



## Kirsten O'Connell

**Partner, A&O Sherman, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

Kirsten is a specialist in complex disputes arising out of major construction and infrastructure projects across a wide-range of sectors, including oil and gas, renewables, natural resources, defence and technology sectors.

Kirsten also has significant experience in investor-state disputes, having defended host States against

claims arising out of complex construction projects, and having advised both States and investors in connection with potential claims and defences. She regularly appears as an advocate before international tribunals arguing complex cases with large sums and stake.

Kirsten has successfully represented clients in international arbitration proceedings under a variety of institutional and ad hoc rules. Kirsten also sits as an arbitrator and is a member of the Board of Directors of ArbitrateAD.



## Karam Farah

### **Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Abu Dhabi**

Karam Farah is a seasoned legal professional based in Paris, France, with extensive experience in international arbitration and business law. He currently serves as Counsel at ICC Arbitration, a position he has held since 2023, following his role as Deputy Counsel, which began in 2021. Karam's career is marked by significant roles in renowned legal institutions, including internships and traineeships at global law firms such as DLA Piper, King & Spalding, and Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier, as well as legal counsel experience at Al Barakat Group Co. Ltd.

Karam's academic credentials are equally impressive. He earned a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Business Law from Queen Mary University of London in 2018. Prior to this, he completed a Master 2 (LL.M.) in Business Law of the Arab Countries and a Master in Business Law at Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II). His foundational legal education includes a Licence de droit from the same prestigious university, where he studied from 2007 to 2011.

With a career rooted in both academic excellence and practical experience, Karam has developed a deep expertise in arbitration and business law, making him a valuable contributor to complex legal proceedings. His international education and multilingual capabilities further enable him to navigate the intricate intersections of global legal systems effectively.



## **Issam Yahyaoui**

**Judge, Head of Commercial  
Chamber, Court of Appeal of Tunis,  
Tunisia**

Issam Yahyaoui holds a Bachelor's in Law from the University of Legal and Political Sciences in Tunis, Tunisia and a Master's of Civil and Criminal Law from the Higher Institute of the Judiciary in Megrine, Tunisia. Judge Yahyaoui has worked for the Ministry of Justice in Tunisia for over 14 years

working with cases ranging from taxes and bankruptcy, to civil and commercial disputes. In 2017, he was appointed as a vice president of the Tunis Trial Court in charge of the Commercial Division. He is also a member of the Chamber of the First President of the Court of Appeal of Tunis, which hears the proceedings for the annulment of international arbitral awards. During his Fellowship year, Judge Yahyaoui plans to gain more knowledge and skills to reform the judicial system in Tunisia, especially the business courts.



## **Fatima Balfaqeesh**

**Managing Partner, Balfaquee Advocates and Legal  
Consultants; Vice Chair, ICC UAE's Commission on Arbitration  
& ADR, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

Fatima Balfaqeesh is a UAE-certified advocate specializing in arbitration, mediation, and business consulting. Known for her critical thinking and innovative solutions, she builds strong, trustworthy relationships with clients. Fatima is an Adjunct Lecturer in Law at Middlesex University Dubai and brings over 20 years of experience from government and semi-government entities in Abu Dhabi, where she led contract and procurement functions with a focus on dispute avoidance and corporate governance.

She has broad expertise in commercial, legal, and operational matters across sectors such as construction, finance, and banking.

After earning her law degree, Fatima became a certified independent arbitrator and commercial mediator. She is a Chartered Arbitrator with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), a member and Chartered Facilities Management Surveyor with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS). She is a respected advisor in ADR, legal, and governance fields, holding numerous roles with national and international organizations.

In 2018, Fatima founded her consultancy, which has since grown into a full-service law firm. Her mission is to build a trusted advisory known for transparency, reliability, integrity, fairness, and leadership in Green Arbitration. As an advocate for the UN Global Compact and CSR best practices, Fatima stands out as one of the few independent female arbitrators and mediators in the UAE, serving as a role model for aspiring young women in the field.



## Dietmar W. Prager

**Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP,  
United States**

Dietmar W. Prager is a litigation partner in the firm's New York office who focuses his practice on international arbitration and litigation. He co-leads the firm's Latin America Practice.

