

# SERMID D. AL-SARRAF, ESQ.

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3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1688

Los Angeles, CA 90010

E-mail: [legal@dslm-law.com](mailto:legal@dslm-law.com) / [salsarraf@yahoo.com](mailto:salsarraf@yahoo.com)

Phone: (213) 384-8500 Los Angeles

07901-914-070 Baghdad

Fax: (213) 384-0661

## PROFILE

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- Recognized expert in transitional justice and legal reform in post-conflict setting, particularly Iraq
- Exceptional knowledge of legal education programs and institutions in Iraq
- Extensive experience in contracting in public and private sectors in the U.S. and the Middle East
- Licensed attorney in private practice since 1996 in California
- Licensed attorney with the Iraqi Bar Association.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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8/08 – present

### GENERAL COUNSEL

*Dar Salam Legal Consultancy & Translation Company, LLC* *Baghdad, Iraq*

- General Counsel for Dar Salam (dslm) which was established to offer professional legal services for international companies, non-governmental organizations and investors seeking to operate or do business in Iraq.
- Appeared as Expert on Iraqi law in British High Court and U.S. federal court
- Legal Education Assessment Consultant for USAID Access to Justice program

10/05 – present

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*International Institute for the Rule of Law* *Baghdad, Iraq*

- Executive for this international organization with main offices in L.A. and an affiliated local Iraqi non-governmental organization (NGO) aimed at promoting the rule of law in Iraq.
- Registered with local authorities and consisting of Iraqi attorneys and other professionals dedicated to internally inspired and implemented reforms to re-establish Iraq's long history of not only respecting the rule of law, but setting standards for the country and the region in the implementation of universally recognized human and civil rights. Projects are funded by the U.S., World Bank and U.K.

5/05 – 4/06

### DIRECTOR OF IRAQ PROGRAMS

*American Bar Association*

*Baghdad, Iraq*

- In-country manager of multiple projects estimated at \$9 million in 3 major areas: Judicial reform, Human Rights and the Constitution and Rule of Law Coordination capacity building.
- Directed international technical assistance to the Constitutional Drafting Committee in areas such as federalism, natural resource distribution, electoral law, and judicial organization.

12/03 – 5/05

### CHIEF OF PARTY

*"Raising the Bar: Legal Reform in Iraq" Project*

*Baghdad, Iraq*

*International Human Rights Law Institute, College of Law, DePaul University*

- In-country manager of roughly \$4 million project partnering with 3 major Iraqi law schools in Baghdad, Basra and Sulaimaniya. Funding provided by USAID.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT'D)**

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- Project focused on 4 key programs: Rule of Law initiatives, Curriculum Reform, Clinical Education and the fourth and most important, Library and Educational Technology.
- Directed one of the few U.S. funded projects outside the Int'l Zone (IZ) to successfully complete its objectives by renovating 3 law libraries, establishing 3 moot courts and proposing major law curriculum reforms to the National Curriculum Board.
- This was accomplished by maintaining a permanent presence in Baghdad from Dec. '03 using prudent security measures to ensure the safety of staff while advancing the project's objectives.
- Established solid relationships with experts in the legal profession from deans of law schools to prominent law professors to Iraqi Bar officials and high-ranking jurists in the Iraqi Judiciary.

7/03 - 11/03

**LEGAL CONSULTANT ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE***Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA)**Baghdad, Iraq**United States Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs*

- Advised the Office of Human Rights and Transitional Justice on a wide range of issues including accountability mechanisms for atrocities committed by prior Iraqi regime including rules of procedure and evidence for the Iraqi Special Tribunal, the statute creating the Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC) and related procedures, concepts for victim's compensation, and general institutional and legal reforms.
- Influenced CPA officials to achieve one of the major successes in the area of institutional reform: the re-establishment of an Independent Judiciary marked by the formation of a Judicial Council to replace the executive branch control by the Ministry of Justice instituted under the prior Iraqi regime.

1998 -2003

**LEGAL LIAISON***Public Works, Bureau of Engineering with City Attorney's Office  
City of Los Angeles**Los Angeles, CA*

- Drafted, negotiated and amended Personal Service Contracts for all design, construction management and related consultants, in addition to inter-departmental and inter-agency Cooperative Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and Grant Agreements.
- Provided litigation and discovery support for City's largest claims involving construction projects with the Hyperion Treatment Plant.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT'D)**

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1997-2003

**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW***Private Practice**Los Angeles, CA*

- Practiced business law including primarily transactional work including entity formation, contracts, leases, collections, shareholder issues, dispute resolution and related civil litigation. Clients include technology-related firms and individuals, construction firms, professional offices, and local newspapers.
- Practiced family law including a combination of litigation and mediation services involving dissolution, nullity, summary dissolution, child-custody, support and related areas.
- Prepared Wills and Trusts with focus on customization to comply with Islamic guidelines for Muslim clients.

