



Profile

Datuk Syed Zaid is a Barrister-at-law (Lincoln's Inn, London), having been admitted and called to the Bar of England & Wales in 1979. He was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1980. Datuk Syed Zaid obtained a B.A. (Hons) Law from the University of Westminster in 1978. **Datuk Syed Zaid** is the founding partner of Albar & Partners (established in 1999). The Firm's historical roots can be traced back to 1982 when Syed Zaid established a law firm under the name Albar & Co.

Datuk Syed Zaid resigned from the firm and left practice in November 2018 upon being appointed as the Executive Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia.

Practice Areas & Experience

Syed Zaid's practice area are in *Corporate Law, Debt & Equity Capital Market (Bonds, Sukuk & IPOs) and Banking & Islamic Finance*.

Over the years, **Datuk Syed Zaid** has established himself as one of the leading lawyers in Malaysia particularly in the field of Islamic Finance in the Capital Market. He has been involved in various key transactions and his contributions & achievements were recognised through numerous domestic and international awards.

He was engaged in several notable and award winning transactions in Islamic Finance and Project Finance in the Capital Market, such as:

- The RM2 billion Perpetual Sukuk issued by DRB-HICOM Bhd, which won *"Islamic Finance Deal of the Year"* award (The Asian Lawyer's Emerging Markets Awards 2015: Singapore) and which was also recognised as one of the Asian-MENA Counsel's Deal of the Year 2015;
- The Malakoff Corporation Berhad RM2.74 billion IPO, which won applause from Islamic finance industry experts as the *"Equity & IPO Deal of the Year" (Islamic Finance News Awards 2015)* and *"IPO Deal of the Year"* award (Asian Lawyer's Emerging Markets Awards 2015);
- The Boustead REIT privatisation & Boustead Plantations Berhad IPO, which was named *"Best Islamic Privatisation" (Triple A Islamic Finance Awards 2014)*, *"Islamic Finance Deal of the Year"* (Asian Lawyer's Emerging Markets Awards 2014) and *"Equity Market Deal of the Year"* (ALB Malaysia Law Awards 2015);
- The Tanjung Bin Energy RM6.8 billion Project Financing, which was lauded as *"Asia Pacific Project Bond of the Year"* (Thomson Reuters - PFI 2012 Award) and *"Project Finance Deal of the Year"* award (IFLR Asia Awards 2012);
- The multi-billion ringgit Islamic medium term notes & commercial papers issuance based on Ijarah and Musyarakah principles to finance the nation's designated water assets owner, which won three (3) prestigious awards; namely *"Malaysia Deal of the Year 2009"*, *"Infrastructure Deal of the Year 2009"*, & *"Project Finance Deal of the Year 2009"* (IFN 2010 Deals of the Year Awards);

Appointments And Memberships

Datuk Syed Zaid was the Executive Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) from November 2018 to May 2022). As SC Chairman, Datuk Syed held the following positions:

- **Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Capital Market Development Fund (CMDf)**, a statutory fund established in 2002 with the objective of funding the development and promotion of the capital market;
- **Chairman, Securities Industry Development Corporation (SIDC)**, a capital market learning and development solutions provider for the Capital Market industry participants in Malaysia;
- **Member of the Board of Trustees of The Financial Reporting Foundation (FRF)** a body largely responsible for the establishment of a sound and effective infrastructure for the financial reporting framework also and acts as a sounding board for the adoption of the MASB's accounting standards;
- **Member of Bank Negara Malaysia's Financial Stability Executive Committee (FSEC)**, whose objective is to preserve the nation's financial stability and acts on specific policy measures that may be taken to avert or mitigate systemic risks to financial stability.

On the international front, **Datuk Syed Zaid** held the following positions :

- **Member of the governing Board of International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**, the global body of capital market regulators comprising 38 board members out of a total membership covering 130 jurisdictions of securities regulators;
- **Board representative for the Asia Pacific Regional Committee (APRC) of IOSCO (2020-2022)**. The APRC is a regional committee constituted by IOSCO to focus on regional issues relating to securities regulation in the Asia-Pacific region;
- **Vice Chair of the Management Committee of the IOSCO Asia Pacific Hub** based in Kuala Lumpur;
- **Vice Chair of the Growth and Emerging Markets Committee (GEM) of the IOSCO (2019-2020)**, which comprises 90 members and 24 associate members. The Committee seeks to promote the development and greater efficiency of emerging securities and futures markets;
- **Represented the SC in the ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF)** - The ASEAN Capital Markets Forum (ACMF) is a grouping of the heads of capital market regulators from all 10 ASEAN jurisdictions. Its primary responsibility is to develop a deep, liquid and integrated regional capital market.

Professional Appointments

In recognition of his experience in the area of Capital Market, Islamic and conventional, Datuk Syed Zaid served on the Islamic Law Review Committee of Bank Negara Malaysia (2003-2005) and the Appeals Committee of Bursa Malaysia Berhad (2013-2018).

Recognition

Datuk Syed Zaid was identified by the legal publication, *The Asia Pacific Legal 500: the Guide to Asia's Commercial Law Firms* as a **Leading Individual Lawyer** in the area of Banking & Finance in Malaysia from 2003 until 2013. He received numerous peer and client recognition for 3 consecutive years at the Asian Legal Business (ALB) Malaysia Law Awards as *"Dealmaker of the Year"* in 2014, 2015 and 2016; besides being acknowledged the winner of *"Managing Partner of the Year"* award thrice in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

Board Appointments

As a practitioner with his wealth of experience, Datuk Syed Zaid was invited to sit on the boards of several public listed companies:

- Chairman of the Board of Hong Leong Tokio Marine Takaful Berhad (Jan 2007-Jan 2009) (non-listed organisation)
- An independent director of Cycle & Carriage Bintang Berhad (Dec 2001-Apr 2008 and Mar 2018-Oct 2018);
- An independent director of Yinson Holdings Berhad (Aug 2016-Oct 2018);
- A non-Independent non-Executive Director of Encorp Berhad (Mar 2018-Jul 2018);
- An independent director of Malaysian Pacific Industries Berhad (Jul 1994-Mar 2018);
- An independent director of Malaysia Building Society Berhad (Aug 2002-Apr 2014) and continued to serve as a non-independent and non-executive director from April 2014 to February 2018;
- An independent director of Kencana Petroleum Berhad (Sept 2008-May 2012);
- An independent director of Narra Industries Berhad (now known as Hume Industries Berhad) (May 1995-Apr 2015).