

## Panel Discussion

# IRAN AFTER PARTIAL SANCTIONS RELIEF AND U.S. ELECTIONS

## Legal, Risk, and Practical Issues for Business

By November 8, Election Day in the United States, nearly 16 months will have passed since Iran, the P5+1 group of countries (the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, France, and Germany), and the United Nations Security Council endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), often called the “Iran Deal.” In the interim, major Iran Deal milestones—from “Adoption Day” to “Implementation Day” to related partial sanctions relief measures—have come and gone.

But the path to doing business in or with Iran remains fraught with uncertainty and risk. Myriad legal, political, and practical impediments make doing or planning business with or in Iran difficult to impossible. The Iran Deal’s “snap back” mechanism allows for the re-imposition of sanctions in cases of “significant non-performance” by Deal parties. U.S. Persons remain subject to U.S. sanctions that generally bar them from doing Iran business. And, importantly, Iran remains, as a rule, cut off from the U.S. financial system. U.S. financial institutions may not engage in or facilitate Iran transactions, and non-U.S. banks, including the European banks that were severely penalized in recent years for violating U.S. sanctions on Iran, have understandably refused to transact Iran business.

In Iran, political, legal, and structural realities—such as the role in business of Iranian government entities, including the Revolutionary Guard, and the divergent views within Iran’s leadership about the opening of Iran—present additional issues that are often insufficiently understood by outsiders. The outcome of U.S. presidential and Congressional elections will inevitably add yet another layer of complexity to the Iran story.

**Join the ABA, Section of International Law Middle East Committee for a panel discussion of the legal, risk, and practical issues related to doing or planning business in or with Iran.**

### DATE AND TIME

**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**  
**9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

### RSVP

#### *In Person Attendance*

**Bryan Cave**  
[1155 F Street, NW](#)  
[Washington, D.C. 20004](#)

#### *Web Attendance*

Access details to be provided

### SPEAKERS

#### Babak Hoghooghi

Partner, Berliner, Corcoran & Rowe LLP  
Washington, D.C.

#### Michael Moran

Principal, Control Risks  
New York, New York

#### Sorana Parvulescu

Director, Middle East and North Africa,  
Control Risks  
Dubai, UAE

### MODERATOR

#### Hdeel Abdelhady

Co-Chair, ABA Middle East Committee  
Principal, MassPoint Legal and Strategy  
Advisory PLLC  
Washington, D.C.

## **BABAK HOGHOOGHI**



Babak Hoghooghi is a partner with the law firm of Berliner Corcoran & Rowe in Washington, D.C. Babak has extensive experience on matters relating to U.S. economic sanctions laws, particularly vis-a-vis Iran, involving compliance and enforcement issues and on a policy level. Babak holds a JD from Georgetown University, and previously practiced for 12 years with the law firm of Skadden Arps. Babak co-founded and was the first Executive Director of PAAIA, a non-profit educational and advocacy group representing Iranian Americans; a founding Board Member and the first President of the Iranian American Bar Association; and, a founding Trustee and Board Member of the Iranian American Political Action Committee. Babak speaks and writes Farsi fluently.

## **MICHAEL MORAN**



Michael Moran is a Principal for Global Risk Analysis at Control Risks, based in New York. A foreign policy analyst, author and geo-strategist for investment banks and other institutions, he concentrates on macro risk and US energy, foreign policy and global economic matters. Michael is author of *The Reckoning: Debt, Democracy and the Future of American Power*, and co-author of the *The Fastest Billion: The Story Behind Africa's Economic Revolution*. Michael previously served as head of thought leadership at the investment bank Renaissance Capital and as chief geo-strategist for Roubini Global Economics. Michael also spent four years at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he launched CFR's Crisis Guides series, which garnered three Emmy awards. Michael has been a senior correspondent, analyst, and editor for MSNBC.com, the BBC World Service, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, respectively.

## **SORANA PARVULESCU**



Sorana Parvulescu is a Partner with Control Risks and leads the political risk practice for the Middle East and North Africa, from Dubai. During almost a decade with Control Risks, Sorana has specialized in designing in-house risk assessment and risk monitoring programs, particularly around political, policy, and corruption risks. Previously, she led Control Risks' analytical and consulting output in Europe and the CIS, focusing on the close connections between politics and business across the region. Sorana holds an International Risk Management Certificate from the Institute of Risk Management, an MSc from the London School of Economics, and BAs in Political Science and International Economic Relations from two universities in Bucharest. She speaks Romanian, and some German and French.

## **HDEEL ABDELHADY**



Hdeel Abdelhady is a Co-Chair of the ABA Middle East Committee and Founder and Principal of MassPoint Legal and Strategy Advisory PLLC, her boutique Washington, D.C. law and strategy firm that provides compliance, governance, and bespoke research and analysis services to help banks, sovereign and private entities, and other parties effectively navigate complex legal environments, achieve strategic objectives, and proactively manage legal and reputation risks. Hdeel's experience includes advising U.S. and foreign banks and sovereign and private entities on compliance with U.S. sanctions programs and related regulatory and international standards requirements, and helping clients to understand the mechanics of U.S. law and its extraterritorial reach to foreign parties, transactions, and jurisdictions. Hdeel has served as secondment counsel to international banks, both in the United States and in Dubai.