

Prof. Dr. Fakhara Rizwan

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Dr Fakhara Rizwan is an accomplished professional with a diverse background in law, corporate governance and financial crime compliance. She is a scholar, author and certified director. As the only Pakistani with a doctorate in corporate laws governing takeovers and merger activity in Pakistan, she brings a unique perspective to her work. She has authored a book on ‘Corporate Takeovers and Mergers – A Study on the Bank Role as Adviser’, a founding work on the subject, with two editions already published. She regularly writes articles on corporate laws, governance, gender diversity and social issues for law journals and newspapers.

She is an accomplished professional with multiple certifications and memberships. She is a Certified Financial Crime Specialist and is associated with the esteemed Association of Certified Financial Crime Specialists, a globally recognized association for financial crime compliance professionals worldwide. In addition to her financial crime expertise, she is a Certified Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Professional. She passionately advocates diversity and inclusion, believing embracing diversity leads to stronger teams and better business outcomes.

She is recognized by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan as an approved supervisor, enabling her to supervise PhD candidates on their research journey. Her passion for knowledge sharing extends beyond academia, as she imparts her wisdom on law and governance at prestigious institutions and universities. Through her teaching roles, she not only educates aspiring professionals but also contributes to the development of future leaders.

As a director of the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance, Dr Fakhara actively contributes to developing and promoting good governance practices in Pakistan. Her expertise spans across corporate governance, shariah governance and ESG. With a strong foundation in these three key pillars, she brings a holistic and comprehensive understanding of effective governance practices.

She participated in the Singapore International Mediation Centre’s mediation skills training program, completed the SIMC Mediation Skills Assessment, and is now a qualified SIMC International Mediator. She applies her expertise as a Trainer for the Implementation Framework and regulatory Need Assessment for Carbon Markets in Pakistan, demonstrating her commitment to addressing climate change and promoting sustainable practices.

Dr Fakhara's international experience includes practicing law in Malaysia, where she was the first Pakistani member of the Malaysian Corporate Counsels Association. While in Malaysia, she provided consultancy to the Pakistan High Commission and various reputable corporate entities. Additionally, she was engaged in *pro bono* practice for the welfare of destitute Pakistani nationals residing in Malaysia.

In 2014, she returned to Pakistan and joined AlBaraka Bank. She served as the Company Secretary & Head of the Legal Department. She played an instrumental role in the acquisition of Burj Bank Limited by AlBaraka Bank, a contribution highly valued by its board of directors. In 2017, she joined ORIX Leasing Pakistan Limited as Company Secretary & Head of the Legal Department. Additionally, she was Vice-Chairperson of the Non-Banking Financial Institutions & Modaraba Association and served as a representative for the Leasing Industry in FPCCI. Since January 2020, she has been working as the Company Secretary and Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer (General Manager) for the Pakistan Stock Exchange. She is also a member of its Listing Committee.

Dr. Fakhara is also a black-belted martial artist, showcasing her dedication and discipline. Her poetic nature is evident in her book *Adhuri Takmeel*, which has already seen three successful editions. With her extensive knowledge and experience, Dr. Fakhara is a valuable asset and a respected figure in the fields of law, corporate governance and financial crime compliance.
