

DIAC-ICSID Arbitration Training Course

A two-day programme designed to provide practitioners with a clear understanding of investor-state dispute settlement and the ICSID framework, delivered by leading experts in international arbitration.



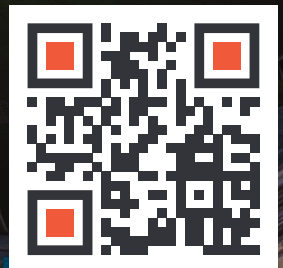
9-10 December 2025



Capital Club, DIFC, Dubai

- Early Bird Registration Fee: AED 1,500
(until 27 November)
- Regular Registration Fee: AED 2,000

Register Here



Speakers



Anne K. Hoffmann Chair of the DIAC Advisory Committee, Independent Arbitrator

Anne K. Hoffmann is an internationally recognised arbitration practitioner with 25 years of experience in international commercial and investment arbitration during which she acted in arbitrations seated around the globe and governed by a great variety of laws. She is dual qualified in both Germany, and England and Wales, and practiced at leading international law firms in London, Geneva and Dubai before focusing on her practice as an independent arbitrator. She is regularly appointed as an arbitrator in investor-State disputes. Moreover, Anne is on the panel of arbitrators of SIAC, HKIAC, KCAB, AIAC and the Scottish Arbitration Centre. She has been recognised as a Global Leader in Arbitration in all editions of Who is Who Legal since 2014, and since 2024 as a Global Elite Thought Leader. Anne is also listed by Chambers Global as "Most in Demand Arbitrator" and in the Legal 500 Arbitration Powerlist Middle East.



Natalí Sequeira Senior Legal Counsel, ICSID

Natalí has twenty years of experience in the settlement of international disputes between States and foreign investors. She currently leads one of the ICSID case management teams. Throughout her career, she has supervised hundreds of international proceedings under international investment treaties, multilateral agreements, and contracts in infrastructure. Her expertise spans a wide range of sectors, including infrastructure, oil and gas, mining and renewable energy disputes. Prior to joining ICSID, Natalí held positions as a senior consultant with Ernst & Young, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers and White & Case LLP. Previously, she served as Public Defender for the Costa Rican Judiciary. Natalí received a Fulbright Scholarship from the U.S. State Department and holds an LL.M in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University (2003). She earned a Juris Doctor with honors (1999) and a Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A) (2001) from the University of Costa Rica. Natalí is fluent in English, Spanish and Italian and has working knowledge of French.



Robert Stephen Registrar, DIAC

Described as a "highly respected figurehead and operator" and a "very composed practitioner", Robert is an internationally recognised arbitration expert. He is the Registrar of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre; a former Partner and Chief Operating Officer of specialist arbitration boutique, Ghaffari Partners; and the former Registrar of the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre and Dubai Financial Services Authority's Financial Markets Tribunal. Prior to that, he practiced with Herbert Smith Freehills in London, Paris, Moscow, and Dubai for more than a decade. He has been based in the United Arab Emirates since 2011. Robert has acted as counsel in international disputes across a wide range of industries and sectors. He has represented clients from Asia, the Middle East, North America and Western and Eastern Europe in international arbitrations under all the major institutional rules, as well as in ad-hoc proceedings, seated in various jurisdictions and subject to civil and common laws. He also sits as an arbitrator. Robert has been repeatedly recognised in the 2021-2025 editions of Who's Who Legal Arbitration. Peers say he is "professional, thorough and meticulous" and "extremely good at explaining complex issues to people who do not have the detailed knowledge he possesses". He is said to be "excellent to deal with", possessing a "real depth of knowledge" and he is further described as a "leading figure" that is said to have "raised the standards of arbitration in the [MENA] region". He was also featured in Legal 500's inaugural Middle East International Arbitration Powerlist 2022.



Akash Srivastava Senior Counsel, DIAC

Akash is Senior Counsel at Dubai International Arbitration Centre and has been with the Centre since April 2023. He has over seven years of experience working on commercial and investor-State arbitrations and in litigation. Prior to joining the Centre, he worked with the former Chief Justice of the DIFC Courts, Dr Michael Hwang SC; at the AAA-ICDR in Singapore; and with the leading arbitration practices of White & Case and Mayer Brown in Paris. He is an India-qualified lawyer and holds an LL.M. in International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution from the National University of Singapore. He is a Member of the Institutions Task Force of the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations and a Regional Representative (UAE) for Young ICCA.



