

## Mohamed Afzam Zuhury

### NATIONALITY

Maldivian

### DATE OF BIRTH

11th September 1985

### CONTACT NUMBER

+960 7877 758

### EMAIL ADDRESS

afzam@fizanpartners.com

### ADDRESS

Floor 1, Gadhamoo Building  
66 Boduthakurufaanu Magu  
Henveiru, Malé 20066, Maldives

### EDUCATION

2012

Postgraduate Diploma in Bar  
Professional Training  
University of Northumbria, United Kingdom

2008

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Honours  
University of London International  
Programs, United Kingdom

### LANGUAGES

English, Dhivehi (Maldivian)

Afzam is a seasoned legal professional with extensive private practice and in-house experience in aviation, tourism and general commercial fields since 2008.

Afzam advised and represented in litigation numerous international and local hoteliers and banks. Afzam has a proven track record in assisting clients in multi-national transactions, managing high value legal matters, and driving successful outcomes in fast paced environments.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

#### Aviation and Aerospace

Advisory and transaction management in aircraft finance and leasing, aircraft and aircraft parts asset management, and operational, contractual and regulatory compliance.

#### Corporate and Commercial

Structuring and managing corporate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and compliance. Provide advise on complex commercial matters.

#### Tourism Law

Legal oversight and assistance on resort investments, acquisitions and development, management and operations.

## EMPLOYMENT RECORD

December 2024 to present.

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### **Senior Consultant**

**Fizan & Partners, Maldives**

Provide legal advise and assistance to hoteliers and high net worth individuals.

November 2023 to March 2024

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### **Legal Counsel**

**AER, LLC**

AER Leasing Corp is a boutique, small aircraft and helicopter leasing company based in Japan. The company leases aircraft and helicopters to air service providers in USA, India, Indonesia and Maldives. At AER, Afzam functioned as the company's only in house legal professional, and provided advise on aircraft financing and transaction structuring, and performed contractual compliance tasks. Afzam also liaised with existing and potential aircraft lessors/sellers and lessees.

February 2023 to June 2023

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### **General Counsel**

**Maldives Airports Company Ltd**

Worked on high value contracts for new terminal development at Male' International Airport. Oversight role of all legal operations and services, managing a large team and working closely with other departments of the Company, stakeholders, contractors, and government bodies.

July 2018 to February 2023

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### **General Counsel**

**Reollo Group**

Worked on all legal and compliance matters at start-up phase in setting up local airline, Manta Air. Provide advise on corporate structuring, development, mergers and acquisitions, and operations of tourist resorts, Kandima Maldives, The Nautilus, and Nova Maldives. Provide legal advise and assistance to boat yard, Eagle Marine.

January 2015 to May 2018

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### **Counsel**

**S&A Lawyers**

Handled a modest litigation portfolio, provided advise in corporate matters, shareholders agreements, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, foreign investments, corporate restructuring, transactional works, advise on employment disputes and conducting HR audits of large scale business, resort management contracts. Part of the team working on international arbitration in high value commercial matters.

April 2009 to June 2014

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### **Attorney/Barrister**

**Premier Chambers**

- Advising and acting for clients in a modestly sized litigation portfolio, prepared documentation for and liaised with the firm's company secretarial clients (approx. 40 companies) to ensure statutory filing requirements on time.
- Advised, prepared, vetted and finalised correspondence, documentation and contracts for a large number of real estate/tourism sector investors (such as construction and development, turnkey projects, high end tourist resort and hotel owners and operators, international hospitality brands).
- Handled mergers and acquisitions, project financing, licensing and permits.
- Drafted employment contracts and processes.

- Assisted in subcontracting hotel outlets such as water sports facilities, retail outlets, dive schools and spas.
- Acted for foreign banks in bilateral and syndicate loan facilities and related security transactions.
- Part of the team in the firm that handled major commercial disputes and high value international arbitrations.

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#### MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2013	Called to the Bar in England and Wales
2009	License to Practice Law in Maldives

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#### KEY ASSIGNMENTS

2024 <b>Client</b>   AER, LLC	Design and structure transaction for lease of 2 aircrafts to a company in India, under Indian government UDAN scheme.
2024 <b>Client</b>   AER, LLC	Provide legal advise and devised practical solution in respect of a lessee that replaced aircraft engine in breach of lease, and without informing lessor client.
2023 <b>Client</b>   AER, LLC	Review and identify gaps in contracts and documentation, work with management and contracting parties to complete documentation.
2022 <b>Client</b>   Nova Resorts Pvt Ltd	Led negotiation with island owners and successfully secured sublease for client to develop and operate a luxury resort on AA. Vakarufalhi (now operated under brand name Nova Maldives)
2021 - 2022 <b>Client</b>   Reollo Investments Pvt Ltd	Handled insurance claims relating to aircraft (total loss of DHC Twin Otter seaplane, and damage caused to ATR by lightning).
2018-2019 <b>Client</b>   Manta Aviation Pvt Ltd	Assisted management and operational team during start-up phase of all departments and operational aspects of the airline (corporate, aircraft sale and purchase, aircraft leasing, air operations, engineering, maintenance, overhaul and spare parts, safety, operations related software, ground operations, fuel, lounge spaces, insurance, employment and HR, reservations and sales/marketing, etc.) by obtaining feedback from board of directors and team members and modifying and negotiating contracts with third party vendors and operations partners to meet operational and budget requirements.

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