Dr. Prager has represented parties in numerous arbitrations throughout the world under the auspices of the ICC, ICSID, LCIA, AAA, ICDR and the PCA as well as in ad hoc arbitration proceedings. He was also one of the youngest lawyers ever to argue before the International Court of Justice.

Dr. Prager is ranked among the leading international arbitration practitioners by Chambers Global, Chambers USA, Chambers Latin America, Chambers Brazil, The Legal 500 US, The Legal 500 Latin America, Benchmark Litigation, The Lawdragon Global Litigation 500 and Who's Who Legal, which recognizes him as a Thought Leader for Arbitration. Chambers USA (2024) also recognizes him as a Band 1 practitioner for construction disputes. He receives high praise from clients who say that he "stands out for his decisiveness and sharp intellect" and that he is "very strong analytically," "an effective strategist" and "an excellent team leader and advocate." "He is said to have "remarkable technical capacity" and "an outstanding ability to manage complex cases" with clients valuing his "dedication, expertise and exceptional client service." The publications have highlighted his "amazing" cross-examination skill, "superb memory," "excellent strategic thinking," "excellent combination of legal knowledge and experience" and his ability to "effortlessly work across cultures and jurisdictions." He receives further praise for his "impressive work and responsiveness to clients' needs," his "great depth of analysis," his "great ability to manage stressful situations" and his "ability to quickly analyze complex legal issues."

Dr. Prager is the Senior Vice Chair of the IBA Arbitration Committee. He is a member of the KCAB International Arbitration Committee, a member of the Board of the Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) and a member of the Advisory Council of the World Association of Mining Lawyers (WAOML). Dr. Prager also serves on the Vance Center Committee, the governing body of the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice. He is a former member and Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) and former co-chair of the IBA Subcommittee on International Arbitration Case Law.

Dr. Prager is a member of the bar of New York. Prior to joining Debevoise in September 2000, Dr. Prager served as Legal Officer at the Registry of the International Court of Justice. He received his LL.M. from New York University School of Law, his Dr. iur. from University of Innsbruck and his law degree from University of Vienna.

Dr. Prager speaks English, German, Spanish and French and is proficient in Portuguese.



## Claudia Salomon

### **President, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris**

Claudia Salomon is the President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. She is the first woman to lead the world's most preferred arbitral institution in its almost 100-year history.

Ms. Salomon is also an independent arbitrator, specialising in international, investor-state and complex commercial disputes. She is widely recognised as one of the leading arbitration practitioners of her generation.

Ms. Salomon has experience as arbitrator and counsel in some of the most complex, high value and

significant disputes. Her cases span a broad range of industry sectors, including construction, energy and natural resources (oil and gas, hydroelectric, solar, wind farm), financial services, hospitality, life sciences, technology, and telecommunications. She is particularly adept at multi-party, multi-contract claims involving complex financial agreements, post-M&A disputes and intellectual property rights.

Additionally, Ms. Salomon is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She is a sought-after speaker and writer on international arbitration and the co-editor of *Choice of Venue in International Arbitration*, published by Oxford University Press.

Ms. Salomon is a member of the New York Bar and a solicitor in England and Wales. She graduated from Harvard Law School, cum laude, and Brandeis University, summa cum laude with honours. She also studied at Somerville College, Oxford University.



## Alexander G. Fessas

### **Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration, France; Director, ICC Dispute Resolution Services**

Alexander G. Fessas, a Cypriot national born in Athens, currently serves as Managing Counsel and is the third most senior member of the ICC Court's Secretariat. He started his career with ICC working as Deputy Counsel in the Eastern European team in 2011. He was later promoted to Counsel, first in charge of the North American team and later in charge of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East team. Before joining ICC, Alexander was an associate at Stelios Koussoulis & Partners, an Athens-based law firm until 2007, and a sole practitioner thereafter.

He acted both as counsel and administrative secretary in international and domestic commercial arbitration cases in construction, energy and telecommunications disputes. He had also undertaken other roles including as editor-in-chief of the *Revue hellénique de droit international*. Alexander is admitted to the Athens Bar. He obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from the Faculty of Law of the University of Athens, having specialized in conflict of laws, arbitration and comparative law.

