

# ARBITRATION

United Arab Emirates

# Deep local knowledge, extensive global capabilities

Worldwide, disputes are growing in number and complexity. Competition and conflict are inevitable as global trade intensifies. Higher accountability standards and tighter regulatory scrutiny increase exposure and vulnerability across borders. For more complex disputes requiring specialist expertise, more parties are turning to expanding options for alternative dispute resolution.

Arbitration has become a popular dispute resolution method for those doing business in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), particularly as it offers a number of advantages over traditional litigation due to its flexibility, confidentiality and speed.

Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla has one of the most comprehensive dispute resolution offerings in the region, bringing over 30 years' local know-how, extensive global resources, and one of the largest dispute resolution teams in the UAE. The only international law firm in the UAE with full rights of audience before the local UAE and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) courts, free zone authorities and tribunals, we advise on all aspects of dispute resolution.

Our arbitration team, led by Dr. Habib Al Mulla, one of the region's foremost experts on arbitration, has worked on many domestic and international arbitrations across a number of industries and with cross-border elements and high levels of complexity.

## What others say

### Middle East

Ranked in Tier 1 for Middle East-wide work  
*EMEA Legal 500, 2015*

### Dispute Resolution

Ranked in Tier 1 for Dispute Resolution in the UAE  
*EMEA Legal 500, 2015*

"Habib Al Mulla's team at Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla has full rights of audience before the UAE courts as well as the DIFC courts and arbitration tribunals. Mohamed El Khatib has experience in maritime, insurance, real estate and employment disputes, and counsel Gordon Blanke has experience in international commercial arbitration."  
*EMEA Legal 500, 2015*

"Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla is known for a well-rounded dispute resolution offering, drawing on the combined strength of international firm Baker & McKenzie and standout local office Habib Al Mulla, following the two firms' merger in 2013. Represents clients in arbitration, DIFC and local court litigation across a multitude of sectors".  
*Chambers Global, 2015*

"Pre-eminent regional practitioner Habib Al Mulla is frequently a first choice for advice on local law issues and is acclaimed as a leading authority on arbitration in the region. He also has a prestigious track record in assisting with the development of UAE legislation".  
*Chambers Global, 2015*



# Meeting Your Needs

Fluent in various legal, cultural and business practices, we can advise on effective ways to prevent, reframe or eliminate your issues. We focus on providing clients with practical and commercial solutions that are both cost effective and time efficient.

Our arbitration lawyers are qualified in various jurisdictions including the UAE, England & Wales, France, Lebanon and elsewhere in the Middle East. Our most senior arbitration lawyers act in a variety of capacities, including as advising counsel, arbitrators and/or experts in both domestic and foreign proceedings.

Clients benefit from our global network, local language capabilities, and our ability to handle large-scale disputes in both English and Arabic in-house.

We pride ourselves in doing our own advocacy in arbitration proceedings and have a dedicated team of specialist litigation counsel experienced in the enforcement and nullification of arbitration awards before the UAE courts. Our clients can rely on us on all fronts.

## How we can help

### **Institutional or ad hoc arbitration**

We work closely with the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), the Abu Dhabi Conciliation and Commercial Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC), the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), International Court of Arbitration and the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) as well as the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre. We also advise and represent clients in ad-hoc arbitration proceedings, including arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules and arbitration through the UAE Courts.

### **Place of arbitration**

Our arbitration experience includes both domestic and international arbitration. We represent clients in arbitration proceedings seated in the UAE (including the DIFC) or abroad, including, but not limited to, arbitration seated in London, Paris or Stockholm, and/or arbitration proceedings governed by UAE or foreign laws, e.g. English or French law.

### **Language of arbitration**

Our arbitration lawyers are fluent in a variety of languages, including English, Arabic and French, and specifically have the ability to represent clients in arbitration proceedings conducted in English or Arabic. We have extensive experience in drafting complex written submissions and pleading before arbitration tribunals in both in English and Arabic.

### **Industry expertise**

We advise on a variety of industry specific disputes, including banking and finance, civil, commercial, insurance, real estate, construction, oil and gas, maritime, intellectual property, employment, DIFC and disputes with a cross-border or foreign element.

### **Ratification and enforcement**

We work closely with our specialist litigation lawyers to assist in the ratification and enforcement process of both domestic and international arbitration awards before the UAE Courts. Our experience extends to securing attachment orders from the UAE Courts in anticipation of, pending or following arbitration proceedings to ring-fence an award debtor's assets located in the UAE for enforcement purposes.

