

大成 DENTONS

Dispute Resolution and International Arbitration

Our UAE team

Grow | Protect | Operate | Finance

What others say about Dentons

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The Dentons dispute resolution team in Dubai is first class and has been involved in some of the most significant cases in recent years.

**Legal 500 UAE 2021:
Dispute Resolution: Arbitration and
International Litigation**

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Dentons really goes the extra mile to help clients.

**Chambers Global UAE 2022:
Dispute Resolution**

Noted for its broad global footprint and frequently instructed on cross-border disputes. The UAE disputes group undertakes a variety of work in many major arbitration centres.

**Chambers Global UAE 2022:
Dispute Resolution**

The team's ability to quickly distil legal arguments from vast amounts of data is highly efficient and effective.

**Chambers Global UAE 2022:
Dispute Resolution**

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The firm has an impressive branch of talent. Every lawyer to whom I've been introduced is thoughtful and very well prepared.

**Chambers Global Middle
East-wide 2021: Dispute Resolution**

They are strong and pragmatic.

**Chambers Global UAE 2022:
Dispute Resolution**

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Practice overview

With the mixture of jurisdictions and legal systems the UAE is a unique, and challenging, environment. In fact, it is one of the few countries in the world that operates both common law and civil law systems in the same country.

Whilst these competing jurisdictions may seem at odds with one another, it is essential to know how to navigate these challenging waters to create strategic advantages and deliver the best possible outcomes for our clients for the most efficient price.

Not only is Dentons proud to have been in the UAE since its creation 50 years ago, we are in a unique position to leverage experience from cultures both within and outside the UAE to help clients navigate this exceptional jurisdiction.

Our team of dedicated litigation and arbitration lawyers deliver on-the-ground expertise on the largest and most complex disputes, before both domestic and international courts and tribunals. Our experience covers all the major international arbitration institutions and rules, as well as those located in the region, including ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC), Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA), AAA and ICSID.

We cover the full spectrum of commercial disputes, working across a wide range of industry sectors, including hospitality, transport, infrastructure, banking, real estate, telecoms, oil and gas and white collar crime.



Integrated dispute resolution specialists

The team is headed up by Andrew Cheung, who has been noted by clients as “unflappable” and a “heavyweight litigator”. Having served as Dentons’ own general counsel for 13 years, Andrew understands what drives his clients and the strategic purposes litigation serves (rather than focusing on litigation for its own sake). As a result, his team brings a uniquely strategic and results-driven focus to dispute resolution, with a deep pool of experience and talent in the Middle East.

Litigation in the Middle East is very different to other jurisdictions and requires a deep understanding of the legal and cultural nuances in the region. Having been in the UAE for 50 years, our firm understands these risks better than most. Our team, which includes bilingual Arabic speakers, is truly international, recruiting specialists from across the globe. We are able to harness our experience in assessing UAE risks and opportunities to ensure dispute resolution strategies remain commercial, proportionate and cost-conscious throughout.

Whether you are a local or multinational corporation, financial institution or government entity, we will leverage our commerciality and pragmatic approach to meet your needs. We evaluate each case from a business risk/benefit perspective and recommend an appropriate dispute resolution strategy. We then develop an integrated dispute resolution plan, in conjunction with the client, to determine: where resolution efforts should be concentrated (negotiation, mediation, arbitration or litigation); who should participate in the process; and how decisions should be made.

Reasons clients choose Dentons

SPECIFIC EXPERTISE IN ALL THE LEADING ARBITRATION RULES

As well as understanding the legal intricacies and nuances of the claim, we will use our knowledge of the relevant arbitration rules to ensure that the arbitral procedure is tailored to our client's interests and with a view to achieving the best outcome possible as efficiently as we can.



SPECIFIC EXPERTISE IN ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE DISPUTES

In addition to being one of the go-to arbitration firms in the UAE, we have significant experience of managing cases both within the UAE and DIFC Courts, including enforcement / execution of judgments within the UAE, Free Zones or wider, as the case may be.



WE KNOW HOW TO PROJECT-MANAGE YOUR DISPUTE EFFECTIVELY

Our experience tells us that working together with your project team and independent experts and utilising our resources across multiple jurisdictions will provide you with the most effective and cost-efficient solution. Moreover, we will work with our own in-house project managers to ensure the case is properly resourced and to deliver cost savings where possible.



PROVIDING YOU WITH TRUE VALUE FOR MONEY

Our experience allows us to evaluate issues quickly and foresee problems before they arise, saving you time and money. For cases that should be settled, we will tailor the strategy with a view to maximising the prospects of a settlement. In addition, we will offer you tailored and transparent fee arrangements to help you manage costs.



YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR PRIORITY

We will listen to what you want in terms of both commercial and other drivers and measure our success by the service we provide. We will deliver commercially orientated advice tailored to your requirements with a dedicated go-to team which not only manages the day-to-day conduct but is key to formulating and implementing the right strategy for you to achieve your goal.



GIVING YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DENTONS PLATFORM

By hiring the world's largest law firm, you get the benefit of our global network. Most international arbitration cases involve issues of foreign law and procedure and we are better placed than any other firm to deliver local law advice from true experts in their jurisdictions. This is then managed centrally, giving you consistent reporting, international standards of practice and streamlined on-boarding and billing procedures.



Experience snapshot



ENERGY DISPUTES

- **UAE pipes manufacturer:** Advising this subcontractor on a US\$80 million claim and counterclaim against the main contractor in relation to part of the landmark petrochemical expansion project in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- **Leading Emirati aluminium producer:** Acting for this UAE-owned government entity on a dispute with US conglomerate regarding the terms of a maintenance contract for nine gas turbines used at an alumina refinery plant in Abu Dhabi.
- **Mubadala-owned entity:** Advising a client in relation to claims arising from the operation of a large combined/community cooling plant. The claims involved issues relating to the operation of the plant and specifically claims relating to the payment regime, capacity and consumption charges as well as all the general financing arrangements.
- **Japanese contractor:** Advising in relation to claims arising from the construction of a plant in Uzbekistan. The claim value is in the region of US\$65 million.
- **Confidential client:** Providing project counsel advice and prosecuting an arbitration on two large solar projects.
- **UAE public petroleum company:** Advising in relation to an LCIA arbitration regarding disputes with a joint venture partner in connection with drilling operations at concessions in Oman and the UAE.
- **Deep Blue Pump Group:** Advising in respect of a shareholder dispute and contested takeover of the Deep Blue Pump Group in proceedings taking place before the Courts of the DIFC and the Courts of Ras Al Khaimah and the Netherlands.



FINANCE DISPUTES

- **The largest and most valuable bank in the world by asset value and market capitalisation:** Advising on DIFC proceedings against a defaulting borrower under a facility agreement amounting to approximately US\$12.5 million.
- **The State Bank of Mauritius (SBM):** Acting in US\$30 million proceedings before the DIFC Courts, against Renish Petrochem FZE, Mr Hitesh Mehta, Prime Energy FZE and the National Bank of Kuwait with regards to the claims concerning sums paid pursuant to a Facility Agreement that were acknowledged and supported by promissory notes and personal guarantees. Worldwide freezing orders have been granted to recover the sums owed and related tracing claims are being commenced across the globe.
- **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited (ICBC):** Advising this major Chinese bank on a claim against a defaulting borrower under a facility agreement amounting to approximately US\$12.5 million. These claims are subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts of the DIFC.



COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

- **Fawaz Abdulaziz Alhokair & Co (SJSC):** Acting for this prominent Saudi Arabian domiciled corporation in proceedings brought before the English Commercial Courts by Peter Black Footwear & Accessories Ltd and Visage Ltd. Multi-million-pound claim involved unpaid price for various units of clothing, footwear and other accessories sold to Alhokair.
- **Multinational producer and marketer of chemicals:** Advising in a German seated arbitration against an Egyptian-based pharmaceutical company in respect of a breach of a distributor agreement.
- **Haulotte Middle East FZE:** Advising this major French aerial work platform manufacturer in a claim brought by its distributor for breaching the exclusive distributor agreement.
- **High net worth individual:** Acting for a high net worth individual in respect of a shareholder dispute valued at AED108 million relating to a prominent UAE-based company listed on the Dubai Financial Market.



CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE DISPUTES

- **Dubai airport project:** Representing a main contractor JV in a DIAC arbitration in relation to claims against the employer arising from the construction of Terminal 3 at Dubai International Airport. The claims and counterclaims are worth in excess of AED4 billion (US\$1.3 billion).
- **Dubai airport project:** Defending a main contractor JV in a DIAC arbitration in relation to claims brought by a subcontractor arising from the construction of Terminal 3 at Dubai International Airport. The claims are worth in excess of AED1.4 billion (US\$450 million)
- **Landmark mixed-use development:** Representing a contractor in relation to claims worth in excess of US\$100 million against a well-known UAE developer in connection with the construction of a large mixed-use development in the DIFC, Dubai.
- **Major infrastructure project:** Advising a main contractor JV client in relation to supply chain claims arising from the construction of an airport terminal in the UAE. Each claim was valued at less than US\$100 million and governed by ADCCAC arbitration rules.
- **Dubai Metro project:** Advising the civil contractor on the landmark Dubai Metro project from its inception to completion and in the resolution of a multi-billion-dollar dispute with Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority. This was one of the largest disputes in the world.
- **Abu Dhabi Airport:** Representing a MEP subcontractor on a significant claim relating to the construction and fit-out of an airport in the Middle East.
- **FPSO project:** Advising a Korean contractor in relation to claims arising from the construction of a Floating, Production, Storage and Off-loading unit (FPSO). The claim value is in the region of US\$300 million.
- **Landmark healthcare facility:** Advising a three-party joint venture in relation to claims exceeding US\$250 million arising from the construction of a landmark healthcare facility in Abu Dhabi. We are also advising this contractor in relation to claims arising from the construction of an academic medical facility in Dubai.
- **Signature mixed-use development:** Advising an Abu Dhabi based SPV real estate developer in a number of disputes arising from the construction of a signature mixed-use development in Abu Dhabi. This includes ICC arbitration proceedings commenced by the contractor for non-payment and ADCCAC arbitration with the architect.
- **Residential construction projects:** Advising a leading engineering contracting firm as project counsel in respect of four residential construction projects for major government-owned developers, three of which resulted in informal disputes in the Dubai Courts. Dentons managed the disputes in collaboration with its appointed local counsel.



TMT DISPUTES

- **A leading global provider of satellite and telecommunication services:** Advising in respect of its multi-million-dollar claim against the leading Pakistani telecommunications and mobile phone network provider, Wateen Telecom Private Ltd.
- **Global telecommunications entity:** Acting for a household name media and telecommunications entity in a DIAC arbitration valued at US\$20 million in respect of the breach by its broadcast partner of a distribution and broadcast agreement.
- **Airbus Defense and Space GmbH:** Defending against a US\$8.5 million claim concerning the design, manufacture and installation of an advanced radar system in Saudi Arabia. The proceedings progressed all the way to the Dubai Court of Cassation (the highest appellate Court in Dubai).
- **UK telecoms operator:** Acting in a claim subject to English law, DIFC law and the ICC rules for a breach of warranty and alleged misrepresentation in respect of a share subscription agreement.



HOTELS AND HOSPITALITY DISPUTES

- **A leading property development and hotel management group:** Advising on a defamation perpetrated via cyber and electronic means – on social media and websites set up by anonymous parties.
- **A Middle East group of hotels:** Advising on the DIFC-LCIA arbitration for the termination of HMAs on the basis of force majeure (Covid-19).
- **Major civil contractor:** Acting for a major regional contractor in an ad hoc arbitration involving a claim of approximately US\$500 million, arising out of the construction of a major mixed-use residential/hospitality/retail project in Dubai.
- **Fraser's Hospitality UK Limited:** Acting on a dispute between local joint venture partner and the hotel operators under LCIA arbitration rules. Managing criminal allegations made by the local joint venture owner against the client and its local managers, including a criminal defence of those allegations.

Expect more from Dentons. To always be the law firm of the future.

NEXTLAW Labs

Established in 2015, Dentons recognized that the legal sector hadn't benefitted from investments in technology in the same way other sectors had. Nextlaw Labs seeks to address this through the products it develops and companies it invests in.

nextlawlabs.com

NEXTLAW Referral Network

Launched in October 2016, our global referral network now has more than 300 law firms as members. Put simply, our global referral network ensures we can always find the right lawyer, in the right place, with the right expertise, at the right time, for our clients.

nextlawnetwork.com

NEXTLAW Public Affairs Network

The network draws its membership from companies and organizations of all sizes, from across the world, that help clients shape government policy or public opinion through lobbying, public relations, advertising, grassroots organizing, grass-tops outreach, survey research and digital and social media. This enables us to have the relationships and resources our clients need.

nextlawpublicaffairs.com

80+
languages

80+
countries

 **12,000+**
lawyers

200+
locations

Your key contacts



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"Andrew Cheung is a class act. He has a huge amount of experience and is unflappable."

Legal 500 EMEA 2022



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"Suzannah Fairburn is an excellent senior associate and clearly a partner in the making."

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"Zahra Khawaja is incredibly organised and responsive in preparing for arbitration. Really solid disputes team."

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"Excellent arbitration team. They worked incredibly efficiently on a complex arbitration to make life much easier for counsel. They really know their way around DIFC arbitration and were excellent when it came to selecting arbitrators."

Legal 500 EMEA 2022, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration and International Litigation

ABOUT DENTONS

Dentons is designed to be different. As the world's largest law firm with 20,000 professionals in over 200 locations in more than 80 countries, we can help you grow, protect, operate and finance your business. Our polycentric and purpose-driven approach, together with our commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity and ESG, ensures we challenge the status quo to stay focused on what matters most to you.

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