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Last revised: Jan 2007

**TAREQ ZAHI TOUQAN**
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An experienced attorney in Palestine and Jordan, Mr. Touqan is highly experienced in assessment and policy advice for legal and business environment policy reforms. He is currently (2007) working with Jacobs and Associates on regulatory reform in Jordan as part of the USAID SABEQ project. Mr. Touqan led the establishment of the WTO resource center at the Palestinian Ministry of the National Economy and is a member of the Technical Advisory Team in charge of WTO negotiations and requirements for WTO standards compliance. He is also the coordinator for a Public-Private partnership to discuss and provide advice on policies for telecom reform and establishing the Independent Telecom Regulator.

Professionally involved with strategic and policy planning at different ministries, institutions and sector unions, Mr. Touqan is well acquainted with the Palestinian and Jordanian legal and judicial systems, including new and pending legislation. His background includes working as a legal researcher with the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, at the Birzeit Law Institute as head of legislative drafting unit, and representing the Quaker legal Aid Center as a lawyer. Mr. Touqan holds LLM Degrees in Economic Regulation and in Business Law from the University of London and Birzeit University. He is fluent in Arabic and English.

**EDUCATION**

**LLM, Economic Regulation,** University College of London, University of London, United Kingdom, 2000
Course work included International Economic Law, Law and Regulation, Law of Finance and Investment in Emerging Economies, and Intellectual Property Rights.

**LLM, Business Law,** Institute of Law**,** Birzeit University**,** Palestine, 1999
Course work included Contracts Law, International Trade Law, Law and Information Technology, and Intellectual Property Rights.

**B.A., School of Law,** University of Jordan, Amman, 1993

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**Legal Policy Advisor, USAID's Sustainable Achievement of Business Expansion and Quality (SABEQ) Program in Jordan, Jacobs and Associates, Jordan (September 2006 - present)** Mr. Touqan has just begun working on this project to improve the business environment in Jordan. He will be managing the process of regulatory reform in the economic regulations in Jordanian legal system, applying the Regulatory Guillotine T.M. on the existing legal regime. His work will

include orienting government officials, policy makers and private sector leaders on the process and engaging them in serious discussions on the reducing the burden of unnecessary regulations and licenses effecting the quality of the legal system. Moreover he will be responsible for facilitating the discussions with all stake holders on introducing quality assurance standards and RIA measure with future regulations.

**Legal Policy Advisor, Palestinian Enterprise Development Project (PED), USAID (October 2004 – Present)**

- Guides and manages PED policy intervention with client associations and institutions on all issues relating to creating a transpareant and functional legal framework for a free market economy in Palestine
- Monitor, analyze and interpret relevant debates and decisions, laws and regulations of the related PNA organs on major economice issues which could impact on the Palestinian Private sector.
- Provide the Director with analysis regarding the PNA policy and legal environment, the likely course of events and their impact upon Palestinian Private Sector and PED
- devising and implementing major initiatives at building awareness and raising the profile of the WTO requirements, advocating for economic reforms in Palestinain Economy.

**Lawyer – Policy Advisor, Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI Palestine) January 2005 – present**

- Advising DAI on Business development and proposal writing.
- Advising and designing the policy program at the DAI current project (PEER on private sector structure, PICTI on IT legal issues)
- Leading the DAI business development team to submit a technical proposal on Palestinian Legislative Strengthening project. DAI proposal was successful and was awarded the project.
- Monitoring and reporting recent developments within the Palestinian legal environment in the context of regulatory, judicial and legislative.

**Business Policy Advisor, Market Access Program (MAP), USAID (2001-2004)**

Mr. Touqan worked as a long-term advisor for DAI's USAID-funded MAP program. While working with DAI, Mr. Touqan has worked on the following efforts.

Mr. Touqan advised the Ministry of National Economy on establishing a strategic workplan and conducted institutional arrangements for Palestinian accession to the World Trade Organization. Achievements include leading the efforts for establishing the WTO Resource Center at the Ministry. His work included staff training, website construction, newsletter publication, maintenance of contacts with the WTO and local and international stakeholders, as well as the establishment and structuring of the Technical Advisory Team at the Ministry. He also advised and designed the policy program at the Palestinian Information Technology Association of Companies (PITA). Mr. Touqan's achievements include developing PITA's position paper on Public Tendering and establishing the Sectoral Working Group for Combating Cyber crime. He assisted in establishing IT companies, preparing articles of incorporation, bylaws and registration, trademarks, license and distribution agreements.

Continuing his work with the IT sector, Mr. Touqan advised the Palestinian Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology and PITA on the work plan for Telecom Regulation Reform in Palestine. Achievements include coordinating and leading the efforts for establishing the Telecom Sector Working Group as a forum from Public and Private sectors to discuss and advise on policies for telecom reform and establishment of the independent Telecom Regulator.

