



## Ahmed Ibrahim

### OVERVIEW

Ahmed Ibrahim is a full-time independent arbitrator. He has vast experience in handling cases involving major projects and transactions, often with significant sums of money in dispute. He has extensive experience in civil law and common law jurisdictions with an in-depth understanding of the legal systems in the Middle East.

Chambers & Partners 2024 notes: ***Ahmed Ibrahim has this ability to simplify things in complicated disputes. He is able to blend a regional and international practice into one.***

In 2022, Ahmed has been shortlisted for the prestigious global award of the GAR 'Best Prepared, Most Responsive Arbitrator'.

***Peers and clients say: he is a talented, experienced and reliable arbitration lawyer. He is very quick to pick up on the issues in a dispute, and excellent in presenting his analysis and conclusions.*** Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2020.

Ahmed has handled cases under most major arbitration rules, including the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the London Court for International Arbitration (LCIA), the Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC), the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration, UNCITRAL Rules, Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA), AAA-ICDR, Bahrain Chamber (BCDR), Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA), and Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA). In addition to his experience as counsel, he has served as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator, or chairman of arbitral tribunals in more than 250 ad hoc and institutional arbitration cases.

***Ahmed Ibrahim impresses peers with his prowess in construction arbitration. He adopts a pro-active approach to the arbitration process and is able to maintain momentum even in difficult circumstances.*** Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2019.

Ahmed acted in complex and high value disputes in relation to projects in countries across the MENA region, Europe and Asia-pacific. His expertise includes acting as counsel or arbitrator in disputes across various industries, including construction, insurance, real

estate, commercial, international trade, retail, power, oil and gas, renewable energy, nuclear, mining, water and utilities.

The Legal 500 describes Ahmed as ***an excellent practitioner who combines deep construction knowhow with excellent arbitration expertise.***

Ahmed has more than 20 years of experience working with leading regional and international law firms. He has been based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates since 2005. In 2013, he established his independent legal practice in the UAE in association with Fenwick Elliott LLP. In 2015, he became a partner at Fenwick Elliott LLP, and subsequently, he became the Managing Partner of the firm for the Middle East & Africa until March 2021.

Ahmed is recognised by the international arbitration community as one of the prominent arbitrators.

***You were among those arbitrators we identified as having received the positive feedback from someone who self-identified as being on the “losing” side of a dispute ... An impressive feat!*** Arbitrator Intelligence, Distinguished Arbitrator award, 2020.

Given his vast experience in construction disputes, Ahmed was selected, along with global leading construction law specialists, as a member of the drafting committee (the DB Committee) to draft the Dispute Board Rules of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration.

In 2022, Ahmed was featured as one of the Most in Demand Arbitrators in the United Arab Emirates by Chambers & Partners, which noted:

***Ahmed Ibrahim is a really impressive arbitration lawyer. He has a wealth of experience and is very intelligent. He is very easy to work with and great with clients.***

In 2023 and 2024, Ahmed was spotlighted as one of the Most in Demand Arbitrators in the United Arab Emirates by Chambers & Partners, which noted:

***Ahmed Ibrahim has considerable experience acting as an arbitrator. He has been appointed on numerous high-stakes disputes spanning various sectors including insurance and oil and gas.***

Ahmed is regularly appointed as arbitrator either through party nominations upon recommendations by leading international law firms or directly by major international arbitral institutions in arbitration cases around the globe. He has sat as arbitrator in many seats, including, DIFC, ADGM, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Doha, Paris, London, Geneva, Singapore, Seoul, Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Baghdad, Muscat and Kuwait.

## **EXPERIENCE**

### ***Selective experience as arbitrator<sup>1</sup>***

- Acting as sole arbitrator in a DIAC arbitration seated in Dubai, UAE, between a German/Swiss service provider and an Afghanistan contractor in relation to trade of fuel transactions in Afghanistan. English law applied and issues of jurisdictions, capacity and legality involved questions under the UAE and Afghanistan law.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Paris, France, between a Lebanese subcontractor and a Lebanese main contractor in respect of the MEP works for a project of a luxury mixed-use community development covering over 250,000 square meters of land.

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<sup>1</sup> Non-exhaustive list of sample cases. Specific experience by industry or jurisdiction can be provided upon request.

The dispute involved issues of defective works, variations, delay, retention, and defects liability period. Lebanese law applied.

