

Legal Plus & Kluwer Law Conference for General Counsel

# DUBAI & MENA: 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION & REGULATORY GLOBAL SUMMIT

(This conference will be conducted in English)

Tuesday, 12 February 2019, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Shangri-La Hotel, Dubai

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## SPEAKERS



**Paul Key QC**  
Essex Court Chambers London  
**Chairman**



**Dilip N Massand, Esq.**  
Managing Director,  
SAS Asset Recovery  
**Moderator – 1st Grand Panel**



**Anita Barker**  
Partner, Control Risks



**Richard Strub**  
Partner, HFW



**George M. Vlavianos**  
Managing Partner,  
Bennett Jones (Gulf) LLP



**Ravi Shankar**  
Senior Partner, Law Senate



**Julian Cohen**  
Barrister, Gilt Chambers



**Cherine Ghali**  
Managing Partner, Paraiba Legal



**Prof. Dr. Tarek F. Riad**  
Chairman of the DIAC Executive  
Committee; Managing Partner-  
Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law  
Firm-Egypt  
**Opening Address**



**Victor P. Leginsky**  
Independent International  
Chartered Arbitrator B.Ed.,  
J.D., FCI Arb  
**Moderator – 2nd Grand Panel**



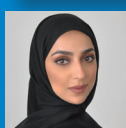
**Nassif BouMalhab**  
Lead Partner, Middle East  
Arbitration Group, Clyde & Co



**James Noble**  
Partner, Harney Westwood &  
Riegels Singapore LLP



**Stephen Burke**  
Partner, Baker Botts



**Dr. Asma Al Rasheed**  
Executive Committee Member,  
Sharjah International  
Commercial Arbitration Center



**Robert Stephen**  
Registrar, DIFC-LCIA  
Arbitration Centre (DIFC-LCIA)



**Judith Gill QC**  
Arbitrator Member,  
20 Essex Street Chambers  
**Keynote Speaker**



**Sarah Malik**  
CEO and International Disputes  
Counsel, SOL International Ltd  
**Moderator – 3rd Grand Panel**



**John Lewis**  
Senior Associate, Clyde & Co



**Nabeel Ikram**  
Partner, Hogan Lovells



**Sami Huerbi**  
Director for Eastern  
Mediterranean, Middle East &  
Africa, ICC International Court  
of Arbitration; Partner, Huerbi  
Law Firm, Dubai/Tunis



**Ravinder Bhullar**  
Partner, Dechert



**Stephen Agyei**  
Commercial Director, AECOM

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Shanghai International Arbitration Center

This conference will be conducted in English

Venue: Shangri-La Hotel, Dubai

Shangri-La Hotel, Dubai Al Nojoom,  
9/F Sheikh Zayed Road, Dubai  
PO Box 75880, United Arab Emirates

Normal rate: US\$850

Early Bird rate: US\$680

(on or before 11 January 2019)

Supporting Organisation rate: US\$680

Half Day rate: US\$450

All registration includes networking lunch.

