



Jennifer Paterson

Special Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Jennifer Paterson is a special counsel in the international arbitration and dispute resolution team of the firm's Dubai office, based in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). Jennifer regularly advises and represents both UAE-based 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, DIFC-LCIA, DIAC, and ADCCAC, 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 as trial counsel in a broad range of contested matters, including complex commercial contracts, oil and gas, construction, real estate, insurance and employment disputes. She has also been instructed by the UK Financial Services Authority and the UK Serious Fraud Office in a number of complex fraud investigations.

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.

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.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Middle East Regional Chair, Young ITA

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 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

- November 2021, Arbitration World (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 27 October 2021, The UAE Introduces New Grounds for the Federal Supreme Court and Local Court of Cassation to Retract Their Decisions or Judgments (*Alerts/Updates*)
- October 2021, Business as Usual or Unusual – Return to Work Challenges and Strategies for Employers (*Webinar*)
- 5 October 2021, The UAE Introduces the Concept of a New Single-Tier Court (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 1 October 2021, The United Arab Emirates Clarifies Previous Uncertainty Regarding Payment Orders (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 28 September 2021, Saudi Arabia Approves a New Judicial Fees Law (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 8 September 2021, New Legislation for the Mediation of Onshore Disputes in the United Arab Emirates (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 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 (*Alerts/Updates*)

- 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 (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 14 June 2021, Agreements to Resolve Disputes in the "Courts of Dubai" or "Dubai Courts" may be an opt-in to DIFC Court Jurisdiction (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 1 June 2021, Service of DIFC Court Documents Becomes Easier in the Arab World (*Alerts/Updates*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Settlement (civil litigation) Q&A: United Arab Emirates," *Practical Law*, 2017

NEWS & EVENTS

- 15 September 2016, K&L Gates' Fourth Annual Global Day of Service Focuses on "Investing Across Generations" (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- International Arbitration
- Complex Commercial Litigation and Disputes
- Construction and Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 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)
- 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 Qatari sub-contractor in a dispute regarding the wrongful termination of the sub-contract and claims for monetary damages (DIAC 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 contract 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)