

World Tax 2009

Leading firms

- 1 Ernst & Young
PricewaterhouseCoopers
- 2 Cragus Group
Deloitte
KPMG
- 3 Latham & Watkins



Commentary

Tier 2

"The **Cragus Group** has boosted its reputation for service in the last 12 months. It has expanded its reach both inside and outside the region.

The firm has tax practices in all the GCC member states, as well as Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Algeria and is planning to set up shop in 12 other Middle Eastern and African countries. It will be hosting the Arabian Gulf office of Transfer Pricing Associates Global group in Dubai. The firm has eight directors across the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.

Peers have noted the expertise of **Reggie Mezu**, formerly of Shell, as the individual who is 'mostly responsible [for] giving [Cragus] the momentum in Africa' to expand and develop. Strategic advisers **Robert Peake** and **Mark Stevens** have more than 30 years experience within the Middle Eastern market between them; **Behzad Yousef Behzad**, in Qatar and **Jassim Al Shara**, in Kuwait, are well regarded tax controversy specialists.

In the last year the firm has been engaged in a number of notable transactions among which advising a large US defence contractor on the expansion of its Middle East operations, particularly in the Gulf, stands out. In addition the firm assisted a number of European clients on the tax structuring of the supply of trains and carriages to GCC countries. The firm also worked with various chambers of commerce and regional governments in reviewing draft foreign investment legislation and other legal and fiscal policy."

Quoted from *World Tax 2009*, as published by Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC in October 2008.