Mr. Touqan's legal expertise is showcased in his work advising private sector associations and unions on establishing advocacy programs in order to promote best practice standards within the sectoral and national legal framework and business interests. He advised the Palestinian Standard Institute (PSI) on policy options and legal frame work for regulating technical standards, consulted with the advocacy program at the Palestinian Federation of Industries as a national platform for Policy and Regulatory Reform, advised the Palestinian Contractors Union on setting up their advocacy program in addition to providing them with legal consultations on technical issues; i.e. Force Majuere, and worked with the Arab Hotel Association on their Restructure plans and supported them in establishing the Tourism Sectoral Working Group.

Mr. Touqan's achievements in advocacy and legal standards include leading and designing and advocacy campaign for the Union of Palestinian Pharmaceuticals Manufacturers for the amendment of the Palestinian Public Health Draft Law.

**Legal Researcher, Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR) – (2000-2001)**

While working for PICCR, Mr. Touqan coordinated legal and general public awareness workshops, edited PICCR's legal reports series, and wrote several articles in local newspapers on civil rights in Palestine. He also acted as a consultant for citizens on administrative complaints and researched various topics and issues related to citizens' legal rights. Mr. Touqan also served as a legislative reform project advisor, with regard to issues related to judicial reform, administrative reform and economic reform.

**Legal Researcher, Head of the legislative drafting Unit Institute of Law – Birzeit University (1996-1999)**

Mr. Touqan served as a Team Leader, Trainer, and Project initiator and developer at the Institute of Law Legislative Drafting Unit. His achievements include:

Designed and developed the work plan of the Legislative Drafting Unit at the Birzeit University.

Designed and developed the Legislative Drafting Manual to assist the Palestinian drafters in following best practice in legislative drafting.

Worked closely with the drafting office at the Ministry of Justice on a number of legislative tools.

Trained the drafters of the Palestinian Legislative Council on drafting techniques with a focus on Regulatory Impact Analysis.

Performed community outreach and represented the Institute with different parties.

Participated in various legal projects, research, seminars.

**CONFERENCES AND TRAINING COURSES:**

**2006** **Legal Professions and Judicial Reform in the Arab World,** Beirut, Lebanon. The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS) and the World Bank

**2004** **Telecom Regulation Training Seminar**, United States Telecommunications Training Institute and Federal Communications Commission, Washington DC, United States

**Professional Development Workshop**, Arab Telecom Regulators Network - Dead Sea, Jordan

**2003** **Legal Frameworks for Combating Cyber Crime**, Alexandria, Egypt

**2002** **Reach III**, Amman, Jordan

**2000** **International Trade in the 21st Century**, Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, UK

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| | **Regulating Financial Markets,** London School of Economics, London, UK |
| | **The Future of Exchanges,** London School of Economics, London, UK |
| **1998** | Legal expertise exchange program Organized by the Amideast and the Palestinian Bar Association. |
| **1997** | **Legislative Drafting Training,** Cardiff, Wales |
| **1995** | **Alternative Dispute Resolution**, Search for Common Ground, Ramallah, Palestine |

**KEY QUALIFICATIONS:**

Proficient in Policy, advocacy, consultancy for both public and private sectors.
Knowledgeable of the legal and judicial system in Palestine
Acquaintance with business and commercial legal theory and practice in Palestine.
Direct experience with donor funded projects.
Training and public awareness Workshops - Design and Implementation.
Evaluation – Surveys and Data
Excellent Word, Excel, Power point, Internet skills
Excellent Arabic and English communication skills
Report-writing and oral presentations

**WRITINGS & PUBLICATIONS:**

Decentralization and Local Government in Palestine. Arabic, IPCCR 2001
Palestinian Stock Market Regulation. English – Law and Regulation course essay, UCL 2000
Registration and Licensing of Trade Marks in Palestine. English – Intellectual Property Law course essay, UCL 2000
Registration and Licensing of Trade Marks in Palestine. Arabic – Master Thesis – IOL 1999
Legislative Drafting Training Manual – Co-author. Arabic – IOL 2000
Child Legislation in Palestine - Compilation. Arabic & English – IOL 1997
Participant in drafting and commenting on the drafts of various laws such as Labour, Independence of Judiciary, Juvenile and Family Law, Foreign Trade, Companies, Health,

**LANGUAGES**

Arabic 5/5
English 5/5

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Palestinian Bar Association
Arab Society for Intellectual Property
Young Entrepreneurs Palestine (Board Member, Secretary)
Palestinian Technical Advisory Team