Aside his native Greek, Alexander speaks English and French.



## Alain Farhad

**International Arbitrator, Farhad Arbitration,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

After nearly two decades in private practice with several international law firms, Alain started FarhadArbitration in March 2024 in order to devote his full professional time to his work as an independent international arbitrator.

Prior to that, Alain was a partner and the head of international arbitration at Mayer Brown LLP in Dubai. In the course of his career in private practice, Alain has advised and represented as an advocate corporations, States and State-owned entities in commercial, construction and investment protection treaty disputes in over 100 arbitration

proceedings, including some of the world's largest.

In parallel to his work as counsel, Alain became one of the busiest international arbitrators based in the Middle East having issued over 100 awards in arbitration proceedings with seats in a variety of jurisdictions including Dubai, the DIFC, Abu Dhabi, the ADGM, Doha, the QFC, Riyadh, Cairo, Muscat, Kuwait, Geneva, Singapore, Paris and London.

He is now a full time independent international arbitrator and has experience in a wide range of disputes including those arising from construction, infrastructure, energy and transportation projects, joint venture and shareholding agreements, agency and distributorship agreements, mergers and acquisitions, financial transactions and the sale of goods.



## **Dr. Ahmad Alkhamees**

**Managing Partner, Harasani & Alkhamees Law Firm, Riyadh; Former Judge, Ministry of Justice, Saudi Arabia**

Dr. Ahmad Alkhamees is the co-founder of Harasani & Alkhamees Law Firm. He is a Saudi qualified lawyer, certified arbitrator, and a former judge in ministry of justice. He has extensive experience in litigation and arbitration. Ahmad also acts as expert witnesses in Saudi Law in courts in Switzerland, Cayman Islands, Dubai, and England.



## Stella Leptourgou

### **Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris**

Stella Leptourgou is a distinguished legal professional currently serving as Counsel at the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris. With a robust background in international arbitration, she has made significant contributions to the field, particularly in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

Stella joined the ICC in July 2017 as a Deputy Counsel and quickly rose through the ranks due to her expertise and dedication. By 2021, she had assumed the role of Counsel for her team, where she continues to oversee complex arbitration

cases and ensure the smooth administration of justice.

In addition to her role at the ICC, Stella is a Co-Chair of the ICC Young Arbitration and ADR Forum (YAAF). In this capacity, she plays a pivotal role in fostering the development of young practitioners in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, promoting diversity, and encouraging innovative practices within the field.

Stella's academic background is equally impressive. She holds a law degree and has pursued advanced studies in international arbitration, equipping her with a deep understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline.

Her contributions to the launch of the ICC 2021 Rules of Arbitration highlight her commitment to advancing the field. The revised rules, which aim to increase efficiency, transparency, and diversity in arbitration, reflect Stella's forward-thinking approach and dedication to maintaining the highest standards of ethics in the profession.

Stella Leptourgou's career is marked by her unwavering commitment to excellence, her leadership in promoting young talent, and her significant impact on the practice of international arbitration.



## **Sherif Akl**

**Director, Arbitration and ADR, Middle  
East, ICC Dispute Resolution Services, Abu  
Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

Sherif AKL is the Director of the International Chamber of Commerce for the Middle East branch in Abu Dhabi. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Law from both Sorbonne Paris I and Cairo University and holds a master's degree from Sorbonne Paris I. Admitted to the Egyptian Bar Association, AKL brings over 15 years of diverse legal experience encompassing both private practice and in-house roles. His areas of specialization include Corporate, Commercial, Banking, Telecommunications, Hospitality, Oil and Gas, Construction, Arbitration, and Litigation. He has extensive regional experience, having conducted arbitration in prominent cities such as Paris, London, Cairo, across the GCC, Maghreb, and Singapore.

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## **Sami Houerbi**

**Principal, Houerbi Law Firm, Tunisia/France/United Arab Emirates; Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration**

Sami Houerbi began his legal career in 1992 in Munich and Paris, specializing in French and German law. From 1999 to 2005, he joined the Secretariat of the ICC Court of Arbitration, where he managed numerous international arbitration cases.

