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INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2025

A conference presented by the IBA Litigation Committee, the IBA Arab Regional Forum
and supported by the IBA Young Lawyers' Committee

Litigating in the Middle East

9–10 February 2025, ADGM, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Working programme

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All speaker materials and biographies can be found at www.ibanet.org/conference-details/conf2623

Conference Co-Chairs

Dr Mahmood Hussain *M&CO Legal, Dubai; Events Officer, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

Stavros Pavlou *Patrikios Pavlou & Associates, Limassol; Regional Representative Middle East, IBA Litigation Committee*

Sunday 9 February

1800 – 2100 **Conference dinner**

Rosewood Hotel Abu Dhabi – Solarium

Al Maryah Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE

All delegates and speakers who are registered for the full conference are welcome to attend the Conference dinner. Attendance to the Conference dinner is included in the conference booking fee.

One place per registered delegate is permitted. Transport will not be provided.

Monday 10 February

**All working sessions will take place in the Auditorium
All coffee/tea breaks and lunch will take place in the Atrium**

0830 – 1700 **Registration**

0830 – 0915 **Welcome coffee**

0915 – 0930 **Opening remarks**

Stavros Pavlou *Patrikios Pavlou & Associates, Limassol; Regional Representative Middle East, IBA Litigation Committee*

Amir Singh Pasrich *International Law Affiliates, Delhi; LPD Secretary-Treasurer / IBA Treasurer*

0930 – 1000 **Keynote address**

Linda Fitz-Alan *Abu Dhabi Global Market Courts, Abu Dhabi*

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Monday continued

1000 – 1130 **Session one**

Navigating dispute resolution mechanisms – from litigation to ADR

Key topics:

1. Commercial courts in the Middle East: Onshore vs. offshore courts
Comparison of jurisdiction, procedural differences, and case suitability in the region's onshore and offshore courts.
2. Compulsory ADR: A growing trend?
The increasing importance of ADR in resolving commercial disputes and its efficiency.
3. The role of dispute boards in commercial disputes
Discussion on how dispute boards function and their rising role in international construction and commercial disputes.

Moderator

Dr Mahmood Hussain *M&CO Legal, Dubai; Events Officer, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

Speakers

Ahmad Alshorbagy *Al Yaqout and Al Fouzan Legal Group, Kuwait; Commissioner, IBA Future of Legal Services Commission*

Hend Al Mehairi *Al Tamimi & Company, Dubai,*

Claudia El Hage *Al Marri & El Hage Law Offices, Doha*

Will Hooker *Alston & Bird, London*

Ben Sigler *Stephenson Harwood, London; Co-Chair, IBA Public Law Section*

1130 – 1200 **Coffee break**

1200 – 1330 **Session two**

Practical considerations in international litigation

Key topics:

1. Recognition and enforcement of foreign judgements in the GCC
Processes and challenges in enforcing foreign judgements.
2. Tracing and recovering assets in cross-border disputes
Legal tools and practical steps for international asset recovery.
3. Interim measures in support of domestic and international proceedings
Examining the effectiveness of freezing orders, injunctions, and other interim measures in international litigation.
4. The effect of sanctions on the above

Moderator

Stavros Pavlou *Patrikios Pavlou & Associates, Limassol; Regional Representative Middle East, IBA Litigation Committee*

Speakers

Sara Aalamri *Clyde & Co, Jeddah; Membership Officer, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

Abdulredha Al Lawati *Abdul Redha Haider Advocacy & Counsels, Muscat*

Angelika Hellweger *Rahman Ravelli, London*

Karim Nassif *Nassif Arbitration, Dubai; Co-Chair, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

Chrysostomos Nicolaou *Patrikios Pavlou & Associates LLC, Limassol*

1330 – 1430 **Networking lunch**

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Conference luncheon sponsor



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Monday continued

1430 – 1545 **Hot topics in litigation**

Exploration of emerging trends in litigation across the Middle East, focusing on new jurisprudence and commercial litigation and UAE and KSA new evidence law.

Moderator

Keith Oliver *Peters & Peters, London; Senior Vice Chair, IBA Asset Recovery Committee*

Speakers

Fatima Balfaqeeh *Fatima Abdulla Balfaqeeh Advocates & Legal Consult, Abu Dhabi; Secretary, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

Agis Georgiades *Christos Georgiades & Associates, Nicosia*

Shantanu Majumdar KC *Radcliffe Chambers, London*

Noradèle Radjai *LALIVE, Geneva; Vice Chair, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

Natalie Todd *Cooke Young & Keidan, London*

1545 – 1700 **The future of litigation in the Middle East**

Key topics:

1. Digital evidence in international litigation
Challenges of using digital evidence in cross-border cases, with a focus on admissibility and data privacy.
2. Litigation in the digital economy
Discussing litigation complexities involving e-commerce, fintech, and cryptocurrencies.
3. Litigation and artificial intelligence
Examining AI's impact on litigation practices, from case management to predictive tools and ethical considerations.
4. The challenges faced by young litigators in the Middle East

Moderator

Zeina Obeid *Obeid & Partners, Dubai; Co-Chair, IBA Young Lawyers' Committee*

Speakers

Walid Azzam *Hadef & Partners, Dubai; Regional Representative Middle East, IBA Anti-Corruption Committee*

Arno Janssens *Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre, Abu Dhabi*

Roberto Lipari *Dentons, Rome*

Sarah Malik *SOL International Ltd, Abu Dhabi*

Vincent Slingerland *LexisNexis, Dubai*

1700 **Closing remarks**

Dr Mahmood Hussain *M&CO Legal, Dubai; Events Officer, IBA Arab Regional Forum*

The IBA, its officers and staff accept no responsibility for any views expressed, presentations or materials produced by delegates or speakers at the Conference.

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Litigating in the Middle East

Hadef & Partners' *Dispute Resolution* practice is a market leader, renowned for its extensive experience in handling UAE, regional, and multi-jurisdictional litigation and arbitration cases.

In UAE litigation, our court advocates have full rights of audience before the various UAE courts and tribunals, and possess extensive experience in navigating the local legal system.

Our track record includes many of the most significant and high-profile commercial litigation cases heard before the UAE and DIFC / ADGM courts, as well as complex, high-value arbitrations across all industry sectors.

Services include:

- Dispute Resolution
- Arbitration
- Financial Crime, Asset Tracing & Regulatory Investigations
- Restructuring & Insolvency
- Commercial Litigation
- Director & Shareholder Disputes
- Maritime, Transport & Trade Disputes

Accolades:

- Legal 500 - Ranked Tier 1 for Dispute Resolution: Local Litigation
- Chambers Global - Ranked Band 1 for Dispute Resolution: Domestic
- UAE Domestic Litigation Law Firm of the Year - Chambers Middle East Awards 2023
- Law Firm of the Year - UAE - The Oath Awards 2023
- National Law firm of the Year - IFLR Middle East Awards
- Deal of the Year - Restructuring - KBBO - IFLR Middle East Awards
- Deal of the Year - Impact Deal Award - Drake & Scull - IFLR Middle East Awards
- UAE Employment Law Firm of the Year - Chambers Middle East Awards 2024
- Restructuring Deal of the Year - KBBO Group - Islamic Finance News 2023



Abdulrahman Juma

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