

Jennifer Paterson

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Jennifer Paterson is a partner in the International Arbitration and Litigation and Dispute Resolution teams. Jennifer regularly advises and represents both regional and international clients in a wide range of commercial disputes. She has experience representing clients in local and international arbitration proceedings administered many of the major arbitration centers, including the ICC, LCIA, DIAC, and the former DIFC-LCIA, as well as ad hoc proceedings. Jennifer has full rights of audience before the DIFC Courts and the Courts of England and Wales. She also works closely with local counsel in respect of litigation pending before the UAE Courts.

Jennifer has been instructed in a broad range of contested matters, including complex commercial contracts, construction, real estate, oil and gas, joint venture, and employment disputes. In addition to being able to navigate complex disputes in a variety of local and international forums, Jennifer counsels clients on a range of compliance issues and internal investigations.

She is recognized by *Chambers Global* 2026 in Construction: Dispute Resolution, by *Lexology Index* 2026 (formerly *Who's Who Legal*) in Arbitration as a Future Leader, and by *The Legal 500 Arbitration Powerlist Middle East* 2023 for Private Practice Arbitration.

Recent client quotes include:

"Jennifer Paterson is superb at analysing legal problems and coming up with the solutions a client needs." *Legal 500 EMEA* 2024 – United Arab Emirates - Construction

Jennifer Paterson is described as an "impressive lawyer[s] with a real eye for detail." *Legal 500 EMEA* 2024 – United Arab Emirates - Construction

"Jennifer Paterson is one of the brightest minds of her generation, with the judgment of a senior partner." *Legal 500 EMEA* 2023 – United Arab Emirates – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration and International Litigation

“Jennifer Paterson is completely on top of the detail. She is very receptive to ideas and is also a real workhorse.” *Chambers Global 2026* – United Arab Emirates – Construction: Dispute Resolution

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Jennifer worked as a dispute resolution associate for another firm in the Dubai International Financial Centre. She started her legal career as a self-employed barrister in London.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *Chambers Global* for Construction: Dispute Resolution in United Arab Emirates, 2024-2026
- Recognised by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer in the United Arab Emirates, 2024-2026
  - Dispute Resolution: Arbitration and International Litigation
  - Construction
- Recognised by *Lexology Index* (formerly *Who's Who Legal*) in Arbitration as a Future Leader – Partner, 2025-2026
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- Recognised by *The Legal 500* Arbitration Powerlist: Middle East for Private Practice Arbitration, 2023

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Dubai International Arbitration Center (DIAC), listed as an arbitrator
- Middle East Regional Chair, Young ITA (2021-2023)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, “Workplace Investigations in the UAE,” hosted by the Middle East and North Africa Chapter of the Associate of Corporate Counsel (ACC), Webinar, 28 May 2024
- Panelist, “Is Regional Arbitration on the Verge of Extinction?” Legal 500 Middle East Disputes Summit 2023, Dubai, September 2023
- Young ITA "Ask The Arbitrator", Dubai Arbitration Week, Organizer, Dubai, November 2022
- 9th ICC MENA Conference, ICC YAF session to discuss the impact of COVID on the approach of arbitration practitioner and expert witness, Panelist
- Not Paying The Piper: Third-party funding - the solution to liquidity constraints, Panelist, The Legal 500 Middle East Disputes Summit 2019
- Demystifying the UAE Local Courts, Speaker, K&L Gates seminar
- The GAR Live Question time - How to appoint an arbitrator, Panelist, 3rd GAR Live Abu Dhabi 2018

EDUCATION

- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law, 2006
- B.A., Brasenose College, Oxford University, 2005 *(Hons)*

ADMISSIONS

- Employed Barrister, England & Wales
- Dubai International Financial Centre Courts

LANGUAGES

- English

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 9 November 2026, Kuwait Issues New Arbitration Law
- 14 September 2026, DIFC Courts Set Aside a DIAC Arbitral Award
- 31 August 2026, The UAE Accedes to the Singapore Convention on Mediation
- 15 July 2026, A First for the DIFC: Court of Appeal Sets Aside Parts of a DIAC Arbitral Award
- 11 May 2026, Dubai Confirms the Allocation of Jurisdiction Over the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards
- 17 March 2026, Conflict in the Middle East: Rights and Remedies Under the Laws of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- 9 March 2026, The Impact of the New Civil Transactions Law on Construction Contracts in the United Arab Emirates
- January 2026, Arbitration World
- 8 December 2025, Abu Dhabi Court of Cassation Extends Arbitration Agreement in Main Contract to Parties to Related Contracts Arising Out of the Same Construction Project
- 27 October 2025, DIFC Courts Confirm Jurisdiction to Grant Interim Relief in Support of Foreign Proceedings Where There is No Asset Link to the DIFC
- 3 October 2025, The ADGM Court Confirms its Jurisdiction to Issue Anti-Suit Injunctions to Restrain Onshore Court Proceedings
- 2 September 2025, The UAE Confirms There Is No Requirement to Sign Every Page of the Arbitral Award