- Acting as presiding arbitrator in an ICC case seated in Geneva between a major international gas supplier and European trading company for Euro230 million compensations for the curtailment of gas supply under a contract to supply gas to the German market. Swiss law applied.
- Acting as party-appointed arbitrator in a construction dispute related to a water desalination facility under the SCCA Rules, seated in Riyadh applying Saudi law – amount in dispute is circa SAR300 million.
- Acting as party-appointed arbitrator in a construction dispute under the SCCA Rules, seated in Riyadh applying Saudi law – amount in dispute is circa SAR18 million.
- Acting as party-appointed arbitrator in an oil and gas ad hoc arbitration, seated in Riyadh applying Saudi law – dispute amount is circa USD60 million.
- Acting as presiding arbitrator in an *ad hoc* arbitration applying UNCITRAL Rules, seated in Seoul, South Korea, between a Japanese contractor and a Korean entity for a dispute concerning an energy project in Bangladesh. Bangladeshi law applied. Questions concerning validity of arbitration agreement, multiple jurisdiction issues and conflict of laws involved guidance and application of English, Korean and Japanese laws.
- Acting as presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Amman, Jordan, between two Jordanian entities involving a dispute relating to the failure of a gas turbine on a power station. Jordanian law applied.
- Acting as presiding arbitration in a DIAC arbitration seated in Dubai, UAE, between a main contractor and a developer in relation to the construction of a residential project in Dubai. The dispute involved issues concerning termination of contract (FIDIC form), consequences of termination, claims of outstanding payments, interest, and other finance charges. UAE law applied.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in a communication/ technology dispute under the LCIA Rules, seated in Riyadh applying Saudi law – amount in dispute is circa SAR45 million.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in a shareholders' dispute under the DIAC Rules, seated in the DIFC applying Saudi law – amount in dispute is circa USD100 million.
- Acting as a dispute board member, appointed by the ICC, in a dispute over extension of time and prolongation costs in one of the biggest refineries in the world. Kuwaiti law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration seated in Singapore, in relation to a joint venture agreement for the development of a real estate project in Dubai. UAE law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in an ADCCAC arbitration seated in Abu Dhabi, between a UAE contractor and a government-owned company for a dispute related to the termination and liability for damages under an industry planning and organization consultancy contract. UAE law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in a DIAC arbitration seated in Dubai, UAE, between a UAE contractor and an international medical facilities group in respect of the construction of the extension of a hospital in Dubai. The dispute involved issues concerning delay, extension of time and prolongation costs, liquidated damages, and assessment of general damages under the UAE law, variations, design liability and professional negligence. UAE law applied.

- Acting as presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Cairo, Egypt between a French manufacturer, and an Egyptian company in charge for managing an industrial zone in Suez. The dispute involved issues concerning the supplying and maintenance of industrial infrastructure and facilities. Egyptian law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in a CRCICA arbitration seated in Cairo, Egypt, between an Egyptian superstructure subcontractor and a German main contractor with respect to a hospital in Iraq. The dispute involved issues concerning termination, defective works with the slab on grade, delay, liquidated damages, and variation orders. Iraqi law applied. Jurisdictional issues raised question about the interactive between the law of the seat (Egyptian law) and the substantive law (Iraqi law).
- Acting as sole arbitrator in an *ad hoc* arbitration, seated in the DIFC, UAE, between a Qatari offshore oil and gas contractor and a Norwegian company concerning a joint venture agreement to own and operate offshore oil and gas assets. The dispute involved issues of specifications of equipment, warranties, deceit, and commercial fraud. Qatari law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Cairo, Egypt, between an Egyptian contractor and a renowned developer concerning the development of a luxurious residential project in Cairo. Egyptian law applied.
- Acting as presiding arbitrator in a DIAC arbitration seated in Dubai, UAE, between a UAE main contractor and a developer for disputes in relation to the construction of a business tower in Dubai. The dispute involved issues concerning termination for convenience, delay, and assessment of unliquidated damages. UAE law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Doha, Qatar, between a Lebanese subcontractor and Turkish contractors. The dispute involves questions of jurisdiction and the application of back-to-back payment clauses under the civil code. Qatari law applied.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in a CRCICA arbitration seated in Cairo, Egypt between a British hotel group and an Egyptian government-owned company concerning the termination of management and operation contract for a historical hotel in Cairo. Egyptian law applied.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration seated in the DIFC, UAE between a German supplier of materials and a UAE contractor in relation to a dispute regarding the specifications of supplied materials, payment of purchase price and compensation for damages. UAE law applied.