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## SCHEDULE

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 – 9:15   | Opening Address<br>Prof. Dr. Tarek F. Riad, Chairman of the DIAC Executive Committee; Managing Partner-Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm-Egypt                                                                                                                        | 14:00 – 14:45 | 2nd Grand Panel – Construction Disputes in MENA<br>Moderator<br>• Victor P. Leginsky, Independent International Chartered Arbitrator B.Ed., J.D., FCI Arb<br>Panellists:<br>• Stephen Burke, Partner, Baker Botts<br>• Nabeel Ikram, Partner, Hogan Lovells<br>• Ravinder Bhullar, Partner, Dechert<br>• Stephen Agyei, Commercial Director, AECOM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 9:15 – 9:45   | Keynote Session – Recent Developments Affecting Global International Arbitration and The Outlook For 2019<br>Judith Gill QC, Arbitrator Member, 20 Essex Street Chambers                                                                                              | 14:45 – 15:15 | Forensics and Fast-turn E-Discovery Investigations<br>Anita Barker, Partner, Control Risks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 9:45 – 10:15  | 1st Grand Panel – Does 3rd Party Funding Have A Role in Middle East Disputes for Local and International Companies.<br>Moderator<br>• Dilip N Massand, Esq., Managing Director, SAS Asset Recovery<br>Panellists:<br>• Cherine Ghali, Managing Partner, Paraiba Legal | 15:15 – 15:35 | Ratification and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards Under the UAE's New Arbitration Law<br>Dr. Asma Al Rasheed, Executive Committee Member, Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Center                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Cross Border Disputes Involving Cayman, BVI and Bermuda Entities – What You Need to Know<br>James Noble, Partner, Harney Westwood & Riegels Singapore LLP                                                                                                             | 15:35 – 15:55 | Advising on Fighting Financial Crime in the UAE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:45 – 11:15 | <b>Networking Break &amp; Morning Refreshment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 15:55 – 16:20 | <b>Networking Break &amp; Afternoon Refreshment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 11:15 – 11:45 | Investment Arbitration in the Region.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 16:20 – 17:00 | 3rd Grand Panel – Regional Overview on Expedited Procedures – Does It Work and How Can It Be Improved?<br>Moderator<br>• Sarah Malik, CEO and International Disputes Counsel, SOL International Ltd<br>Panellists:<br>• Ravi Shankar, Senior Partner, Law Senate<br>• Sami Huerbi, Director for Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East & Africa, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Partner, Huerbi Law Firm, Dubai/Tunis<br>• Julian Cohen, Barrister, Gilt Chambers<br>• Dr. Asma Al Rasheed, Executive Committee Member, Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Center<br>• Robert Stephen, Registrar, DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre (DIFC-LCIA) |
| 11:45 – 12:05 | Arbitration Clauses: An Introduction for Transactional Lawyers<br>George M. Vlavianos, Managing Partner, Bennett Jones (Gulf) LLP                                                                                                                                     | 17:00 – 17:05 | <b>Closing Remarks &amp; Lucky Draw</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12:05 – 12:25 | A Practical Guide to Dispute Resolution Clauses: A Middle East Perspective<br>• Nassif BouMalhab, Lead Partner, Middle East Arbitration Group, Clyde & Co<br>• John Lewis, Senior Associate, Clyde & Co                                                               | 17:05 – 18:00 | <b>Networking Cocktail Party</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12:25 – 12:45 | Energy Disputes – Why, Where, When?<br>Richard Strub, Partner, HFW                                                                                                                                                                                                    |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12:45 – 14:00 | <b>Networking Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**Paul Key QC, Essex Court Chambers London**

Paul Key Q.C. is recognised as one of the leading QCs at the English Commercial Bar. He has particular expertise and specialism in arbitration, both international commercial arbitration and investment treaty arbitration (including ICSID). He also regularly appears in arbitration-related Court matters, including appearing in the English Supreme Court in *Jivraj v Hashwani*.

He has been ranked in the top-tier (band 1) rankings for arbitration for over 10 years and has consistently been identified as one of the leading figures in that field (“a real arbitration expert”, “few can rival his expertise, ability and knowledge in the field of arbitration”, “the first port of call for important arbitration disputes”, “an arbitration guru”).

He has appeared as advocate in over 300 major international arbitrations worldwide, as well as appearing regularly before the English Courts (at all levels) and foreign Courts on arbitration matters. In addition to his extensive experience in international commercial arbitration, he is one of the very few English QCs to have real expertise in investment arbitration. He has been lead counsel in a very large number of BIT / investment arbitrations, acting both for and against States.

He is Visiting Professor in international arbitration law at King’s College, London, and has lectured and published widely in this field. He has been a long-standing representative of the UK on the ILA International Commercial Arbitration Committee and is also a delegate for the UNCITRAL Working Group on Arbitration.

**Prof. Dr. Tarek F. Riad, Chairman of the DIAC Executive Committee; Managing Partner-Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm-Egypt**

Prof. Dr Tarek F. Riad is the Managing Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm (Cairo) and Professor and Head of the Department of Commercial and Business Law at the German University in Cairo (GUC). Prof. Riad has more than 32 years’ experience in International Arbitration, Litigation and Corporate Law. He has acted as counsel, co-arbitrator, Chairman or sole arbitrator in numerous arbitrations, whether ad hoc or through institutions including the Abu Dhabi Arbitration Center, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA), the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Prof. Riad has acted as counsel for numerous domestic and multinational corporations such as Four Seasons, Caterpillar, Colgate, Samsung and Lockheed Martin.