1989 - 1998

**SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST***Public Works, Bureau of Engineering  
City of Los Angeles**Los Angeles, CA*

- Initiated, negotiated, established and administered major technology contracts with firms such as Hewlett Packard, Intergraph Corp., Sun Microsystems, Fmi, AutoDesk and TRW.
- Managed and supervised a team of Information Systems professionals involved in CADD, GIS and business systems development and support.
- Technical lead for City's first major Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) implementation in nation's second largest public Engineering department with initial budget of over \$6 million.

1987 - 1989

**SYSTEMS ANALYST***Community Development Department  
City of Los Angeles**Los Angeles, CA*

- Lead technical support for City of Los Angeles' reporting agency on federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

1985 - 1987

**COUNCIL AIDE***L.A. City Council Office of Robert Farrell**Los Angeles, CA*

- Served as in-house technical lead on implementation and setup of IBM System/36 minicomputer system.
- Developed automated procedures for correspondence tracking and built databases to support Councilman's programs.
- Represented Councilman at key functions in his absence.

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**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

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| 1998-1999 | <b>CONSULTANT</b><br><i>Warner Brothers production of "Three Kings" Burbank, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Provided translations in Iraqi dialect using transliterations for ease of use by non-Arabic speakers.</li><li>▪ Designed and drafted prop map displaying portions of southern Iraq in Arabic.</li><li>▪ Reviewed and commented on initial versions of screenplay and during pre-production with particular attention to issues of authenticity, accuracy, cultural and religious sensitivity and as a reality check on aspects of the storyline and plot.</li></ul> |
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**EDUCATION**

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| 1996        | <b>JURIS DOCTOR</b><br><i>Whittier College of Law, Los Angeles, California</i>                                                                                 |
| 1982 - 1986 | <b>UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES</b><br><i>University of California, Los Angeles</i><br><i>University of California, Berkeley</i><br><i>Glendale Community College</i> |

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**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Board of Directors, Iraqi Jurists' Association, London, England  
State Bar of California  
Iraqi Bar Association  
Transitional Justice Working Group, Coalition Provisional Authority, Baghdad, Iraq  
Transitional Justice Working Group, Future of Iraq Project, U.S. Department of State

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**PRESENTATIONS**

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"Transitional Justice in Iraq," Center for International and Comparative Law, Colloquium 2, Whittier School of Law, February 4, 2004.  
Testimony to U.S. Senate: "Constitutionalism, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law in the Nation of Iraq," Committee on Foreign Relations, June 25, 2003.  
"Rule of Law in Iraq," United States Institute of Peace, May 21, 2003.

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## ARTICLE

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"Address Saddam's Crimes Against Humanity," International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State, January 2003 ([www.usinfo.state.gov](http://www.usinfo.state.gov)).

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## ARTICLES (FEATURED IN)

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"Our Man in Baghdad," Deborah Rosenthal, *California Lawyer*, February 1, 2004.  
"Reforming Legal Education in Iraq," Teresa Watanabe, *Los Angeles Times*, August 23, 2004.  
"Iraqis Seek Primary Role in Prosecuting Crimes Against Humanity," Vicki Silverman, International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State, January 9, 2003.  
"Die Iraker sind doch allen egal (No One Cares about the Iraqis)," Von Beatrice Schlag and Vera Hartmann, *Die Weltwoche*, Germany, March 6, 2003.

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## ARTICLES (QUOTED IN)

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"Iraqis Learn Lessons of Law," Deborah Horan, *Chicago Tribune*, August 9, 2004.  
"Iraq Prepares Tribunal Statute," Sharon Behn, *The Washington Times*, October 1, 2003.  
"Iraqi Jurists Propose Plan for Transitional Justice, Rule of Law in Iraq," Phillip Kurata, International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State, May 22, 2003.  
"U. S. Faces Tough Job Dealing with Iraq Atrocities," Frank Davies, *Miami Herald*, May 8, 2003.  
"Toward an Iraqi Legal System," Marcia Coyle, *The National Law Journal*, April 25, 2003.  
"Postwar Plan Worries Legal Community," Caryle Murphy, *Washington Post*, April 4, 2003.  
"Their Day in Court," Susan Dominus, *The New York Times*, March, 30, 2003.  
"As War Starts, Refugees Feel a Mixture of Dread and Relief," *New York Times*, March 26, 2003.

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## INTERVIEWS

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"Future of Iraq Project," Candy Crowley, *CNN Live at Daybreak*, April 14, 2003.  
"War Crimes," Neal Conan, *Talk of the Nation*, NPR, May 5, 2003.  
"Restoring the Legal System in Iraq," Kitty Felde, *Talk of the City*, KPCC, April 23, 2003.

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## LANGUAGES

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Proficient in Arabic (written & spoken, including legal terms)

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**REFERENCES**

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Furnished upon request