# Representative matters

Representing **a global oilfield services company** in a multi-million dollar ICC arbitration in Abu Dhabi in a dispute against a subcontractor, arising out of the performance of a pipeline construction contract.

Representing **a leading steel company** in the Gulf as the claimant in an arbitration dispute against a European counterparty before DIAC in respect of a number of heads of claims relating to the erection and construction of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Representing **an automobile distributor** in Dubai as a respondent in an SCC arbitration in Stockholm in a dispute arising out of the execution of a multi-million dollar contract for the supply of telecommunication equipment in Uzbekistan.

Represented **a prominent Kuwaiti company** in an arbitration worth approximately AED 340 million against a leading Chinese construction company in relation to valuation of works for work performed under a construction contract under UAE law under the ADCCAC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi.

Represented **a major conglomerate** in the engineering and manufacturing space in an arbitration against a contractor in relation to the installation of an access security and surveillance system as part of the expansion of Dubai International Airport under French and UAE law under ICC Rules with seat in Paris.

Represented **a large investment company** in an arbitration against a major UAE lender in relation to a success fee for an IPO undertaking in Abu Dhabi under UAE law under ADCCAC rules with seat in Abu Dhabi.

Representing **a major developer** in an arbitration against another major developer in the sum of approximately AED 1 billion in relation to the creation of a project in Dubai under UAE law under DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai.

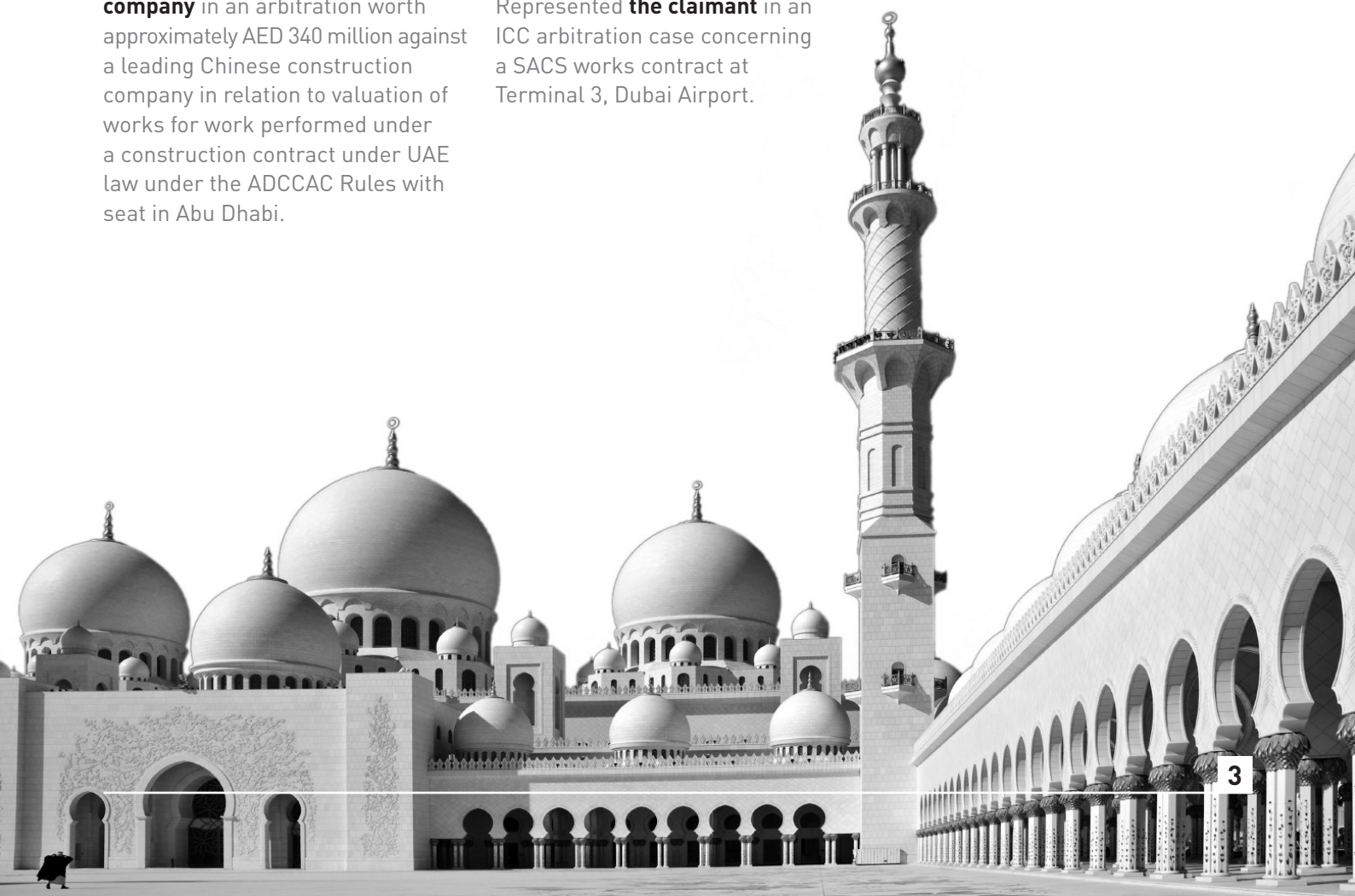
Represented **the claimant** in an ICC arbitration case concerning a SACS works contract at Terminal 3, Dubai Airport.