Since 2006, Sami has acted as counsel and arbitrator in various arbitration cases under multiple institutional rules, including ICC, DIAC, SAC, CAM, CRCICA, etc. In 2008, he founded Houerbi Law Firm, focusing on business, energy, and construction law, as well as international dispute resolution



## **Samaa A. Haridi**

**Partner, King & Spalding, United States; Vice-President, ICC International Court of Arbitration**

Samaa Haridi is a civil and common law-trained, trilingual lawyer with over 20 years of experience representing clients from all over the world in international commercial and investment arbitration, under the rules of all major arbitral institutions.

Samaa has been singled out by clients for being “spectacular”, “outstanding,” “energetic and determined,” a “magnificent lawyer,” and “really, really phenomenal” (Chambers USA). Sources also acknowledge her as being a “first-class arbitration lawyer; one of the best in the region” (Who’s Who Legal) and a “global leader” whose “reputation is sky rocketing” (Who’s Who Legal). She is one of fifteen international arbitration practitioners in North America singled out by Who’s Who Legal as a Global Elite Thought Leader – Arbitration.

In addition to her work as counsel, Samaa frequently sits as an arbitrator in international commercial and investment disputes. She is also currently serving as an officer in a number of arbitral organizations, including as Vice President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, past Senior Co-Chair of the Arbitration Committee of the International Bar Association, and a member of ICCA’s Governing Board.

Samaa is a member of the New York, California, and England & Wales bars. She is fluent in French and Arabic, and conversant in Spanish.



## Rozana ALTayyar

### **Independent Arbitrator and Mediator, Taswea, Saudi Arabia; Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration**

Rozana ALTayyar is the Founder and Managing Director of Taswea, where she serves as an Independent Arbitrator and Mediator, bringing over a decade of specialized experience in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Her expertise lies in managing complex and high-value commercial disputes across various sectors, including real estate, technology, family businesses, joint ventures, and banking and finance.

Rozana is a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Court and currently serves as a board member of ICC Saudi Arabia, as well as Chair of the ICC Arbitration and ADR Committee in Saudi Arabia. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) and a member of the CIArb Steering Committee for the Saudi Arabian Branch.

Rozana is on the panel of arbitrators and mediators at the Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) and the Abu Dhabi Global Markets Arbitration Centre (ADGMAC). Additionally, Rozana is a member of the advisory board for the College of Law at Princess Nora University and a member of the advisory board of the GCC Board Directors Institute Jeddah Chapter.

In recognition of her contributions to the field, Rozana was featured in the LexisNexis Middle East publication "Women in Law in the Arab World" on August 23, 2022.

Rozana holds a Master's degree in Law from Queen Mary University, specializing in International Dispute Resolution.



## Roland Ziadé

**Global Co- Head of International Arbitration,  
Linklaters, France / Middle East**

Roland has acted as counsel in approximately one hundred international arbitration cases (ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, ICSID, AAA, SCC, OHADA, PCA, and ad hoc) and has represented and advised private companies (from the United States of America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa), states, and international organisations.

Roland has also acted as arbitrator in over 45 international arbitrations (ICC, LCIA, ICSID, UNCITRAL, SCC, Swiss Chambers, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, AFA, CRCICA). He was a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration for 9 years.

Roland is distinguished by Chambers Global and Chambers Europe, The International Who's Who on Commercial Arbitration, Best Lawyers, as well as the Guide to the World's Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration, for his experience and expertise in international arbitration. In 2011, Global Arbitration Review named Roland as one of the 45 top arbitration lawyers under the age of 45 and in 2017, Global Arbitration Review ranked him in the top three worldwide of partners below 45. In 2018, he was selected by Who's Who Legal among the 10 leading and most highly regarded arbitration counsel and arbitrators in France and in 2019 he was identified among the top 15 Global Elite Thought Leaders for the EMENA Region.

