

Matthew R. M. Walker

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Matthew Walker is an International Arbitration and Litigation and Dispute Resolution partner who focuses on construction law. Matthew acts as arbitrator and counsel in arbitration and has co-authored many leading practitioners' guides to arbitration in Qatar, including for LexisPSL, GAR Know How, Lexis Middle East, and Practical Law for Thomson Reuters. This has seen Matthew recognized by the Legal 500 MENA at their 2026 Annual Awards as Construction Lawyer of the Year for the Middle East Region in 2026. Matthew is also listed in Who's Who Legal as highly recommended for arbitration in Qatar, as well as a Thought Leader for construction. Matthew has been awarded Lexology's Client Choice Award (voted on by clients) in each of 2024, 2025, and 2026 for Arbitration & ADR in Qatar. He is recognised in *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* 2026 as a Leading Partner for Construction: Contentious in London, as well as a Recommended Lawyer for Rail, and in *The Legal 500 EMEA* 2025 as a Recommended Lawyer for Dispute Resolution in Qatar. He has also maintained his ranking in *Chambers UK* 2026 as one of the top 30 partners in the UK for Construction: International Arbitration.

He has acted as advocate and counsel in ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, ad hoc, and QICCA arbitrations in Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Turkey, Hong Kong, India, and the United Kingdom, as advocate and co-counsel in cases before the Appellate Division of the Qatar International Court (QICDRC) and as co-counsel in cases before the Qatari state courts. He also litigates in the English High Court, the Technology & Construction Court, the Commercial Court, and the Court of Appeal in England. He has sat in several arbitrations as arbitrator, including as President of the Tribunal, co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator, and on panels of three and five arbitrators. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building, and has been accredited as a Mediator by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Matthew also provides non-contentious construction advice, particularly in the rail sector. He has undertaken secondments to Qatar Rail, London Underground, and the Crossrail Project for the contractor. He has advised a client in the energy sector on contract drafting and risk management for the provision of hydro-electric equipment to overseas clients and has advised on construction contracts including across FIDIC, NEC, JCT, ACE, RIBA, and bespoke forms on projects of varying size and complexity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *Chambers UK* for Construction: International Arbitration, UK-wide, 2025-2027

- Recognised by *Chambers Global* in Qatar
  - Spotlight Lawyer for Dispute Resolution: (Expertise Based Abroad - UK), 2023-2026
  - Dispute Resolution (International), 2016-2019
- Recognised by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer for Dispute Resolution in Qatar, 2024-2026
- Awarded Construction Lawyer of the Year at *The Legal 500* Middle East and North Africa Awards, 2026
- Recognised by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* in London
  - Leading Partner for Construction: Contentious, 2026-2027
  - Recommended Lawyer for International Arbitration, 2024-2027
  - Recommended Lawyer for Rail, 2026-2027
  - Recommended Lawyer for Insurance Litigation: For Policyholders, 2024, 2027
  - Recommended Lawyer for Construction: Non-Contentious, 2024-2025
- Sole winner of Lexology's Client Choice Award (voted for by clients) for Arbitration & ADR in Qatar, 2024-2026 – ranked as a Global Elite Thought Leader for Client Care
- Listed by *Lexology Index* (formerly *Who's Who Legal*) as Highly Recommended for Arbitration, 2024-2026
- Listed by *Lexology Index* as a Thought Leader for Construction, 2021-2026
- Recommended as one of the leading construction lawyers working in Qatar by *Lexology Index*, every year from 2015-2025
- Named a Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer, 2023-2024
- Listed by *Lexology Index* as a Global Elite Thought Leader for Construction, 2022

Client testimonials include the following, all taken from The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners.

"Matthew Walker is the standout partner for commercial disputes in the Middle East. His understanding of the culture, politics and legal systems of the Gulf is second to none."

"Matthew Walker - very knowledgeable in relation to Middle Eastern laws, and particularly good at listening to clients and understanding what they need."

"Matthew is a big hitter in the Middle East. He's excellent at running disputes and pulling a great team together."

"Matthew Walker's standard of work is impeccable. [He] leads an exceptional team in a confident and highly competent manner."

"Matthew Walker is brilliant – a superb lawyer, terrific leader of a team, and a highly effective communicator who is wonderful with clients."

"Matthew Walker is the leading international commercial and construction disputes lawyer in Qatar. Clients love his business acumen and his commitment to getting the best possible result."

"Mathew Walker has extensive experience in the Middle East and acts as litigator and arbitrator. He has proven to be exceptional, very cultivated, calm and in command of his cases. A highly recommended lawyer for dispute resolution cases; you simply cannot go wrong by working with him and his firm. He is one of the best."

