

# InterContinental FINANCE & LAW

SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE ACROSS ALL CONTINENTS

## In this issue:

News, Reviews  
& Business Views

Motoring: Bentley  
Bentayga V8 Design Series

Gadgets & Gizmos

Travel: Lisbon



## Protecting sensitive information

THREE WAYS FINANCE AND LAW  
FIRMS CAN STAY ONE STEP AHEAD  
OF CYBERCRIMINALS IN 2019



In Conversation: **Mehmet Gün**  
founder, Gün + Partners



## In conversation....

# Mehmet Gün

## FOUNDER, GÜN + PARTNERS

### MY NAME IS MEHMET GÜN AND I AM THE FOUNDER OF GÜN + PARTNERS, ONE OF THE OLDEST AND LARGEST BUSINESS LAW FIRMS IN TURKEY.

Despite being born into extreme poverty in rural Anatolia where my father was a tailor, and losing him at a very early age, I strived to gain an education, qualify as a lawyer and at 26 years old, I established what is now of one of Turkey's top law firms.

Over many years as a lawyer, I helped develop modern IP law in Turkey and advised the Turkish Parliament commission on the Industrial Property Act.

I am passionate about access to justice and the Rule of Law and established two NGOs – The Better Justice Association and The Istanbul Arbitration Association to work for better access to justice and to reform the judicial system.

I have also written several books including Advancing Turkish democracy through the rule of law and public accountability; From the Steppes of Anatolia to the World of Global Law, an autobiography; The Report for Quality in Judicial Services and the Elements of Quality for TÜSIAD, the Turkish Industrialist and Businessmen Association; and Better Justice Association, the Proposal for the Establishment of a Higher Judicial Council Structure to Ensure the Independence of the Judiciary.

### GÜN + PARTNERS

I founded Gün + Partners in 1986. Based in Istanbul, we now have offices in Ankara, Izmir, and associates in Turkey's major commercial centres.

We provide transactional, advisory and dispute resolution services to local and international companies throughout Turkey and worldwide and are widely-regarded as one of the world's leading IP law firms.

Our core areas of expertise include intellectual property, corporate and commercial, and dispute resolution. We

represent clients in numerous industry sectors with a particular focus on life sciences, consumer goods, TMT, manufacturing, insurance and reinsurance, energy and natural resources, real estate and infrastructure.

### USP

We are an independent law firm managed to the highest international standards providing a bespoke service to clients.

Our high-quality offering and individuals within the firm are reflected in our Tier 1 rankings in all key legal and industry directories where we have been described as a 'market powerhouse with a stellar list of multinational clients'. In addition to numerous international awards, we were recently chosen as "Patent Firm of the Year" in Turkey by Global IP Awards.

We are also taking steps to empower women in our firm with majority of our partners being female. We have the right policies and programmes in place to establish gender equality in the firm and are taking important steps to increase gender diversity by providing senior-leadership support to advance attorneys' careers and by offering programmes that provide flexibility and address major work-life balance issues.

Our female lawyers have top level positions at international associations such as the International Bar Association, the European Communities Trade Mark Association, the Association of European Trade Mark Owners, and International Technology Law Association.

### ROLE AS FOUNDER

I want to be more than just a lawyer. I would like to be a role model for other lawyers, to mentor them, coach them, enabling them to be more successful than I am.

I am committed to opening doors for a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable tomorrow in Turkey, creating conditions so

everyone has the chance to succeed and prosper economically in this changing world.

I feel responsible for putting something back into society and would like to improve civil liberties and social justice in Turkey by creating lasting solutions to judiciary problems, and challenges facing the rule of law. Through philanthropy and the two NGOs, I aim to support change, nurture progress, and contribute to making the world a better place, and make a meaningful and lasting difference in Turkey.

### MANAGEMENT STYLE

The combination of Anatolian values, ethical codes and the sense of responsibility for my family that I took on at a tender age are embedded in my work ethos and relationship with fellow colleagues. I always seek to treat others with respect and endeavour to provide a work environment that empowers them to develop and progress in their career.

### CHALLENGES

The inefficiency of the judiciary is the main challenge with civil disputes taking too long. For example, a basic unfair competition case takes around 15 years to resolve and the average commercial cases in first instance courts in Istanbul takes around four to five years with judgments and reasons being far from satisfactory. Administrative courts fail to promptly and properly uphold the rule of law over the government and also the state's activities. These difficulties hinder the development of the legal profession but also offer enormous opportunities.

### 2018-19

Difficulties of the current state of Turkish economy and the government's precautions reduced our growth rate in 2018; despite that we still managed to grow by eight per cent.

We expect 2019 to be more difficult as the economy is contracting, which may reduce our growth rate by three to five per cent in

## GÜN + PARTNERS

AVUKATLIK BÜROSU

2019. We will use this as an opportunity to review and improve our systems and increase our productivity. We will place emphasis on increasing our IT based solutions including through the use of AI.

For me personally, to continue being a dedicated seeker of justice and use all within my means to transform Turkey's legal and judicial system.

### AIM, GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As a firm, we have established ourselves as a role model among other law firms and lawyers in Turkey. We will work to transform the legal profession by sharing our knowledge and technology know-how to our colleagues in Turkey and abroad. We will also work hard to improve our sector. These are the two essential elements for our further growth.

We have also developed a bespoke law firm management software named Günce, meaning both 'the Gün Way' 'Agenda' and 'Memory'. Günce has become the backbone of the firms' continuous development, which we expect to launch in the market this year.

I am keen to transform the legal profession in Turkey as I believe it is the lawyers that will transform society and the nation. I want to establish a legacy that my peers can use as an example. For my own part, I strive to leave a legacy of a law firm that survives beyond its founder.

My other vision is more patriotic in a sense but also for the society. I would like Turkey to evolve to a state where the rule of law prevails and then successfully advocate for democracy all over the world. I believe that Turkey, when the rule of law overcomes its current problems, could offer solutions to most of the conflicts that prevent the region and then the world from being a peaceful place. Thus, the most important goal I currently have is establishing a proper rule of law in Turkey. ●



www.gun.av.tr