Prof. Riad is an Alternate Member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and Member of the Scientific Council of the ICC World Business Law Institute, in addition to being Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and a Member of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). Council member of the ICC Institute of World Business Law

Prof. Riad is a graduate of the Cairo Law School (LLB 1980) and Harvard Law School (LLM 1982 and SJD 1985). A member of the Egyptian Bar since 1980, and the New York Bar since 1985, he worked at Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison in New York (1983-1984).

Prof. Riad has written numerous publications including two books entitled *The Applicable Law in Transnational Arbitration* and *The Egyptian Companies Law*, in addition to many articles about arbitration and litigation in Egypt in addition to the legal aspects of doing business in Egypt.

**Judith Gill QC, Arbitrator Member, 20 Essex Street Chambers**

Judith is currently an Arbitrator Member of 20 Essex Street Chambers, and is recognised as one of the leading practitioners in the field of international arbitration. She was a partner in the International arbitration group of the global law firm Allen & Overy for over 25 years where she was head of the group for 11 years. Judith regularly acted as lead advocate and strategic advisor to clients involved in substantial international arbitration cases in both the commercial and investment treaty fields. She now sits as an arbitrator, both sole and as a member of panels of arbitrators on matters including joint venture agreements, corporate sale and purchase agreements, construction and infrastructure disputes, energy contracts and many other commercial agreements. She also sits as arbitrator on investment treaty disputes. Judith is currently the President of the LCIA, the first woman to be appointed to the position. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2009, only the second female solicitor advocate to be appointed QC and the first with an international arbitration practice. Among many other publications Judith has co-authored the last four editions of the leading textbook *Russell on Arbitration*.

**Dilip N Massand, Esq., Managing Director, SAS Asset Recovery**

Mr. Massand is a Managing Director for SAS Asset Recovery, Ltd., an asset recovery, litigation finance, and dispute resolutions firm specializing in complex cross-border matters. Based in Dubai, Mr. Massand has over 20 years of international experience working with Institutional Investors, Multinational Corporations, Banks, and Ultra High Net Worth Individuals.

Prior to joining SAS, Mr. Massand served as Co-Chair of the Emerging Markets Practice for McLaughlin & Stern, LLP, a New York based law firm. His practice focused on Construction Litigation, Mergers and Acquisitions, and advising Private Equity, Hedge Funds, and Infrastructure Services firms on accessing emerging markets in the Middle East and South Asia.

From 2000 to 2009, Mr. Massand served as Counsel and a member of the Board of Directors of DCD Capital, a Global Trade Finance and Shariah Compliant Real Estate Investment firm. From 1991 to 2000, Mr. Massand served as General Counsel for the Massand Group - overseeing its Civil Engineering and Construction Management operations in India, the Middle East, and the United States, as well as its diversification into direct investments, and consulting services.

He holds a Juris Doctor from New York Law School and a Bachelor of Science from Boston University, and is a member of the New York State Bar Association, and a qualified Legal Consultant in the UAE.

**Victor P. Leginsky, Independent International Chartered Arbitrator B.Ed., J.D., FCIArb**

Victor P. Leginsky, Canadian citizen, is an experienced international arbitrator and Barrister & Solicitor, resident in Dubai, UAE since April 2007. Victor has prior high-level mediation experience having been appointed by the Attorney General of British Columbia, Canada, to be the Chair of the Manufactured Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee. He brings over 25 years of arbitration experience in Canada. Victor has earned the internationally-recognized designations of Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is a committee member of the International Court of Arbitration (ICC) – UAE and member of ICC-Canada. He is alternate regional chapter co-ordinator of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN) and launched its seminar on oil & gas dispute resolution in the Middle East. He co-instructs, with Prof. Dr. Klaus Peter Berger a practical course in International Commercial Arbitration in Dubai. He is registered as a Barrister with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts and is a member in good standing of the Law Society of British Columbia, Canada.