"Matt Walker is a standout arbitration lawyer. He is commercially minded but detailed in his approach. Matt has an impressive grasp of complex delay and quantum issues but gives his experts space to work."

"The standard of his work, his work ethic and his attention to detail is impressive."

“Matthew Walker has shown strong leadership skills in his role as Presiding Arbitrator, thoughtfully managing tribunal discussions, swiftly preparing proposed drafts to enable the proceedings to proceed expediently and displaying an excellent grasp of the parties' issues and concerns.”

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member of Africa Construction Law (ACL), 2023-present
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) - admitted as Fellow, 2008
- Chartered Institute of Building (FCIOB) - admitted as Fellow, 2017
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) - confirmed as accredited Mediator, 2018
- Honorary Secretary, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Qatar & QFC branch), 2018 - present
- Member of ADR Committee for the Qatar International Court, advising on changes to QFC Law and creation of new arbitration centre, 2015
- Technology and Construction Solicitors Association
- Society of Construction Law (Gulf)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panellist, “Navigating the new era of megaproject losses and Delay in Start-Up claims”, Construction Risk Management Europe Conference, London, 24-25 June 2026
- Panellist, “Dispute Boards in Africa: Demystifying DAAB practice and enforcing decisions from site to seat,” Africa Construction Law Conference in Johannesburg, 11-12 May 2026
- Appeared on a panel discussion addressing updates to Qatari Mediation Law, Qatar Business Law Forum – 27 November 2025
- Speaker, “The Dark Side of Projects: Disruption, Delays, and Disputes,” Project Controls Expo, London, 5 November 2025

- Presented a paper on Arbitration & AI for the Society of Construction Law (International) Conference, Seoul, Korea, October 2025
- Appeared on a panel discussion about doing business in the Middle East for the Hong Kong Department of Justice, Hong Kong Arbitration Week - October 2025
- Appeared on a K&L Gates panel addressing Jurisdictional & Admissibility Issues in International Arbitration, Hong Kong Arbitration Week – October 2025
- Panellist, “Delays on Construction Projects – Managing and Mitigating the Risks,” Construction Risk Management (Europe) Conference, London, 4 June 2025
- Judge, Africa Construction Law Awards 2025, Nairobi, 22 May 2025
- Speaker, “Building Resilience in Africa's Construction Sector,” Africa Construction Law Conference in Nairobi, 3-4 June 2024
- Panellist, “Strategies for Success in Navigating Delay and Quantum Issues in International Construction Arbitration in a Changing World,” London International Disputes Week, 18 May 2023
- Speaker, “Time-bar Provisions in Construction Arbitration,” International Arbitration School (IARBS), 15 March 2023
- "Virtual Hearings-Lessons Learnt," Society of Construction Law (Gulf), 10 March 2021

EDUCATION

- Pg Dip, University of Reading, 2000
- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law, 1997
- LL.B., King's College, London, 1996

ADMISSIONS

- Barrister, England and Wales (non-practising)
- QICCA Roster of Arbitrators in Doha
- SCCA Roster of Arbitrators in Riyadh
- Solicitor, England and Wales (with Higher Rights of Audience in Civil and Criminal Courts)

LANGUAGES

- French
- Portuguese

- English

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 28 August 2026, Qatar: Developments in Electronic Execution and Judicial Procedures
- 20 March 2026, Geopolitical Uncertainty in the Gulf: Contractual Risk, Force Majeure, and MAC Clauses
- 17 March 2026, Introduction of Qatar's Preliminary Real Estate Registry—Qatar Ministerial Decision No. 4/2026
- January 2026, Arbitration World
- 27 October 2025, Arbitration and AI: From Data Processing to Deepfakes. Outlining the Potential–and Pitfalls–of AI in Arbitration
- October 2025, Jurisdiction Entanglements in International Arbitration: Perspectives and Lessons From Different Jurisdictions
- 25 July 2025, English Court Applies Policy Time Limit to Third Party Claim Against Insurer
- 16 June 2025, URS v. BDW [2025]: Supreme Court Confirms Consultants' Duty to Developers for Historic Defects
- 1 January 2025, November and December 2024 Accolades
- 6 November 2024, October 2024 Accolades
- 29 April 2024, April 2024 Accolades - Part 2
- 8 February 2024, Roundtable: Procurement Strategies and Dispute Avoidance for the GCC Projects
- 1 February 2024, January 2024 Accolades
- May 2023, Strategies for Success in Navigating Delay and Quantum Issues in International Construction Arbitration in a Changing World
- 31 January 2022, Discombobulated Contractual Communications? Let Us Be Clear!
- 1 June 2021, Construction and Projects in Qatar: Overview
- 23 March 2021, The QFC Court Confirms Its Status as an Opt-In Jurisdiction for Arbitration Cases