Legal 500 considers that he "stands out for being very knowledgeable, sharp and passionate. Each new case is treated as if it was the case that will change his career. He has great capacity to anticipate and address the moves of the adverse party and to predict the expectations of the tribunal. He is definitively a top arbitration lawyer and someone to better have on one's own side when facing an arbitration dispute" (Legal 500).



## **Rasem Kamal**

**Managing Partner, Kamal & Associates,  
Palestine/Saudi Arabia; Member, ICC International  
Court of Arbitration**

Mr. Kamal is the Managing Partner and has been the lead attorney at Kamal & Associates since founding the law firm in 2007. He is specialized in corporate law, microfinance law, business and commercial law, tax law, labour law, amongst others. Mr. Kamal is also an accredited legal translator by the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Kamal has co-authored and participated in the drafting (as well as advocacy) efforts of numerous laws and by-laws in Palestine. In 2021, he was selected by Palestinian Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Shtayeh to co-author the Palestinian Companies Law. The Companies Law was passed in December 2021. In addition, Mr. Kamal participated in the drafting efforts of the Microfinance Regulations, Water Law, Commercial Agents Law, Mortgage Law, Palestinian Telecom Regulatory Commission Law, , Microfinance Companies Licensing Draft Regulations, and the Consumer Protection By-laws.

Before starting his own law firm, Mr. Kamal worked for the Palestine Investment Fund—the investment arm of the Palestinian Authority (2006-2007). During that time, he managed and led PIF's North America investment portfolio, and also led the defense efforts of the PIF against law suits that were brought against it in U.S. courts. Between 2003-2006, Mr. Kamal worked for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) West Bank and Gaza Mission, during which he managed and led USAID's rule of law portfolio in the West Bank and Gaza. Mr. Kamal was the lead specialist within USAID on U.S. Government assistance to the Palestinian judiciary, public prosecution, Ministry of Justice, as well as the informal justice sector. Accordingly, he is intimately familiar with USAID and other U.S. government procedures and regulations and requirements. He also taught law at the Birzeit University School of Law between (2007) and (2009).

Mr. Kamal is a holder of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management and Tel Aviv University Recannati School of Management (2016), a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University of San Francisco in California, USA (where he was enrolled in his graduate studies as a Fulbright Scholar), as well as a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the University of Jordan in Amman, Jordan. Mr. Kamal has been a member of the Palestinian Bar Association since 2002. He is also a senior officer of the International Bar Association (IBA).



## Niyati Gandhi

**Partner, Shardul Amarchand**

**Mangaldas & Co., India**

Niyati Gandhi is a Partner in the firm's dispute resolution practice. She specialises in international and commercial law. Her practice includes international investment and commercial arbitration, complex commercial litigation and multi-jurisdictional enforcement. Niyati also regularly advises on sanctions.

Niyati has worked on several cross-border enforcements of large foreign judgments and awards in multiple jurisdictions including India, UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, US, UK and Cayman Islands. She regularly represents States, state-owned entities, sovereign wealth funds and multinational companies in significant litigations and arbitrations.

She has managed litigations in multiple jurisdictions, and has also advised and acted in a wide range of international arbitrations, under institutional (including SIAC, ICC, LCIA, AAA-ICDR, UNCITRAL-PCA and ICSID) and ad hoc arrangements seated throughout the world.

Niyati is a graduate of the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, where she has also been a Visiting Professor. Before joining Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, she has previously worked with leading law firms in Mumbai, Bangalore and Paris, the ICC International Court of Arbitration and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in Vienna.

She is a member of young practitioners' committees of multiple international arbitration institutions. Niyati assisted in the establishment of the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA), where she acted as a secretary to the Drafting Committee for the MCIA Rules.



