



## Tonderai Nyandoro

Legal Director - International Arbitration

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## Education

- **LL.M. with Merit in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution**  
School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary, University of London, 2014
- **Legal Practice Course**  
BPP Law School, 2010
- **LL.B. (Honours) Upper Second Class**  
University of Hertfordshire, 2009

## Area of Practice

- International Arbitration
- Investor-State Disputes
- Commercial Litigation
- Sovereign Advisory
- Regulatory Investigations
- Energy, Mining & Infrastructure
- Middle East & Africa

## Languages

- English (Native)
- Shona (Native)

## Summary Profile

Tonderai Nyandoro is a Legal Director – International Arbitration at M&CO Legal and an experienced international arbitration and commercial disputes practitioner advising clients across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe on complex cross-border matters. He has acted in over 40 international arbitration and litigation proceedings, including as lead counsel, spanning international commercial arbitration, investor-state arbitration, sovereign advisory, commercial litigation before leading international financial centre courts, and regulatory investigations.

Mr Nyandoro has represented clients in both ad hoc and institutional proceedings under major rules including DIAC, ICC, ICSID, LCIA, SIAC, CPR, and UNCITRAL. His experience covers disputes seated in both common law and civil law jurisdictions and governed by the laws of more than ten legal systems across Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a registered arbitrator with the Dubai International Arbitration Centre. He is admitted as a Solicitor of England & Wales and is registered to practise before the DIFC and ADGM Courts. Mr Nyandoro holds an LL.M. with Merit in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution from Queen Mary, University of London, and was awarded the University of Hertfordshire Chancellor's Prize for Academic Excellence. He is fluent in English and Shona.

## Experience

Prior to joining M&CO Legal, Mr Nyandoro held positions at leading international law firms in Dubai and London. He has directed portfolios of international arbitration and commercial litigation matters with an aggregate value exceeding USD 500 million across sectors including energy, mining, infrastructure, construction, financial services, technology, and finance.

He has acted for claimants and respondents in high-stakes disputes involving sovereign states, state-owned entities, multinational corporations, and high-net-worth individuals, managing matters from pre-dispute advisory through to enforcement and asset recovery.

Mr Nyandoro has particular expertise in sovereign-related disputes and government advisory across the Middle East and Africa. He has advised sovereign aviation authorities, government ministries, and state-owned entities in complex regulatory and commercial disputes, and has successfully recovered substantial sums from sovereign counterparties on behalf of private investors.

He regularly delivers training programmes to African governments and institutions on international arbitration, investment treaty protection, and dispute resolution strategies, including for the Ghana Ministry of Energy and the Ethiopian Investment Commission. In May 2025, he co-hosted a seminar with the Rwanda Development Board and Al Hamra Group on bilateral trade, investment, and legal issues between Rwanda and the Middle East.

During his academic career, he captained Queen Mary's team at the 20th Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, further reflecting his longstanding engagement with international arbitration.

### **Representative Matters**

The matters listed below were handled prior to Mr Nyandoro joining M&CO Legal, during his tenure at previous firms. Client identities remain confidential.

- Representing shareholders in LCIA arbitrations valued at EUR 36 million against the founders of an internationally recognised restaurant group, concerning breaches of shareholders' agreements and corporate governance failures.
- Representing a holding company in a USD 110 million SIAC post-acquisition dispute involving contractual clawback mechanisms and earn-out provisions with intricate quantum issues requiring detailed financial analysis and expert testimony.
- Representing a UAE-based investment company as claimant in an investor-state arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules against a European state arising out of breaches of a bilateral investment treaty.
- Defending an Abu Dhabi group of companies in banking claims totalling approximately AED 2 billion brought by a syndicate of banks, relating to late payments and interest under Syndicated Facility Agreements and specific performance of obligations concerning secured assets.
- Acting on multiple arbitrations relating to road construction projects in East Africa, including disputes concerning delay, disruption, force majeure, and termination due to delayed payments by an employer through a complex multi-funder-backed consortium.
- Representing a Japanese listed company in a sovereign-related dispute with a GCC state concerning multiple investments, successfully recovering AED 75 million.
- Representing a technology company in LCIA arbitration concerning market share bonuses and distribution fees, with business-critical implications for the client's competitive positioning and future revenue streams.
- Acting for an energy-sector technology company in two ad-hoc arbitrations concerning contract breaches over delays, quality, and cost overruns. The claim under each dispute was USD 8 million.
- Representing an international venture capitalist in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration relating to breaches of an investment management agreement (claim value USD 15 million).