- 14 August 2025, The Dubai Court of Cassation Confirms the Power of Arbitral Tribunals to Issue Anti-Suit Injunctions
- 3 June 2025, Dubai Court of Appeal Annuls Anti-Suit Injunction Issued in ICC Arbitration Proceedings
- 27 February 2025, Abu Dhabi Court of Cassation Confirms Exclusivity of Grounds for Set Aside of Arbitral Awards
- 18 February 2025, Dubai Court of Cassation Holds Clause Providing for Court Provisional Measures Not a Waiver of Arbitration Agreement
- 22 January 2025, Dubai Court of Cassation Recognises the Concept of Without Prejudice Settlement Discussions
- 21 January 2025, Abu Dhabi Court of Cassation Reiterates the Exceptional Nature of Arbitration Agreements
- 1 January 2025, November and December 2024 Accolades
- December 2024, Arbitration World
- 3 December 2024, The Dubai Court of Cassation Restores Ability to Award Legal Costs in ICC Arbitrations
- 21 November 2024, UAE Law on the Enforceability of Unilateral Arbitration Agreements
- 28 August 2024, UAE Courts Demonstrate Willingness to Enforce Foreign Judgments
- 25 July 2024, Another Step Forward for Enforcement of Foreign Court Judgments in the United Arab Emirates
- 24 July 2024, Dubai Court of Cassation Confirms That Contractual Preconditions to Arbitration Are Matters of Admissibility and Not Jurisdiction
- 6 June 2024, Dubai Creates New Entity to Resolve Jurisdictional Disputes Between the DIFC Courts and Other Judicial Bodies
- 3 May 2024, Dubai as an Arbitration-Friendly Jurisdiction
- 15 March 2024, February 2024 Accolades
- 7 March 2024, Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce Launches New International Arbitration Centre With Updated Set of Rules
- June 2023, Arbitration World
- 11 October 2022, Abu Dhabi Court of Cassation Confirms Seven-Day Time Limit to Raise Objections to the Commencement of Arbitration Proceedings
- 20 September 2022, The UAE Has Taken a Significant Step Forward in Confirming the Enforceability of UK Court Judgments in the UAE Under the Principle of Reciprocity
- 19 May 2022, UAE Law on the Signing of Arbitral Awards
- 18 March 2022, Recent Judgment Highlights Potential Pitfalls in Technology Transfer Agreements in Egypt

- 7 March 2022, The DIAC Publishes Its 2022 Arbitration Rules
- 25 January 2022, The English High Court Permits Service in the UAE by Alternative Means Based on Judicial Assistance Treaty Between the UK and UAE
- 21 January 2022, English Commercial Court Enforces DIFC Court Judgment Under Common Law Rules
- January 2022, January 2022 Accolades
- November 2021, Arbitration World
- 27 October 2021, The UAE Introduces New Grounds for the Federal Supreme Court and Local Court of Cassation to Retract Their Decisions or Judgments
- October 2021, Business as Usual or Unusual – Return to Work Challenges and Strategies for Employers
- 5 October 2021, The UAE Introduces the Concept of a New Single-Tier Court
- 1 October 2021, The United Arab Emirates Clarifies Previous Uncertainty Regarding Payment Orders
- 28 September 2021, Saudi Arabia Approves a New Judicial Fees Law
- 8 September 2021, New Legislation for the Mediation of Onshore Disputes in the United Arab Emirates
- 9 August 2021, Dubai Court of Cassation Finds that the Interests of Justice Can Override an Agreement to Arbitrate in Circumstances Where a Dependent Contract Does Not Also Provide for Arbitration
- 6 July 2021, The Abu Dhabi Court of Cassation Confirms that Representatives Acting Under a Power of Attorney Must Have Express and Unambiguous Authority to Bind a Principal to Arbitration
- 14 June 2021, Agreements to Resolve Disputes in the "Courts of Dubai" or "Dubai Courts" may be an opt-in to DIFC Court Jurisdiction
- 1 June 2021, Service of DIFC Court Documents Becomes Easier in the Arab World

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Settlement of Civil Disputes in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC): Overview," *Practical Law UK*, 1 March 2026
- "Settlement of Civil Disputes in the United Arab Emirates: Overview," *Practical Law UK*, 1 March 2026
- "Challenging an Arbitral Jurisdiction and Anti-Suit Injunctions," *Lexis Nexis Middle East*, 29 June 2023
- "Anti-Suit Injunctions," *Lexis Nexis Middle East*, 29 June 2023
- "Economic damages: a reconsideration of retrospective valuation," *Law Business Research,* Middle Eastern and African Arbitration Review 2023
- "Can we use freelancers?," *Lexis Middle East HR* Alert, June 2022

