



Tariq Khan

Head of International Arbitration & Litigation

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Right of Audience

- Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)
- Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)
- Supreme Court of India

Area of Practice

- DIFC & ADGM Courts Advocacy
- International Arbitration
- Arbitration-Related Court Proceedings
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction & Infrastructure Disputes
- Energy, Oil & Gas
- Joint Venture & Shareholder Disputes
- Hospitality, Crypto & Fund Management Disputes
- Enforcement of Foreign Judgments & Arbitral Awards

Languages

- English
- Urdu
- Hindi

Summary Profile

Tariq Khan is Partner and Head of International Arbitration & Litigation at M&CO Legal (UAE), specialising in international arbitration and complex cross-border disputes, with a particular focus on proceedings before the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts and Abu Dhabi Global Market Courts. His practice encompasses arbitration-related litigation, enforcement of arbitral awards and foreign judgments, and urgent interim and injunctive relief in high-value commercial disputes. He regularly represents sovereign-linked entities, multinational corporations and high-net-worth individuals across the Middle East and Asia.

He appears as counsel in arbitrations conducted under major institutional rules including ICC, DIAC, LCIA and SIAC, and advises on disputes arising from construction and infrastructure projects, energy and oil & gas ventures, joint ventures, shareholder conflicts, financial services and hospitality operations. Several matters argued by him have contributed to the development of DIFC jurisprudence, particularly on appellate standards, separability and governing law of arbitration agreements, and the supervisory role of the Courts in support of arbitration.

In addition to acting as counsel, Tariq serves as an arbitrator on the panels of multiple international arbitral institutions and has rendered awards in commercial, infrastructure and financial disputes exceeding USD 10 million in value. He is also a published author on arbitration law, contributing regularly to international legal platforms including Kluwer Arbitration Blog and LexisNexis Middle East.

DIFC & ADGM Courts – Advocacy, Enforcement & Interim Relief

- Successfully represented a client in continuation proceedings before the DIFC Courts, obtaining a worldwide freezing order in relation to a USD 650 million (Approx) arbitral award.
- Successfully represented the claimant in contempt proceedings where the respondents breached an anti-suit injunction by initiating foreign proceedings. The Court found the respondents guilty of contempt, imposing fines of USD 75,000 per contemnor, and referring the matter to the Attorney General for consideration of committal.

- Secured dismissal of a renewed application for permission to appeal against an interim injunction obtained at the DIFC Court of First Instance in dispute value of 40 million USD.
- Secured a Permission to Appeal application before the DIFC Court of First Instance in a complex arbitration-related dispute.
- Secured renewed permission to appeal before the DIFC Court of Appeal in an approximately AED 100 million dispute involving complex commercial and arbitration issues.
- Successfully represented claimant and obtained an urgent anti-suit injunction before H.E. Justice Michael Black KC, restraining proceedings commenced before the Abu Dhabi Courts in breach of a DIFC-seated arbitration agreement.
- Acted in urgent DIFC Court proceedings arising from a multi-million-dollar renewable energy dispute, securing an ex-parte interim injunction within 24 hours, preserving operational status quo of a critical energy facility.
- Appeared in and argued matters clarifying law governing arbitration agreements, where the DIFC Courts held that:
 - the law of the seat governs the arbitration agreement;
 - DIFC Courts have exclusive supervisory jurisdiction over DIFC-seated arbitrations; and
 - interim relief in support of arbitration lies squarely within the DIFC Courts’ powers.
- Acted in DIFC proceedings providing authoritative guidance on multi-contract and JV dispute resolution structures, confirming primacy of arbitration clauses in principal agreements and reinforcing jurisdictional certainty in cross-border transactions.

Arbitrator Experience

Tariq Khan is empanelled as an arbitrator with leading international arbitral institutions, including the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA), Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC), Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC), EODID Athens Mediation & Arbitration Organization, Russian Arbitration Centre, Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC), and International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC).

He has acted as Sole Arbitrator in ten institutional and ad hoc arbitrations (eight awards rendered and two ongoing), involving construction, infrastructure, commercial, hospitality and financial disputes exceeding USD 10 million in value.

Construction & Infrastructure

Experience includes disputes concerning suspension and termination of contracts, payment defaults, variations and escalation claims, delay analysis, extension of time, quantum assessment and liquidated damages. Matters have involved government and defence contracts, factory construction projects, large-scale infrastructure developments, BOQ interpretation, valuation of additional works, statutory levies, final accounts, defect liability and release of retention sums.

Commercial & Hospitality

Has rendered awards in disputes involving distribution and supply agreements, marketing and brand placement arrangements, joint ventures and partnership dissolutions. Also adjudicated hospitality matters relating to hotel management agreements, franchise termination, revenue sharing, operational defaults and service quality issues.

Financial & Complex Commercial Matters

Includes disputes arising from financing and security arrangements, regulatory compliance and contractual liability, as well as complex commercial cases involving enforceability of contracts, exclusivity and non-compete obligations, and multi-party proceedings with counterclaims and set-offs.

Ongoing and Key Engagements

Construction, Infrastructure & Energy

- ICC arbitration concerning UAE waste-management plant dispute (USD 15M)
- Multiple EPC disputes involving delay, defects and quantum claims (~USD 8M)
- Renewable energy wind-project disputes across multiple capacities
- Public sector energy and gas supply arbitration exceeding USD 200M
- ICC arbitrations involving design violations, termination and consortium disputes
- Biomass plant EPC arbitration and infrastructure supply disputes

Hospitality & Commercial

- Multiple arbitrations for ultra-luxury hotels in the UAE (>USD 50M combined)
- LCIA hotel management agreement dispute (London seat)
- ICC hotel franchise dispute (Zurich seat)
- DIAC shareholder dispute involving luxury hotel chain
- Joint venture dispute relating to luxury transport operations
- Supply chain dispute for regional food company
- Media and broadcasting contractual dispute

Financial Services & Corporate

- EUR 50M shareholder buyout valuation arbitration (ICC)
- Investment subscription and wakalah disputes (DIAC)
- Crypto-asset and token liquidation disputes in Abu Dhabi
- Complex acquisition arbitration under SIAC rules
- USD 95M indemnity vs guarantee advisory under UAE & DIFC law

Enforcement & Advisory

- Enforcement action involving foreign award and treaty interaction (New York & Riyadh Conventions)
- Enforceability of post-Decree 34 DIFC-LCIA clauses
- Limitation and governing law advisory under English and UAE law
- Enforcement of foreign award for US-based service provider

HONOURS & RECOGNITION

- 1) Distinguished Partner of the Year – UAE (2025)
- 2) Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year – UAE (2025)
- 3) Forbes Legal Powerlist
- 4) BW Legal 40 Under 40
- 5) UK–India Law Partnership Award for Excellence in Arbitration & Mediation (2024)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Everything You Need to Know About Arbitration in India* – Thomson Reuters (2022)
- *Law Relating to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises* – Thomson Reuters (2022)
- *From Past to Present: Comparative Analysis of DIFC Courts Law* – LexisNexis Middle East
- Published over 70 articles in international journals and platforms including Kluwer Arbitration Blog and LexisNexis Middle East.