Represented **the claimant** in a DIAC arbitration relating to a takeover dispute concerning a UAE developer worth AED 4 billion.

Represented **a holding company** in a multi-million Dirham arbitration against a real estate company under UAE law under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai.

Represented **a UAE Emirate** in an ICC arbitration regarding gas exploration services provided by a US company.

Advised **a worldwide operating planner** on its multi-million USD claims against an electronic company arising out of a FIDIC contract in Abu Dhabi in relation to the issuance of a DLC certificate and other EOT claims.



# Value Proposition

Delivering unmatched on-the-ground support that reflects a deep understanding of the UAE's legal, regulatory and commercial practices, Baker & McKenzie Habib Al Mulla provides clients with turnkey legal solutions that exemplify single accountability and ownership.

Simple and efficient — one team, one firm, one relationship, one way.

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## **In-depth local experience**

Operating in the UAE since 1984, our team advises clients on a full range of legal matters. We also have unique and extensive experience drafting and advising on federal and emirate level laws and legal frameworks. Our long-standing relationships with the government, ministries and family-owned companies give us a unique approach to solving complex legal issues in the region.

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## **Industry-specific knowledge**

Resolve legal, regulatory and commercial conflicts with seasoned litigators and arbitrators on your side. We have represented both businesses and regulators in some of the most significant cases in the country's key sectors, including banking, insurance, construction, real estate, maritime, oil and gas, and intellectual property.

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## **Fully integrated service**

As a full service firm in the UAE, our lawyers work across practice areas to address all aspects of an issue. We provide clients with the genuine option of working with a single law firm for all local and international needs. This translates into greater transparency on fees, a single point of contact for each mandate, and single accountability — which means less risk for clients and improved efficiency in terms of cost and time.

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## **Truly global reach**

We offer strategies that are effective locally and across borders, enabling you to leverage the collective knowledge and experience of Baker & McKenzie's more than 800 dispute professionals to help limit your exposure and identify favorable choices of law and forum, particularly in unfamiliar jurisdictions. Having true local depth across more than 70 locations means our lawyers can harmonize the different legal and cultural nuances at play in multijurisdictional disputes.

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## **Talented and diverse people**

In keeping with the firm's culture, our UAE practice is staffed by locally and internationally trained or qualified lawyers with both common and civil law backgrounds. Over 70 percent of our lawyers in the UAE are fluent Arabic speakers, enabling us to handle all aspects of a dispute on our clients' behalf in both English and Arabic.

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## **Navigating legal complexity**

We understand the subtle complexity of legal and business matters in different cultures and jurisdictions around the world. In the UAE, it is important that disputes are handled by lawyers with a deep understanding of local laws, practices and procedures, and with over 30 years experience in dispute resolution in the UAE, we are well placed to represent you.

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## **Our community spirit**

At Baker & McKenzie, we don't just give to the community, we invest in it. One of our goals is to help the local community improve continuously by providing greater access to legal education, knowledge and a firm that understands local needs.

## Baker & McKenzie has been global since inception. Being global is part of our DNA.

Our difference is the way we think, work and behave – we combine an instinctively global perspective with a genuinely multicultural approach, enabled by collaborative relationships and yielding practical, innovative advice. Serving our clients with more than 4,200 lawyers in more than 45 countries, we have a deep understanding of the culture of business the world over and are able to bring the talent and experience needed to navigate complexity across practices and borders with ease.

Visit [www.bakermckenzie.com](http://www.bakermckenzie.com) to learn more

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