- "Settlement of Civil Disputes in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC): Overview," *Practical Law UK*, April 2022
- "Settlement of Civil Disputes in the United Arab Emirates: Overview," *Practical Law UK*, April 2022
- Co-author, "Recent Judgment Highlights Potential Pitfalls in Technology Transfer Agreements in Egypt," *The Licensing Journal*, Volume 21 Number 4, April 2022
- "A review of the law in the United Arab Emirates regarding the exceptional nature of arbitration agreements," An extract from Volume 13, No. 1 – 2021 of the International Journal of Arab Arbitration. The IJAA is available on Kluwerarbitration.com.
- "Settlement (civil litigation) Q&A: United Arab Emirates," *Practical Law*, 2017

NEWS & EVENTS

- 12 February 2026, *Chambers Global* 2026 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 13 February 2025, *Chambers Global* 2025 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 28 May 2024, Workplace Investigations in the UAE, Hosted by Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) Middle East and North Africa Chapter
- 19 December 2022, K&L Gates Adds 40 Lawyers to Firm's Partnership
- 15 September 2016, K&L Gates' Fourth Annual Global Day of Service Focuses on "Investing Across Generations"

AREAS OF FOCUS

- International Arbitration
- Commercial Disputes
- Construction and Infrastructure

INDUSTRIES

- Energy

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Representing a high profile Qatari private developer in a dispute relating to its termination of its development management consultant on one of the largest privately-backed real estate developments in Doha, Qatar (ICC arbitration, Qatar law)

- Representing a MEP contractor in a major arbitration against the main contractor in relation to the construction of a terminal for a major international airport (DIAC arbitration, UAE law)
- Representing a major broadcaster in complex dispute with its main contractor and systems integrator relating to a workplace transformation and modernization project (LCIA arbitration, Qatar law)
- Representing the Saudi Arabian subsidiary of a leading Spanish manufacturer in a dispute against a major multinational construction joint venture in which multiple complex claims and counterclaims were asserted of a total value in excess of US$40 million (ICC arbitration, Saudi law)
- Representing one of UAE's largest developers in proceedings to stay enforcement proceedings of DIAC arbitration award in the DIFC Courts, and assisting local counsel with respect to concurrent annulment proceedings (DIFC Courts and UAE Courts)
- Representing an international telecommunications company in a cross-border dispute with its professional advisory firm, including proceedings before the LCIA Court to determine the arbitration seat and proceedings in the DIFC Courts for interim relief (DIFC-LCIA arbitration)
- Advising a Dubai-based hotel operator regarding the termination of a hotel management agreement as a result of material breaches (favourably resolved prior to arbitration)
- Representing a publicly listed foreign company in a claim arising out of an abandoned residential/commercial property development in the Emirate of Ajman (DIAC arbitration)
- Representing a Qatari investment company against a Dubai-based defense contractor arising out of a sponsorship agreement (ad hoc arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules)
- Representing a UAE entity in a Fujairah civil court action and related criminal proceedings arising out of an unlawful administrative decision taken by Fujairah Municipality (UAE Courts)
- Representing a financial advisory company in disputes arising out of a contact to raise finance for a US$355 million real estate project in Beirut, Lebanon (DIFC-LCIA arbitration), and assisting in subsequent enforcement proceedings
- Representing a shareholder in proceedings brought against it by two minority shareholders of a DIFC company in liquidation in respect of an alleged breach of its obligation to increase its equity participation in the company (DIFC Courts)
- Advising employers and senior executives on aspects of the UAE Labour Law and the DIFC Employment Law and supervising local counsel in employment disputes (Dubai Courts and DIFC Small Claims Tribunal)
- Representing senior executives in connection with claims of alleged disclosure of confidential information belonging to former employer and breaches of non-compete and non-solicitation provisions (DIAC arbitration and DIFC courts)
- Advising a real estate investment fund regarding various tenancy disputes. Supervising local counsel with respect to claims pending before the Dubai Rental Disputes Settlement Centre and eviction proceedings, as well as with respect to related criminal proceedings arising out of non-payment of rent and bounced cheques

- Representing developers in their disputes with off-plan investors in relation to various residential, commercial and mixed-use projects throughout the Emirates of Dubai and Abu Dhabi (DIAC and ADCCAC arbitrations, and DIFC Courts)
- Representing a Japanese conglomerate in relation to its dispute arising out of the development and operation of hotels in the Middle East (ICC arbitration)
- Representing a UAE company against claims asserted in two Ras Al Khaimah civil court actions, a criminal court action, and an arbitration, in respect of allegations of fraud concerning the quality of processed tobacco, claims for unpaid invoices and losses arising from the procurement of raw materials (UAE Courts and DIFC-LCIA arbitration)