**Sarah Malik, CEO and International Disputes Counsel, SOL International Ltd**

Sarah Malik is an experienced and well-regarded lawyer whose 20-year career to date has spanned internationally. Prior to founding SOL International Ltd in August 2018 she practiced as a Barrister at a leading set of Chambers in London, worked as employed Counsel at a leading UK law firm and headed the Advocacy and Investigations team of an International law firm in Dubai. Sarah is a member of the SIAC Users Council in the Middle East and is appointed on the Lagos Panel of Arbitration Neutrals. She is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and accepts appointments to sit as an arbitrator. Sarah undertakes international commercial arbitrations (DIAC, ADCCAC, DIFC-LCIA, ICC) and practices in commercial and employment litigation in the DIFC and ADGM Courts. As well as practising law, Sarah has authored various articles on litigation, arbitration and employment and has published numerous articles on dispute resolution.

She has recently authored the UAE chapter on arbitration in the International Comparative Legal Guide. In addition, she is a visiting lecturer on the LLM course at Middlesex University, Dubai where she teaches international commercial litigation and arbitration. With a solid grounding in DIFC and UAE Employment Law, Sarah has recently co-devised a teaching module for UAE Labour Law.

**Anita Barker, Partner, Control Risks**

Anita Barker leads the Middle East’s Compliance, Forensics and Intelligence practice and is based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Anita and her team work closely with clients in the region providing advice and analysis on the reputational risks associated with doing business in the Middle East. Anita has almost 20 years of professional experience, 13 of which have been spent in the Middle East region, and currently consults on anti-bribery and corruption compliance and provides investigative support on internal and regulatory investigations.

Anita’s expertise includes financial accounting and auditing, compliance reviews, corruption risk assessments and investigations into matters such as conflicts of interest, financial manipulation, misconduct and breaches of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and UK Bribery Act. She also provides bespoke compliance training to clients in the region.

Prior to joining Control Risks, Anita worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the Middle East and UK for more than 12 years, providing a range of financial accounting, auditing and forensic services to clients across Europe and the Middle East. Anita joined PwC in the UK as a graduate and spent six years in assurance, both internal and external, with a focus on clients in the manufacturing and retail sectors.

Anita is a UK trained Chartered Accountant (Fellow) and holds a BA in French and Spanish.

**Nassif BouMalhab, Lead Partner, Middle East Arbitration Group, Clyde & Co**

Nassif is a barrister and solicitor, and a Partner in Clyde & Co’s Middle East Dispute Resolution Group based in the Dubai office. He is the Lead Partner of Clyde & Co’s Middle East Arbitration Group.

Nassif practises corporate and commercial litigation and arbitration with an emphasis on shareholder, agency, management, distribution, banking, finance and real estate disputes, and financial crimes.

Nassif represents a wide range of businesses, including financial institutions and leading multinational companies in the leisure and hospitality, energy, transport and defence logistics sectors.

The Legal 500 ranked Nassif amongst eight leading individuals for dispute resolution in the United Arab Emirates and reported that he is

**John Lewis, Senior Associate, Clyde & Co**

John has practised commercial dispute resolution in the Middle east since 2006 at which time John was based in Sana’a, Yemen, representing the Government of Yemen in what is recognised as one of the major arbitration successes of recent years. Following the successful outcome of that arbitration, John relocated to Clyde & Co’s Dubai office in 2008 to join Dubai dispute resolution group.

John’s practice focusses on commercial litigation and international arbitration with an emphasis on corporate, commercial, real estate and transport and logistics disputes. John acts for a wide variety of local and international businesses in court and arbitration proceedings administered by a range of international institutions including DIAC, ICC, LCIA and the DIFC-LCIA, providing pragmatic commercial and strategic legal advice on contentious issues. John has appeared as counsel in several arbitration proceedings and is currently sitting as sole arbitrator and co-arbitrator in a number of DIAC arbitrations. John is also a member of the DIFC-LCIA Working Group Committee and the DIFC pro Bono panel.