Philip Devenish Partner, Jones Day

Philip Devenish is a Partner in the Dubai and London offices of Jones Day. He dedicates his practice to resolving the most challenging, complex, and high-value international disputes. Over the past eight years, he has won or settled more than 95 percent of his cases. Philip has obtained billions of dollars for global corporations and financial institutions in some of the largest cross-border disputes of the past decade, as ranked by The American Lawyer and Global Arbitration Review. His landmark victories include a US\$1.1 billion treaty arbitration award against Russia for the expropriation of banking investments in Crimea. On the defence side, he successfully settled a US\$2 billion treaty arbitration for Saudi Arabia on a drop-hands basis during the Qatar diplomatic crisis. Philip holds graduate law degrees from the Universities of Sydney and Oxford. He is admitted to practise in England, and Wales, and Australia and has full rights of audience before the DIFC Courts and the ADGM Courts.



Sami Tannous Regional Managing Partner, Freshfields LLP

Sami is the Regional Managing Partner for Freshfields. Based in Dubai since 2012, he specialises in international arbitration, focusing on international commercial and investor-State arbitration. He has represented clients in arbitrations under all major arbitration rules, regularly sits as arbitrator, and is an accredited mediator. Sami has particular expertise in disputes involving the Middle East and North Africa, advising clients on joint venture and shareholder agreements, SPAs, production-sharing agreements, and distribution/agency agreements across a wide range of industry sectors. He sits on the LCIA Court and the Court of Arbitration of arbitrateAD (Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre). He is listed as a Global Elite Thought Leader in the Lexology Index 2024 and 2025 and is ranked Band 1 in Chambers UAE and Middle East for Dispute Resolution.

Training on ISDS/ICSID Arbitration

Day 1

Morning Session

Welcome Remarks

9.30am – 10.45am

1. Historical Context
2. The Middle East and Investment Arbitration
3. Arbitration Agreements in Treaties/Investment Agreements (IAs)

10.45am – 11.15am

Morning Break (30 min)

11.15am – 12.45pm

4. Jurisdiction under IAs
 - i. Subject Matter of the Dispute (jurisdiction *ratione materiae*)
 - ii. Parties to the Dispute (jurisdiction *ratione personae*)
 - iii. Conditions for the institution of proceedings
 - iv. Overview of jurisdictional requirements under Article 25 of the ICSID

12.45pm – 1.45pm

Lunch (1 hour)

Afternoon Session

1.45pm – 3.15pm

5. Substantive Standards of Protection – Overview
 - i. Expropriation
 - ii. Fair and Equitable Treatment
 - iii. Arbitrary and discriminatory measures
 - iv. Full protection and security

3.15pm – 3.45pm

Afternoon Break (30 min)

3.45pm – 5.15pm

- (Cont'd)
- v. Access to justice, fair procedure and denial of justice
 - vi. The Umbrella Clause
 - vii. National Treatment
 - viii. MFN

End Day 1

Day 2

Morning Session

9.30am – 11am

6. Introduction to ICSID

- i. ICSID Convention: Mandate
- ii. ICSID Organizational Structure
- iii. Types of ICSID Proceedings

7. Specific Procedural Aspects of ICSID

- i. Procedural framework (ICSID Convention, Administrative and Financial Regulations, Institution Rules, Arbitration Rules, Instrument of Consent)
- ii. ICSID Arbitration:
 - How to file a Request for Arbitration/Requirements
- iii. Screening of the Request for Arbitration
- iv. Tribunal Constitution:
 - Number of arbitrators
 - Method of appointment
 - Requirements for appointees
 - How to select an arbitrator
 - Practical tips, ballots/strike and rank method
 - The ICSID Panel of Arbitrators
 - Acceptance of appointment and declaration
- v. ICSID Statistics (Arbitrator appointments by geographic region, and gender)
- vi. Disqualification of Arbitrators (relevant provisions, grounds and procedure)

11am – 11.30am

Morning Break (30 min)

11.30am – 1pm

vii. Conducting the arbitration process:

- Initial Steps after Tribunal Constitution
- First Session
- Procedural Order No. 1
- Manifest lack of Legal Merit (Arbitration Rule 41)
- Preliminary Objections to Jurisdiction (Arbitration Rule 43)
- Provisional Measure (Arbitration Rule 47): conditions for granting provisional measures and procedure
- Security for costs: circumstances and procedure
- Bifurcation
- Written procedure: usual structure
- Document production
- Expedited procedure
- Transparency provisions
 - Access to Documents
 - Access to hearings
 - Third party participation

1pm – 2pm

Lunch (1 hour)

2pm – 3.30pm

8. ICSID Awards, Post-Award Remedies and Enforcement

- i. Interpretation
- ii. Revision
- iii. Annulment
- iv. Examples
- v. Enforcement

9. Discussion with participants: Future outlook for ISDS in the Middle East

End Day 2

Register Here