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- GAR Know-how Commercial Arbitration, *Qatar Chapter*, *Global Arbitration Review*, April 2026
- Fiction leads to Sanctions: QFC Court addresses AI-hallucinated case citations, *Lexis Middle East*, November 2025
- GAR Know-how Commercial Arbitration, *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration Review*, June 2025

- Enforcement of arbitral awards in Qatar, *Lexis+ Practical Guidance*, *Lexis Nexis*, February 2025
- Arbitration in Qatar—an introduction, *Lexis+ Practical Guidance*, *Lexis Nexis*, February 2025
- Interim remedies in support of arbitration in Qatar, *Lexis+ Practical Guidance*, *Lexis Nexis*, February 2025
- Challenging arbitral jurisdiction and stay of court litigation in favour of arbitration in Qatar, *Lexis+ Practical Guidance*, *Lexis Nexis*, February 2025
- Arbitration in Qatar - an introduction, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- Enforcement of arbitral awards in Qatar, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- Interim remedies in support of arbitration in Qatar, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- Challenging arbitral jurisdiction and stay of court litigation in favour of arbitration in Qatar, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- GAR Know How Commercial Arbitration, *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration* Review, May 2023
- GAR Know How Commercial Arbitration, *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration* Review, May 2021
- Local Arbitration Laws and Institutions, *Lexis Middle East Law*, 23 April 2021
- The Guide to Challenging and Enforcing Arbitration Awards - *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration Review*, 2019
- ADR in Qatar - A New Law, A New Regional Seat of Choice, and a New Era, *Lexis Middle East Law*, 6 February 2018

NEWS & EVENTS

- 15 October 2026, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognised in *Chambers UK* 2027 Guide
- 30 September 2026, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognised in *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* 2027 Edition
- 25 March 2026, In-House Counsel Ask the Questions: Infrastructure Arbitration Worldwide, Hosted by Paris Arbitration Week
- 12 February 2026, *Chambers Global* 2026 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 16 October 2025, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognised in *Chambers UK* 2026 Guide
- 1 October 2025, K&L Gates Practices, Lawyers Recognised in *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* 2026 Edition
- 13 February 2025, *Chambers Global* 2025 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 17 October 2024, K&L Gates Ranked in *Chambers UK* 2025 Guide
- 26 September 2024, International Construction Arbitration Conference 2024, Hosted by King's College
- 15 February 2024, *Chambers Global* 2024 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices

- 15 March 2023, Time-Bar Provisions in Construction Arbitration, Hosted by International Arbitration School by Marmara University
- 16 February 2023, K&L Gates Recognized in 2023 *Chambers Global* Guide
- 14 October 2022, K&L Gates Recognized as Banking & Finance, Corporate Teams of the Year at Qatar Business Law Forum Awards
- 17 February 2022, K&L Gates Recognized in 2022 Chambers Global Guide
- 31 January 2022, A Year in Review: The Legislative and Judicial Developments in 2021, Hosted by Qatar Lawyers Association

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Construction and Infrastructure
- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- International Arbitration

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Rail and Roads
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Contentious Advice

- Acting for a high-profile state-related Qatari organization on an LCIA arbitration relating to its termination of a project delivery agreement, including claims and counterclaims arising out of the late delivery of the project and obtaining an award finding that 99.3% of project delays were attributable to our opponent.
- Acting for one of 18 defendants against whom claims have been brought in the High Court in London in which it has been suggested that provision of performance security on a project in Comoros was a vehicle for funding terrorism in Syria.
- Al Tamimi v QFBA and Employment Standards Office of the Qatar Financial Centre: acting for the ESO as advocate and counsel before the appellate division of the QFC Courts, successfully having all appeals against the ESO dismissed.