#### ***Selective experience as counsel***

- Acting for a joint venture including one of the largest construction companies in the US, and one of the Middle East's largest construction companies, on complex disputes arising out of a major metro development in the Middle East. Issues concerning change orders and delay, and design issues. Includes ICC arbitration proceedings concerning several hundreds of millions of US dollars.
- Acting for one of China's largest construction companies in ICC arbitration proceedings concerning major infrastructure works in the Middle East (the development of a new city). Delay, variations (including design changes) and local authority requirements are central issues. Heavy civils works and design/M&E works and design. Amount in dispute exceed USD1 billion.

- Acting for a UAE contractor in a DIAC arbitration for a AED 80 million claim. The case involved issues under the FIDIC form of contract applying the UAE law, such as entitlement to extension of time, valuation of variations, concurrent delay and liquidated damages.
- Acting for a Saudi investment management company in arbitration proceedings under the Rules of Arbitration of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce against a Swiss investment company for a claim in the region of US\$10 million.
- Acting for a leading Italian construction company in a construction arbitration against an Omani investor regarding a US\$55 million dispute in relation to a turn-key contract.
- Acting for a leading Austrian contractor in a DIAC arbitration proceedings against a sub-contractor in relation to one of the largest projects in Abu Dhabi. The case involves contract interpretation issues under the UAE Law.
- Advising a Korean contractor on claims related to variation orders and failure of coordination between contractors with respect to the construction of a power and desalination plant in Saudi Arabia.
- Advising an EPC contractor on a gas-fired power station and desalination plant in Oman on legal, including assistance with key correspondence, advice on key contract terms and advising on contract positions with subcontractors.
- Advising EPC consortium on extension of time claims and contract interpretation matters in relation to an IWPP in Bahrain, which shall be developed to generate 1,500 MW of Power based on Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) technology and produce 50 MIGD of water through Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) technology.

## **EDUCATION**

MSc in Construction Law & Dispute Resolution, King's College London

Certificate in International Arbitration, Queen Mary University of London

Diploma in Contractual & Legal Aspects in the Construction Industry, the American University in Cairo

Post-graduate Diploma in International Trade & Investment law, Cairo University

Bachelor's in law, Cairo University

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Examples of recent speaking engagements:

- IBA 7th Biennial Conference on Construction Projects in Berlin, Germany.
- DIAC Webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on arbitration.
- Construction Week Webinar on the impact of COVID-19 on construction.
- The 6th annual GAR Live Dubai.
- The 7th Annual GAR Live event in November, Dubai 2020.
- Construction Disputes Workshop, CI Arb UAE Branch.
- Cross-examination of witnesses in International Arbitration Workshop, CI Arb Egypt Branch 2021.
- Diversity and new destinations in international arbitration, GAR Connect 2021.
- The significance of governing law in construction disputes, CI Arb Dubai 2022.
- Interim Measures in International Arbitration – Dubai Arbitration Week 2022.

- Enforcement of Arbitral Awards – Dubai Arbitration Week 2022.
- The DIAC Training.
- Lecturing at King’s College London – FIDIC Summer School – 2023 and 2024.
- Co-Chair, GAR Live Dubai, 2023.
- GAR Live Riyadh, 2024.
- Co-Chair, GAR Live Dubai, 2024.
- GAR Live Abu Dhabi, 2025.
- Leading the DIAC Diploma in International Arbitration 2023, 2024 and 2025.
- A talk about “constructing the team for a successful construction arbitration” – Dubai Arbitration Week 2025.
- Co-author, The MENA Leading Arbitrators’ Guide to International Arbitration, published by Juris.
- Articles about liquidated damages, subcontracting and interim measures under the UAE law are published by Fenwick Elliott LLP

## **AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Who’ Who Legal: Arbitration, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Arbitrator Intelligence – Distinguished Arbitrator 2020.

Chambers and Partners – Most in Demand Arbitrators in the United Arab Emirates, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Member of the Advisory Committee of DIAC.

Member of the Advisory Committee of CRCICA.

Member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Arbitration and ADR.

## **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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