactional agreements, and handling the different administrative formalities relating to these transactions with the relevant government authorities.

#### Investment Funds - Private Equity

We advise local and international promoters on structuring and assembling specific-purpose investment funds (real estate, tourism, agrifood and infrastructure) and private equity funds. The firm also assists these investment funds on their investments (shareholding, assets acquisitions and developing greenfield projects).

#### Real Estate - Construction - Tourism and Hospitality

The firm assists clients throughout the various stages of construction projects, and frequently advises on the acquisition and sale of real estate for large projects, particularly off-plan developments.

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SEVILLE  
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VALENCIA  
VIGO  
VITORIA  
ZARAGOZA

The team boasts extensive expertise in the tourism and hospitality sector, particularly the construction of hotels and holiday complexes, the development of coastal resorts and the negotiation of hotel management contracts. We also cover all stages regarding the marketing of premises (leases and management mandates).

## Project Finance - Public-Private Partnerships

Our team is renowned for its experience in concessions and BOT schemes and in advising lenders and sponsors on the financing of such projects. We have advised the Moroccan State, foreign operators and international bodies on arranging and implementing major projects regarding electricity, water treatment, irrigation, energy, motorways, ports, mobile telephony, and the development of coastal resorts and industrial complexes.

## Banking and Finance - Capital Markets

Our team is frequently instructed by domestic and foreign banks and borrowers with regard to credit operations, financial restructuring, syndicated loans and security packages. We regularly advise on capital market deals, in particular for capital increases, bond issues, trading in securities of listed companies, and public offerings (takeovers, buy-outs, exchanges and buy-backs). We have also gained extensive expertise in the field of banking and financial regulations in addition to derivatives transactions.

## Tax

We are regularly instructed by domestic and foreign operators on issues of general corporate tax. Additionally, we work alongside foreign investors, from design through to the completion of global tax strategies, on the overall management of operational changes and on operations, capitalisations, capital withdrawals, and transfer prices.

## Exchange Control

Our firm advises foreign investors on the management of their relationship with the foreign exchange bureau (Office des Changes) as regards information obligations, requests for specific authorisations, etc. We also assist clients in their compliance audits and in the context of inspections ordered by the foreign exchange bureau.

## Employment Law

Our team assists in all areas of employment law and social protection for both individual issues (employment contracts for foreign workers, drafting employment contracts) and collective matters (restructurings, redundancies, etc.).

## Economic and Competition Law

Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca advises Moroccan and international groups on distribution and competition law (including merger control) in addition to the development of distribution networks in Morocco.

## Intellectual Property and New Technologies

Our legal consultants advise clients on sale, licensing, technology transfer and distribution agreements, and represent them in protecting their rights (design, industrial design, trademark and patent disputes, combatting unfair competition, customs measures, assistance in trademark registration, copyright and related rights, personal data processing, conditions for the use of a website or software, etc.).



*“This firm is the product of a joint venture between French firm Gide and Spanish firm Cuatrecasas. Both backgrounds bring benefits, with excellence in projects, infrastructure and energy a notable synergy. Other areas of experience include the establishment and divestment of operations and subsidiaries for industrial and automotive clients.”*

**Chambers Global 2019**

*“During the last 15 years, Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca has established itself as a key player in the M&A market. It assists local and foreign clients with major M&A transactions in Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa.*

*Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca has ‘deep expertise in real estate matters’ and handles construction, development, lease agreements and large-scale real estate and tourism projects.*

*Gide Cuatrecasas Casablanca has ‘a very competent and hardworking team that is second to none in its knowledge of Moroccan energy law.’ »*

**Legal 500 EMEA 2019**

## CONTACT PARTNERS

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