**Richard Strub, Partner, HFW Dubai**

Richard specialises in dispute resolution in Shipping and Commodities. Richard advises clients in all aspects of shipping and the carriage of goods by sea, with particular emphasis on disputes arising out of charterparties and bills of lading, as well as collisions, groundings and maritime casualties. He also regularly advises clients in relation to ship sale and ship building disputes. He also advises commodity traders and producers on all aspects of their business, including in particular physical sale/purchase and transportation. He specialises in particular in energy and bulk commodities.

Richard studied law at Southampton University and joined HFW as a trainee in 2002 qualifying in 2004. Richard re-located from London to Dubai in early 2016. Described as “likeable and easy to deal with” (Legal 500, 2015), Richard has considerable arbitration experience under a variety of institutional rules: DIFC-LCIA, DIAC, SIAC, ICC, as well as LMAA and ad hoc arbitrations and Court proceedings.

**George M. Vlavianos, Managing Partner, Bennett Jones (Gulf) LLP**

George is the managing partner of Bennett Jones (Gulf) LLP, which carries on the practice of law in association with Bennett Jones LLP. Leader of the firm's arbitration practice, George practises in the areas of dispute resolution and construction law. He acts for owners, contractors and engineers in a wide range of construction disputes and has advised on insurance claims arising out of large industrial construction projects. George has extensive experience representing major institutional clients in complex multi-party disputes and in mediating and arbitrating significant commercial disputes in North America, Europe and the Middle East.

George is a fellow of the Canadian College of Construction Lawyers, a charter fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America, and a member of the Congress of Fellows of the Center for International Legal Studies. He is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb) and a member of the London Court of International Arbitration. George is admitted to the Panel of the International Commercial Arbitrators of the ICC National Committee of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

George is fluent in English, French and Greek. He has a working knowledge of German and a basic knowledge of Arabic.

**James Noble, Partner, Harney Westwood & Riegels Singapore LLP**

James is a partner in our Litigation and Restructuring practice group. He is a leading Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands litigation lawyer based in Asia where he specialises in complex and high value shareholder litigation, asset recovery, cross-border enforcement and insolvency.

James has nearly 20 years of experience working in a wide variety of commercial disputes including financial services litigation, trust and estate disputes and insolvency and restructuring. He regularly acts in high profile and market leading cases, particularly in connection with companies listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange. James also advises clients on litigation funding in the offshore courts.

The Litigation, Insolvency and Restructuring team at Harneys is globally recognized as the dominant force in offshore litigation and restructuring. The team has been at the forefront of the development of offshore jurisprudence for decades and has been involved in the most significant global disputes, including acting for: senior lenders in the restructuring of Mongolian Mining Corporation (in provisional liquidation); a consortium of institutional investors in a BVI claim emanating from the Bernie Madoff fraud; the liquidators of SIFCO5 in a US\$10 billion multi-jurisdictional fraud claim; and controlling stakeholders in a global shareholder dispute relating to listco giant, WTK Holdings Berhad.

**Nabeel Ikram, Partner, Hogan Lovells**

Ranked as a leading lawyer for construction and dispute resolution by The Legal 500, Chambers Global and Who's Who Legal, Nabeel has nearly two decades of experience advising clients on contentious matters across an array of sectors including construction and engineering, transport, retail (including disputes relating to franchise and distribution agreements), financial services, real estate, insurance and energy.

He is vastly experienced in arbitration which is the main forum in which he operates under a variety of rules, including DIAC, ICC, DIFC-LCIA, the LCIA as well as ad-hoc arbitrations.

In addition to International Arbitration, Nabeel is active in the courts and he had conduct of the first case before the DIFC Courts which went to trial and currently has conduct of the first case brought before the ADGM Courts.

**Ravi Shankar, Senior Partner, Law Senate**

S. Ravi Shankar is an International arbitration lawyer practising in the field of arbitration and corporate dispute resolution. He is a Senior partner in the New Delhi based LawSenate law firm. He is a qualified Advocate on Record in the Supreme Court of India. He is also the president of “Arbitration Association of India” which is a national body of practitioners, arbitrators and users. He is holding a Post graduate degree in Business Administration and a degree in the field of law. He is having about 20 years of experience in the field of dispute resolution and has travelled across the globe on various assignments. He has published various publications in the field of law particularly in the field of Arbitration. He also has addressed various international and domestic conferences in the field of Dispute resolution. He has handled various high value arbitrations and litigations in India and outside India. He is an active member of various international professional organisations including IBA, ICCA, IAA, IAI, AAI etc..