## **Nadine Debbas Achkar**

**Independent Arbitrator; Judge, Supreme Court, Kingdom of Bahrain; Visiting Professor, New York University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Alternate Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration**

Nadine Debbas Achkar is a member of the New York Bar and has been a practicing attorney for over 25 years, with professional experience in the United States, France, and the Middle East. Nadine is a Chartered Arbitrator specializing in international arbitration, having started her career as an attorney within Shearman & Sterling's Arbitration Group in Paris. She currently serves primarily as

arbitrator. In the past few years, she has been appointed as Presiding Arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator or Co-Arbitrator in numerous arbitrations arising from a wide range of disputes under the Arbitration Rules of a variety of institutions as well as in ad hoc proceedings under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. Nadine is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

In addition, in January 2022, Nadine was appointed by Royal Decree as a Judge on the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Bahrain. From 2008 until 2011, Nadine served as the General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Abu Dhabi Basic Industries Corporation PJSC, one of the UAE's largest industrial investment holding companies, mandated by the Abu Dhabi Government to be a key contributor to Abu Dhabi's Economic Vision 2030.

She is a Visiting Professor at New York University Abu Dhabi where she teaches courses on International Commercial Arbitration, Business Law, and Gender in Law. She has also been a Lecturer in Business Law at the American University of Beirut and taught International Business Law as part of the Executive MBA core curriculum at the Ecole Supérieure des Affaires (ESA), affiliated with ESCP Europe.

Nadine holds a Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Georgetown University. She is a citizen of France, Lebanon, and the United States of America and is a native speaker of Arabic, English, and French and is fluent in Spanish.



## **Nabil Omran**

**Vice President, Egyptian Court of Cassation, Egypt;  
President of the Commissioners' panel, the Court of  
Cassation of the Dubai Courts, United Arab Emirates**

Justice Nabil Omran is a Deputy Chief Justice of the Egyptian Court of Cassation and the former President of the Court's Second Commercial Circuit.

He is currently on secondment to the Dubai Court of Cassation where he was a President of the Fourth Commercial Circuit between January and October 2023, and currently serves as the President of the newly-established Commissioners' Panel at the Dubai Court of Cassation.

Justice Omran graduated from the Faculty of Law at Ain Shams University in 1977, and holds a Master of Laws degree in Cross-Border Insolvency. He was also an Amideast Fellow at George Mason University, Virginia in 1983 - 1984.

He joined the judiciary in Egypt as a public prosecutor in 1979 before sitting as a judge. In 1989, he joined the Ministry of Justice Drafting Committee that prepared Egypt's Arbitration Law of 1994. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and events on arbitration, judicial independence and integrity, and fair trial guarantees. He also sits as arbitrator in many commercial and construction cases.



## Mahmood Hussain

**Founding Partner, M&Co Legal, Dubai/Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Chair, ICC UAE Commission on Arbitration and ADR; Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration**

Dr. Mahmood Hussain, the Founding Partner of M&CO Legal, is a distinguished legal expert with over 20 years of experience in both public and private sectors. Renowned for his expertise in civil law, Shari'a law, and arbitration, Dr. Mahmood has established a reputation as one of the

most sought-after lawyers in the region. His practice is marked by his role as a litigator in Dubai Courts, where he has achieved numerous favorable judgments in high-profile cases. His skill as an arguing counsel has set a benchmark for effective representation in complex legal disputes.

Dr. Mahmood has a remarkable track record in dispute resolution, having successfully resolved high-value shareholder disputes and acted in over 30 international arbitration proceedings under ICC, LCIA, ADCCAC, and DIAC rules. His arbitration expertise extends to serving as a sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator, or chairman in international arbitration tribunals. In recognition of his contributions, the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) honored him as the most rising arbitrator in the region.

As a key figure in the establishment of the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts, Dr. Mahmood played an instrumental role as a member of the founding committee and later served as the Courts' first Deputy Registrar. His efforts in shaping DIFC legislation have had a lasting impact, and he maintains the right of audience before the DIFC Courts.

Dr. Mahmood's accolades include a ranking by *Chambers & Partners* under Dispute Resolution: Domestic, with commentators praising him as "user-friendly, responsive, and bringing a weight of experience to each case." His professional memberships reflect his influence in the legal field, including his roles as Board Member of ICC-UAE, Vice Chairman of the ICC-UAE Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and membership in the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR in Paris.

With a deep understanding of civil and Shari'a law and a mastery of international arbitration, Dr. Mahmood Hussain continues to be a pivotal figure in the legal profession, combining his extensive knowledge with a commitment to excellence in advocacy and dispute resolution.