



Barristers | Mediators | Arbitrators
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Khadija Leuenberger

Call: 2006

Barrister

MSt New College, Oxford

BA (Honours) SOAS, London

Practice Profile

Khadija has a broad practice in all areas of Chambers' work. Khadija spent her early career at the self-employed Bar before taking up the position of Counsel at Afridi & Angell in Dubai where her practice focused on international commercial litigation and arbitration, and all dispute-related work before the DIFC Courts. Prior to joining 36 Stone, Khadija was a Senior Legal Counsel at Credit Suisse AG in Zurich specialising in cross-border matters, with a particular focus on the UK and Middle Eastern markets.

Khadija has worked on numerous high-value commercial disputes across various sectors and industries including international trade, commodities, banking and finance, construction and infrastructure and manufacturing. She has experience advising on corporate governance and regulatory matters and undertaking investigations work. Khadija has extensive international experience working with lawyers in private practice, in-house counsels, experts and other professionals from wide-ranging backgrounds and jurisdictions, in all aspects of dispute resolution.

Khadija also has a background in international human rights law and is able to advise and provide representation in matters of business and human rights.

Khadija is recognised as a future leader at the Bar through her selection by the Bar Council for its inaugural Leadership Programme. She is involved in a number of initiatives seeking to advance equality, diversity and inclusion at the Bar.

Khadija has full rights of audience before the DIFC Courts.

Work Undertaken

Areas of Experience

- Arbitration
- Banking
- Carriage of Goods
- Commercial Litigation
- Conflict of Laws/Jurisdiction
- Construction and Infrastructure
- International Commercial Arbitration
- International Commercial Litigation
- International Trade and Finance

Contact Clerks

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Contact Khadija

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Examples of work previously undertaken:

- Representing a client in a multi-jurisdictional dispute across London, Panama, the UAE, and Singapore for claims in excess of USD 500 million for breaches of representations and warranties in a private equity investment of a global sub-sea maritime service.
- Acting for a multi-national corporation advancing a defence and counterclaim before the English Commercial Court in excess of USD 20 million pertaining to the sale of an oil rig.
- Advising an NGO on State obligations under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Representing a claimant in LCIA proceedings concerning an aviation dispute involving issues of force majeure and the seizure of a number of aircrafts in Afghanistan.
- Advising in multi-jurisdictional criminal and civil proceedings resulting from allegations and claims arising out of a maritime incident.
- Representing an international diamond bank in proceedings for the recovery of approximately USD 6 million worth of dishonoured payments as a consequence of fraud and conspiracy involving parties in the UAE and Switzerland.
- Representing an international bank in DIFC-LCIA multi-million dollar proceedings involving issues of complex fraud and jurisdictional and enforcement issues in India and the UAE.
- Representing a respondent in ICC arbitration proceedings concerning a dispute over the termination of a supply of goods contract to the value of USD 15 million.
- Representing a Dubai-based property developer in ICC arbitration proceedings against a USD 30 million claim brought by a contractor disputing delay penalties in connection with a 35-storey commercial development.
- Representing a prominent UHNWI in a multi-million dollar dispute against certain luxury hotel project owners in ICC arbitration proceedings.
- Advising on the recognition of arbitration agreements, enforcement and attachment of performance securities in the UAE.
- Representing a UAE-based property developer in a DIAC arbitration proceedings claiming in excess of USD 120 million against a contractor.
- Representing a respondent in DIAC arbitration proceedings concerning a claim in excess of USD 450 million for the breach of a commercial property sale and purchase contract.
- Representing a leading bank in a complex fraud matters in ADCCAC arbitration proceedings arising from Islamic lending facilities in excess of USD 70 million.
- Representing a major Kuwaiti property developer in multi-million dirham ADCCAC arbitration proceedings relating to the termination of a services agreement for one of Abu Dhabi's largest mall development projects.
- Representing an international media company in a multi-million dollar shareholder dispute.
- Representing an applicant in a first of its kind test application before the Dubai World Tribunal in a real-estate dispute in excess of USD 11 million.
- Acting for an applicant in the enforcement of a DIAC arbitration award in foreign court proceedings against a group of companies for work carried out on one of the group's developments in the UAE involving issues of due process, the effect of bribery and fraud on the validity of a contract and matters of corporate personality.
- Representing a BVI registered company, in a multi-party dispute before the DIFC Courts to recover amounts payable pursuant to a loan agreement where repayment was tied to an insurance claim in excess of USD 12 million.
- Advising on aspects of conducting business abroad pursuant to cross-border financial regulation.
- Working on large-scale FCA and HMRC investigations.
- *Taaleem v NBC and Deyaar* (CFI 014/2010) – multi-party proceedings before the DIFC Courts for claims in excess of USD 65 million involving complex allegations of sophisticated fraud, embezzlement, corporate conflicts of interest and breaches of fiduciary duties and novel aspects of procedural law.

Appointments & Memberships

- The Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- The European Circuit
- Swiss Arbitration Association

- LCIA-YIAG
- Young ICCA

Awards & Scholarships

- Eastham Scholar (Lincoln's Inn)
- Buchannan Prize (Lincoln's Inn)
- Global Leader in Law, Qatar Law Forum (2009 and 2011)
- Honourable Mention, DIFC Courts Access to Justice Awards (2012)