**Stephen Burke, Partner, Baker Botts**

Stephen's practice focuses on arbitration, construction, energy and other contentious matters, both in the Middle East and internationally. Stephen is experienced in conducting arbitrations under all major institutional and ad hoc rules and has acted in proceedings held in a variety of locations worldwide. Stephen is an experienced advocate who appears regularly as lead or sole advocate on behalf of clients in high-value and complex arbitration proceedings. He has higher rights of audience before the courts of England and Wales and full rights of advocacy before the courts of the Dubai International Financial Centre. In addition to his international arbitration practice, Stephen represents clients in other forms of dispute resolution, including litigation before the English High Court and the courts of the DIFC. Stephen also represents clients in mediation proceedings and sits as an arbitrator.

**Sami Houerbi, Director for Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East & Africa, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Partner, Houerbi Law Firm, Dubai/Tunis**

Sami Houerbi is the Director of the ICC eastern Mediterranean, Middle-East and Africa ICC Dispute resolution Services, where he is in charge of raising awareness about alternative Dispute resolution mechanisms throughout the region and promoting ICC arbitration and aDr rules. prior to that, he was member of the Secretariat of the International Court of arbitration in paris, where he was directly involved in the administration and managing ICC arbitration proceedings.

Mr Houerbi is a registered lawyer of the Tunis Bar association and the Managing Partner of Houerbi Law firm, which areas of practice include mainly: Corporate Law, arbitration and Litigation. Sami Houerbi acts regularly as arbitrator under ad hoc and various international arbitration institutions. He holds a post-graduate degree in international law from the university of paris II and an LL.M in German Law from the Ludwig-Maximilian university in Munich. His working languages are Arabic, English, French and German.

**Julian Cohen, Barrister, Gilt Chambers**

Julian has nearly 25 years of specialist experience of heavyweight international commercial arbitration in Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Europe. In addition to acting as counsel, he also acts sits regularly as an arbitrator. His areas of practice include a wide range of company and commercial disputes as well as construction and engineering arbitrations. He was called to the Bar in England in 1990, became a solicitor in 1993, and moved to Hong Kong in 1998. He was a Partner in the Construction and Engineering Disputes practice of Pinsent Masons before moving to the Hong Kong Bar in 2010. Julian has been recognised as one of the world's leading construction disputes lawyers (Expert Guides 2013 and 2015) and lectures and writes regularly on arbitration related topics.

**Dr. Asma Al Rasheed, Executive Committee Member, Sharjah International Commercial Arbitration Center**

Dr. Asma Al Rasheed is an Executive Committee Member and Partner at Al Rasheed & Partners law firm. She obtained a PhD in Maritime Law from the University of Sharjah in 2017. She also holds an LLM in Commercial and Maritime Law, University of Hertfordshire, UK (2010) and a Bachelor of Law from University of Sharjah, UAE (2009).

She is licensed to appear before the UAE Courts of all levels. Her practice areas are focused on commercial, corporate and banking and maritime matters.

**Ravinder Bhullar, Partner, Dechert**

Ravinder Bhullar specialises in international commercial arbitration and international litigation matters, with a focus on disputes arising out of construction, real estate, infrastructure and energy projects. Noted by clients for being “extremely effective, able to provide authoritative leadership on a dispute and seeing the bigger picture,” Mr. Bhullar has extensive experience in arbitrations conducted under the rules of the ICC, SCC, LCIA, DIFC-LCIA and DIAC, as well as ad hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL and other procedural rules. While experienced in arbitrations seated around the world, he has particular expertise in arbitration and dispute resolution connected with the Middle East and Gulf regions. He represents parties across multiple industry sectors, including construction, energy and natural resources, infrastructure, mining, and oil and gas, where he has advised owners/investors, governments, contractors, and insurers. Mr. Bhullar has also served as an arbitrator in several significant arbitrations.

Mr. Bhullar also frequently advises clients on disputes concerning financial institutions, insurance, and international trade.

