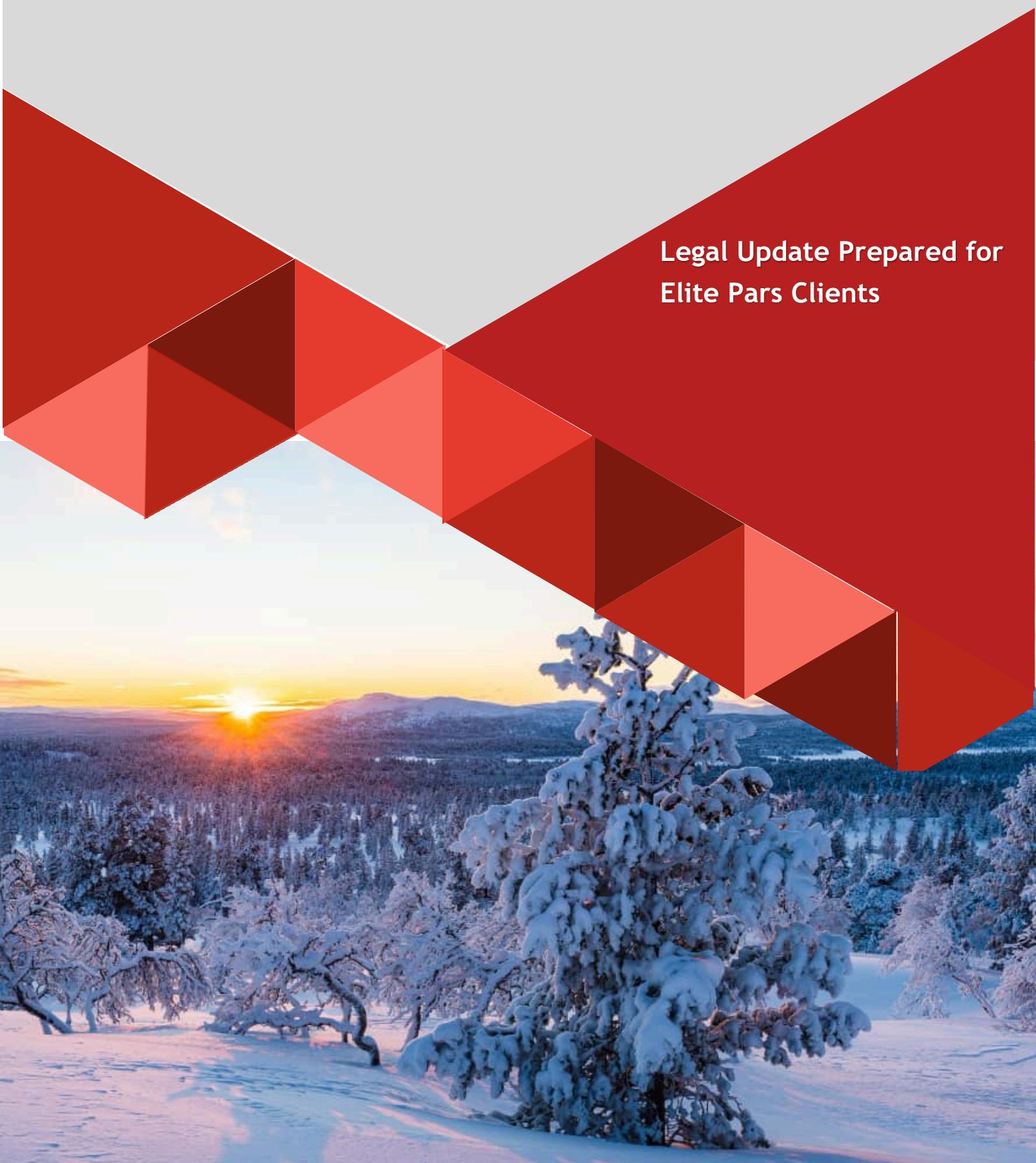


ELITE PARS

Law Firm

Legal Update Prepared for
Elite Pars Clients



Introduction

Established in 2019, Elite Pars is a boutique law firm with professional lawyers and legal minds as its core team. Lawyers at Elite Pars render legal advice on a wide range of matters in parallel to dealing with various local, regional and international arbitration and litigation cases.

Elite Pars draws strength from its diversity. We recruit from a wide variety of backgrounds, seeking out the best and those with the highest potential and we invest in their development. Our profound knowledge of assorted legal areas, enables us to efficiently guide our clients through the most complex matters they are facing. Furthermore, our practical experience provides us with insights that help us assist our clients in achieving their legal goals.