- Acting for an American energy company in an ICC arbitration concerning obligations under a gas balancing agreement.
- Acting for a global construction company in a series of ICC arbitrations against a sub-Saharan African state concerning multi-million-dollar infrastructure projects involving construction delays and government payment defaults.
- Advising a Saudi-based investment bank in a dispute against a Trade Fund registered in the Cayman Islands concerning the Fund Manager's breach of statutory duty to investors (claim value USD 10 million).
- Representing a group of companies in a claim relating to a USD 500 million syndicated loan facility raising issues of duress, misrepresentation, and Sharia finance.
- Acting for a claimant in the business of providing offshore maintenance and underwater inspection services in an ad-hoc arbitration claiming up to USD 24 million for breach of contract.
- Acting for a major energy company in arbitration proceedings relating to a power and desalination plant in the GCC.
- Representing a jewellery company in the confidential settlement of a USD 2.2 million arbitration concerning a Gold Supply Agreement breach.
- Assisting in representing a state in a multi-billion US Dollar investor-state LCIA arbitration concerning contract obligations of an oil and gas plant construction. The arbitration was successfully resolved in favour of the state.
- Representing a respondent in a high-value ICC arbitration concerning a disputed portfolio transfer agreement involving a substantial number of life insurance policies. Dispute escalated from USD 164 million.
- Representing respondents in contested ADGM Courts proceedings challenging a worldwide freezing order and enforcement of an LCIA arbitral award valued at USD 250 million, involving complex jurisdictional arguments concerning Chabra jurisdiction, full and frank disclosure obligations, and concurrent US Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.
- Representing a hospital group as respondent in a DIAC arbitration defending claims of approximately AED 40 million under a FIDIC construction contract (original value AED 113 million). Secured bifurcation of proceedings on jurisdictional grounds, positioning the matter for potential complete disposal without reaching the merits.
- Acting for a real estate development company as respondent in a DIAC arbitration concerning a luxury hotel joint venture, with claims exceeding AED 150 million and a project appreciation from AED 600 million to AED 1.7 billion. Managing complex defences on termination mechanics, counterclaims, and intellectual property infringement allegations.
- Acting for a multinational pharmaceutical company as claimant in CPR non-administered arbitration seated in London with parallel UAE court proceedings, arising from termination of a long-standing commercial agency relationship. Claims exceeding AED 60 million involving contested buy-back obligations, lost profits, and goodwill compensation.
- Assisting in acting for a European energy buyer against a Liquid Natural Gas producer in a multi-billion-dollar dispute concerning gas re-pricing under a long-term LNG supply agreement, coordinating expert economic evidence on gas market pricing.
- Preparing pre-action documentation and managing information in a USD 72 million mining dispute.
- Advising a sovereign civil aviation authority in a concession dispute with an airport operator concerning national airport infrastructure.

Successfully negotiated a commercial settlement preserving the ongoing operational relationship.

- Advising a multinational inspection and verification services group (annual revenues exceeding CHF 6 billion) on the proposed acquisition of a UAE company for approximately AED 100 million, following discovery of systematic VAT fraud with estimated tax liability exceeding AED 50 million. Structured voluntary disclosure and transaction architecture to insulate the acquirer.
- Advising the majority shareholder in a multi-million-dollar dispute over trust asset control and distribution rights.
- Acting for a regional parking management systems provider in an arbitration against a leading hotel service provider.

### Commercial Litigation

- Representing a respondent shareholder in DIFC Courts shareholder oppression proceedings (claims quantified at USD 5.9 million). Secured discharge of a worldwide freezing order, achieved strike-out of the claim as abuse of process, and obtained assessed costs of AED 1,059,592. Matter culminated in a Conflict of Jurisdiction Tribunal determination on the DIFC/Federal Courts jurisdictional interface.
- Successfully acting for a private individual in the DIFC Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal in construction litigation, including all aspects of litigation through to enforcement of the judgment.
- Assisting on two separate multi-billion-dollar claims in the High Court of England & Wales on behalf of a sovereign wealth fund against two global investment banks.
- Assisting in an appeal before the Supreme Court of England & Wales concerning the proper interpretation of indemnity clauses in commercial contracts (*Wood v Capita Insurance Services Limited* [2017] UKSC 24).
- Assisting in a substantial patent-related competition law proceeding in the High Court concerning the licensing of standard essential patents and FRAND obligations in the telecommunications sector.
- Successfully acting for a high-net-worth individual in resisting a Norwich Pharmacal application in the High Court.
- Acting for an insurance company in a multi-million-pound claim for breach of contract and professional negligence against its audit and tax advisors.
- Advising a securities and commodities broker in a multi-million-dollar dispute relating to Broker Agreements in the High Court of England concerning Contracts for Difference trading.
- Acting for a global retail company in a multi-million-pound investment dispute under the LCIA Rules regarding a joint venture in the Middle East.
- Acting for a national building merchant and home improvement retailer in a multi-million-pound tax dispute with HM Revenue & Customs.

### Regulatory Investigations

- Assisting a multinational bank in responding to multi-jurisdictional regulatory investigations by the FCA, DOJ, CFTC, and European regulators concerning alleged LIBOR manipulation, including privilege

review, witness preparation, and disclosure coordination across four jurisdictions.

- Leading a team in a disclosure project on behalf of a major international bank being investigated by the FCA for suspected regulatory breaches of the UK Listing Rules and Transparency Rules.
- Reviewing documents and assisting in witness preparation for the FCA’s fact-finding mission into Payment Protection Insurance complaints mishandling by a nationwide bank.
- Advising a Swiss-domiciled multinational on the proposed acquisition of a UAE company, following discovery of systematic VAT fraud spanning five years. Developed comprehensive risk mitigation strategy addressing criminal prosecution exposure and structured voluntary disclosure with the Federal Tax Authority.

### Admissions & Registrations

1. Solicitor of England & Wales
2. Dubai International Financial Centre Courts – Registered Practitioner
3. Abu Dhabi Global Market Courts – Registered Practitioner
4. Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
5. Dubai International Arbitration Centre – Registered Arbitrator

### Recent Publications

- Co-hosted seminar with the Rwanda Development Board and the Al Hamra Group on bilateral trade, investment, commercial and legal issues between Rwanda and the Middle East (May 2025).
- “Counterclaims and ICSID: Are Counterclaims by States Against Investors Increasing at ICSID?” (October 2023).
- “The Parable of the Mountaineer’s Knee Reconsidered in BPE Solicitors v Hughes-Holland” (April 2017).
- “Why the English Right to Appeal an Arbitral Award on a Point of Law is Not Anachronistic?” – Kluwer Arbitration Blog (May 2016).
- “Fintech and Disputes – Part 1: Perspectives from Economies in Africa” and “Part 2: An Expanding Fintech Regulatory Market.”
- Regular speaker on international arbitration, African mining disputes, and investment treaty protection at government training programmes and industry conferences.