Mr. Bhullar has been ranked as a leading international arbitration and construction lawyer in publications such as The Legal 500, where he is recommended for construction, and Chambers Global, where he has for many years been ranked for construction: dispute resolution. In 2018, he and his practice achieved the following rankings: Chambers Global, 2018: Band 2, Construction: Dispute Resolution. “One client called Ravinder Bhullar of Dechert LLP their ‘go-to choice for sensible, cost-effective advice. He’s thorough and always available.’ His large client base comprises government entities, developers, investors and contractors. He has further experience in construction arbitrations”; Legal 500, 2018: Band 3 practice ranking, stating that he is “‘highly experienced and takes a client-friendly approach’ - he handles a range of DIAC and LCIA arbitrations for clients including government-linked developers.”

Prior to joining Dechert, Mr. Bhullar served as an international arbitration and dispute resolution partner at another international law firm.

**Stephen Agyei, Commercial Director, AECOM**

Stephen Agyei is a Commercial Director at AECOM. His exciting career to-date has seen him practised commercial arbitration and other forms of ADR in UK and other parts of Europe, West Africa, Northern Africa and Middle East.

He holds MSc in Project Management from Heriot-Watt University and LL.M from the University of Strathclyde. He is a member of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, fellow of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, fellow of Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors, a certified Project Management Professional and a member of International Council for Commercial Arbitration.

He was a speaker at the International Commercial Arbitration Summit, held in London on 7th November 2018.

**Robert Stephen, Registrar, DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre (DIFC-LCIA)**

Robert Stephen is the Registrar of the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre (DIFC-LCIA). He is an arbitration specialist who has been based in the UAE since January 2011 and practised with Herbert Smith Freehills for more than 10 years before joining the DIFC-LCIA on 1 May 2017.

From its base in the Dubai International Financial Centre, the DIFC-LCIA provides alternative dispute resolution services for those doing business in and with the Gulf and Arab states and for those looking for an arbitration and mediation centre with world class capabilities, situated in a neutral and highly connected jurisdiction.

During his time at Herbert Smith Freehills, Robert advised and represented clients on international disputes across a wide range of industry sectors, including the oil and gas, energy and natural resources, construction, real estate, and finance and banking sectors.

He has advised and represented clients in international arbitrations under the DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, ICC, LCIA, and SIAC Rules as well as in ad-hoc proceedings and DIFC and English Commercial Court litigation.

Prior to moving to Herbert Smith Freehills' Dubai office in January 2011, Robert had also practised from Herbert Smith Freehills' offices in London, Moscow and Paris.

He also sits as the Chair of the UAE Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Young Member's Group Committee and is a member of the Global Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Young Member's Group Committee. Robert is also a member of the ICC Young Arbitrators' Forum, and the LCIA Young International Arbitration Group.

**Cherine Ghali, Managing Partner, Paraiba Legal**

Cherine Ghali has 20 years of international experience from both in-house and private practice roles. Prior to moving to the region, she worked with leading UK and US international law firms in London & Paris including Weil Gotshal & Manges, Ashurst and Orrick. Since moving to Dubai, she has held senior in-house roles with Barclays, the Majid Al Futtaim Group and Dubai Holding. Her most recent role in-house was as General Counsel of Dubai Group LLC where she advised on the group's US\$10 billion restructuring and won awards for best Legal Team with Corporate Counsel Middle East in Association with Legal Week and In-House Community Congress (MENA-Asia Awards), and was short-listed for best General Counsel.

Cherine launched Paraiba Legal where she advises on finance, restructuring and corporate matters as well as strategy in the context of litigation and dispute resolution. She is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and accepts appointments to act as an Arbitrator.

She is admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales and an Attorney in the State of New York. She is of Middle Eastern origins and is fluent in Arabic.

## Dubai & MENA: 6th Annual International Arbitration & Regulatory Global Summit

For enquiries and registration, please contact  
LegalPlus Asia at [legalpluseventsasia@legalplus-asia.com](mailto:legalpluseventsasia@legalplus-asia.com).

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**\*Important note**

· Complimentary seat is applicable to in-house counsel from non law / consultancy firm and based on first-come-first-served. Results are based on the organiser's discretion and applicants will be notified by email.

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