In case you have any queries regarding this document or would like to inquire as to how we could serve you best, please feel free to contact our partners Dr. Navid Sato and/or Dr. Nima Nasrollahi via n.sato@elitepars.com and/or n.nasrollahi@elitepars.com.



LEGAL UPDATE: JANUARY 2022

COOPERATION OF JUDICIARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND HIGH COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Judiciary Research Institute and High Council for Human Rights signed a memorandum of understanding with regards to cooperation of the two institutions in the fields of science, research and education. Preparation of legal responses to human rights reports and correspondence, drafting guidelines for the prosecution of crimes that need to be described and explained, and supporting research projects in areas related to the human rights and judicial needs of the country are among other issues agreed upon in this memorandum. The two institutes wish to jointly cooperate in drafting or finalizing judicial bills required in the field of international and human rights, including the Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Bill, the International Crimes Bill, conducting joint cooperation in drafting and developing Islamic human rights through Qom Islamic Research Office in areas such as compiling an encyclopedia of Islamic human rights, holding workshops, seminars and specialized roundtables in the field of Islamic human rights are other areas of joint cooperation in this memorandum.

POSITIVE SIGNALS FROM JCPOA NEGOTIATIONS

The 8th round of international negotiations for restoration of 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which has begun less than a month ago is still in progress. In these talks, Iran is negotiating directly with Russia, China, UK, France and Germany and is in indirect talks with USA, who withdrew from JCPOA in 2018. The main purpose of the negotiations is the restoration of obligations imposed by JCPOA on all parties and in particular, USA and Iran's recommitment. While the process has taken longer than expected, in recent days, some positive signals have emerged from the negotiations. The Iranian negotiators are aware of the impact of the negotiations on the Iranian economy and are anxious to convey a positive outlook regarding the outcome of negotiations. However, this positive message has been somewhat echoed by the other parties in recent days. Last week, the Russian FM, Sergey Lavrov expressed his optimism regarding the outcome of negotiations and the progress made thus far. This optimism was also echoed by the FM of France, a country which has been portrayed as a tough negotiator in JCPOA talks. Despite the progress made in the negotiations, observers warn that some tougher issues have remained unresolved and the grace period within which JCPOA could be revived is elapsing quickly.

MODERNA VACCINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CLAIMS

The pharmaceutical company Moderna and the National Institute of Health of United States are now in a dispute over who deserves credit for inventing the coronavirus vaccine. Moderna has filed the related patent application at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, without mentioning the names of three United States government scientists who took a significant part in developing the vaccine which has also generated significant revenue for the company. As a result, the institute, as the alleged co-owner of the patent for the vaccine, is seeking to defend its claim. While, Moderna appreciates its collaboration with the NIH scientists and will continue to work with them to help patients, it does not consider itself bound to mention the Institute's scientists in its patent application.

The patent application has been filed but the patent has not been issued. If the current dispute results in co-ownership of the vaccine between Moderna and the NIH, the availability and price of the vaccine worldwide would be affected.



Dr. Navid Rahbar Sato

Managing Partner

Dr. Navid Rahbar Sato is a founding partner and the managing director of Elite Pars Law Firm. He is a qualified international and domestic lawyer in the Iranian market with a primary focus on cross border transactions and oil and gas law. With several years of experience, he has extensive comprehension of the national, regional and international commercial legal systems. He also handles litigation and arbitration cases where he sets out the legal strategies and heads the team in the process. He particularly advises clients on energy law, foreign direct investment, incorporation, mergers and acquisitions as well as import and export regulations in the region including sanctions' compliance matters.

Navid holds an SJD from Washington College of Law and is a Vanderbilt LL. M. graduate of NYU School of Law and an International Trade Law LLM graduate of the American University of Washington D.C. He is an assistant professor at Shahid Beheshti University of Tehran.

Navid speaks fluent Farsi and English, as well as basic French and Japanese.
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Dr. Nima Nasrollahi Shahri

Partner

Dr. Nima Nasrollahi Shahri is a founding partner at Elite Pars Law Firm and heads the energy, investment law and arbitration practices of the firm. He is a seasoned lawyer in the field of oil and gas and renewable energies and has advised major international oil companies with respect to their participation in Iranian oil and gas projects. He holds a PhD in International Investment Law and has completed the LL. M. program of University of Dundee in Petroleum Law and Policy. He has a long list of Persian and English publications and is currently the director of oil and gas law LL. M. program at the University of Science and Culture in Tehran where he is now supervising several dissertation theses, mostly related to the same field as well as commercial arbitration. Nima regularly does pro bono educational activities. He speaks Farsi, fluent English and intermediate French and Arabic.

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