

## Alain Farhad

alainfarhad@farhadarbitration.com  
+971501001452  
www.farhadarbitration.com



*“A class Act.”* (Chambers Global, Most in demand Arbitrators, 2024)

*“Exceptionally competent”* (Legal 500, 2024)

*“Alain Farhad is one of the leading arbitration lawyers in the Dubai market. He has great technical expertise both from common law and civil law perspectives having qualified in both New York and Paris. He is clever and highly strategic in his thinking.”*  
(Legal 500, 2022)

Alain Farhad is a full-time independent international arbitrator based in the United Arab Emirates. He has issued over 120 final awards under major institutional rules including the ICC, DIAC, SIAC, LCIA, and Arbitrate AD rules. He regularly serves as a co-arbitrator or presiding arbitrator in high-value construction, energy, infrastructure, and commercial matters seated across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

Alain was educated in both the civil law and the common-law traditions having studied law at the Paris Sorbonne University and at the Cornell Law School. He is dual-qualified in Paris (*Avocat à la Cour*) and New York, registered as a legal consultant in Dubai and has extensive experience in both civil-law and common-law governed disputes. He has thus issued awards in cases governed by the laws of a variety of civil law and common law jurisdictions including the UAE, the DIFC, the ADGM, England & Wales, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, India, Qatar, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, France and Switzerland.

He has extensive experience handling a broad range of disputes, with a particular focus on those arising from construction, infrastructure, energy, and transportation projects. He also frequently serves as an arbitrator in matters involving joint venture and shareholder agreements, insurance claims, agency and distributorship arrangements, mergers and acquisitions, financial transactions, and the sale of goods.

Prior to becoming a full-time independent arbitrator, Alain worked for nearly two decades with several international law firms in Paris and Dubai. Until March 2024, he was a partner and the head of international arbitration at Mayer Brown LLP in the Middle East. In the course of his career in private practice, Alain 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.

He serves as a co-chair of the ICC's Advanced Arbitrator Academy, a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, the Steering Committee of the ICC UAE Arbitration Commission and the arbitration committee of the DIFC Courts. He is also an ambassador of the Swiss Arbitration Centre and a member of the International Advisory Council to the ADGM Dispute Resolution Centre.

He has written extensively on various aspects of arbitration law, in French and in English and is regularly invited to speak at a variety of international arbitration conferences globally.

He speaks Farsi in addition to French and English.

### **Selected Experience as Arbitrator**

Alain Farhad has acted as an arbitrator (sole arbitrator, chairman or co-arbitrator) in over 120 arbitration proceedings under the rules of the ICC, DIAC, SIAC, LCIA, and DIFC-LCIA as well as in *ad hoc* arbitration proceedings, including proceedings under the UNCITRAL rules. Some of his pending and recent appointments include:

- Appointed by the ICC Court upon the Respondent's nomination in an ICC arbitration seated in Singapore and governed by Qatari law relating to the construction of an LNG storage and loading facility in Qatar.
- Appointed by the ICC Court as a co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in the DIFC between an insurer and a bank in relation to a credit insurance claim under UAE law.
- Appointed by the ICC Court upon the joint nomination of the co-arbitrators to act as the presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in London between a Dutch contractor and an Iraqi State-owned oil company relating to a contract governed by Iraqi law for the removal of the wreck of a crude oil super tanker.
- Appointed by the ICC Court to act as the presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in Doha and governed by Qatari law between two contractors under a collaboration agreement relating to the construction of a mall in Doha.
- Appointed by the ICC Court as a co-arbitrator upon the Claimant's nomination in an ICC arbitration seated in Doha and governed by Qatari law between the main

contractor and a subcontractor in charge of substructure and superstructure works.

- Appointed by the ICC Court to act as the presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration seated in the DIFC arising in relation to the construction and operation of power generation equipment in Oman.
- Appointed by the ICC Court to act the sole arbitrator in an arbitration seated in Doha and governed by the ICC Expedited Procedure Rules and Qatari law to decide a commercial dispute between a Qatari entity and a Spanish contractor.
- Appointed by the SIAC Court as the presiding arbitrator in a SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore, governed by Singapore law, concerning a dispute under a marine cargo insurance policy.
- Appointed by the SIAC Court to act as the presiding arbitrator in an arbitration seated in Singapore and governed by Singaporean law arising from a joint venture agreement in the energy industry.
- Appointed by the SIAC Court as an emergency arbitrator in proceedings seated in Mumbai between shareholders under a shareholders' agreement governed by Indian law.
- Appointed by the LCIA Court as the sole arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration seated in Dubai, governed by UAE law, relating to the construction of a water treatment and distribution facility in Yemen.
- Appointed by the LCIA Court as the sole arbitrator upon the Parties' joint nomination in an LCIA arbitration seated in London and governed by Bahraini law and relating to the sale of commodities between Bahraini and Emirati parties.
- Appointed by DIAC as the sole arbitrator in a commercial dispute governed by UAE law relating to the supply of precast cable troughs and covers required for the performance of cable works in the UAE.
- Appointed by DIAC upon the co-arbitrators' joint nomination to act as the Chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal in a DIAC arbitration seated in Dubai and governed by UAE law between the main contractor and the employer arising in relation to the construction of a school in Dubai.
- Appointed by DIAC as a co-arbitrator upon the Claimant's nomination in an arbitration arising from the construction of an electrical substation in the United Arab Emirates.
- Appointed by DIAC to serve as the emergency arbitrator in the second claim ever made under the DIAC rules emergency arbitrator provisions.

## **Selected Recognition**

- *“Global Leader”, “a leader in the profession in the Middle East” and “an extremely intelligent and effective lawyer” (The Who’s Who of International Arbitration).*
- *“raises the standard of any dispute” (Chambers Global).*
- *“Alain Farhad is one of the leading arbitration lawyers in the Dubai market. He has great technical expertise both from common law and civil law perspectives having qualified in both New York and Paris. He is clever and highly strategic in his thinking”, “A standout individual who is a true expert in international arbitration” (The Legal 500).*

## **Bar Admissions**

- New York, USA (2005)
- Paris, France (2007)
- Dubai (registered as a legal consultant), UAE (2011)
- DIFC (Advocate with rights of audience, 2011)

## **Selected Professional Affiliations**

- Co-chair of the ICC Advanced Arbitrator Academy for MENA.
- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR.
- Member of the ICC UAE Arbitration Commission Steering Committee.
- Ambassador of the Swiss Arbitration Centre.
- Member of the DIFC Courts Arbitration Committee.

## **Education**

- Paris I, Panthéon Sorbonne, Maîtrise en droit international.
- Cornell Law School, LL.M.

## **Languages**

French, English, Farsi

## **Nationality / Geographic origin**

France, Iran