- Acting for a major international consulting engineer in an ICC arbitration relating to variations and unpaid fees for architectural design detailing services on one of the major civil works contracts on one of the Doha Metro railway line projects.
- Acting for a major Indian contractor on the pursuit of claims against the employer under its EPC Contract in one ICC arbitration, and on the defence of claims from a subcontractor under the E&I subcontract on the same project, relating to the construction of a polysilicon plant in Qatar.
- Acting for one of the largest Qatari contractors against a very large Qatari-Saudi JV with respect to groundworks and civil engineering disputes on a series of large-scale projects for the construction of multiple residential developments in Al Wakrah, Qatar, advising them on two DABs as well as multiple concurrent arbitrations before different arbitral institutions.
- Advising the curtain-walling subsidiary of a major international contractor on defence of claims from the main contractor, and the pursuit of insurance claims against insurers, relating to the construction of balconies on a landmark residential apartment in London, United Kingdom and obtaining a highly favourable settlement from all parties.
- Advising a private client in the pursuit of claims, and successful recovery of payment from insurers, relating to defects covered under a structural latent defects policy in respect of her private dwelling house in The Portman Estate, London.
- Advising a Qatari bank on the pursuit of litigation in Turkey relating to the construction of a high-profile waterfront residential development in Istanbul.
- Acting for an Italian JV on an ICC arbitration relating to claims for delay, disruption and variations to the MEP subcontract works on one of the stadiums for the FIFA 2022 World Cup.
- Acting for a high-profile Qatari private developer on an ICC arbitration relating to its termination of their development management consultant on one of the largest privately backed real estate developments in Doha, Qatar.
- Acting for a quasi-non-governmental Qatari organization, advising on dispute avoidance, including a facilitated dispute resolution negotiation, concerning the termination of a contract for supply of specialist IT and audio equipment.
- Acting for a QFC consultancy on helping it to reduce by 95% the claims for costs made against it after it withdrew from litigation.
- Acting for the Saudi subsidiary of a major international consulting engineer on an ad hoc arbitration for a claim of SAR90 million relating to non-payment of fees for architectural and structural design services on a major hospital project in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Acting for a Saudi developer on defence of claims and litigation arising out of the construction of an iconic hotel project in Jeddah, KSA.

- Acting for an MEP subcontractor on an ICC arbitration for claims for variations, delay and disruption relating to the construction of an iconic public building in Education City, Doha, Qatar, including the successful settlement of their claims.
- Acting for a MEP subcontractor relating to claims arising out of the development of a hospital in Hong Kong in an ad hoc arbitration, including replacing previous counsel and drafting their reply and defence to counterclaim within a compressed timeframe.
- Acting for a main contractor in the defence of two ICC arbitrations brought by subcontractors relating to the construction of a large beach resort project in Bu Samra, Qatar, including dismissal of one claim (with costs) and the successful settlement of the second claim.
- Advising the South African subsidiary of a global IT and airport systems contractor on the termination of its supply and services agreement for the baggage and security systems being installed at a major new African airport terminal and hub.
- Acting for a Qatari bank defending itself in litigation before the QICDRC relating to the sale of insurance-backed savings products, including the dismissal of all claims following a successfully negotiated settlement of disputes.
- Acting for a subcontractor bringing a claim in ICC arbitration relating to delay, disruption and unpaid variations relating to the construction of roads in Lusail, Qatar, including the successful resolution of its claims through negotiation.
- Acting for the Qatari shareholders of a major regional construction contractor in the pursuit of claims in litigation, and the simultaneous pursuit of criminal proceedings against the former country manager of the contractor's Qatari subsidiary, relating to fraud and false accounting carried out within the local branch, leading to the successful conviction of the country manager.
- Advising a major international design practice on claims and counterclaims arising out of a landmark hotels project, being litigated in the Qatar courts.
- Acting for a Qatari contractor in an ICC arbitration against another Qatari contractor, relating to disputes arising out of the failure of an unincorporated consortium to win a tender to construct a power and HVAC substation for a stadium being built for the FIFA 2022 World Cup. This included a three-day hearing in which Matthew carried out all oral advocacy, including cross-examination of factual and expert witnesses.
- Advising a Spanish consulting engineer on claims relating to a major infrastructure project being built in Qatar in readiness for the FIFA 2022 World Cup.
- Advising a major GCC-based contractor relating to delay and variation claims concerning the construction of a major new shopping mall in Doha, Qatar.
- Advising a major US-based consultancy on dispute avoidance strategy arising out of its involvement in the New Doha International Airport project.
- Advising a Qatari subcontractor on a QICCA arbitration and closing out of a negotiated settlement of multimillion-dollar claims for payment on a gas processing project in Ras Laffan, Qatar.

- Acting on an ICC arbitration for a global media network in a shareholders' dispute with its Turkish shareholder.
- Acting on an ad hoc UNCITRAL arbitration acting for a major GCC contractor in its claim for wrongful termination and unpaid delay and disruption claims arising out of the construction of a major shopping mall in Dubai, UAE.
- Acting for the contractor in an ICC arbitration relating to the wrongful termination of the construction contractor for a world-class sporting facility in Dubai, UAE.
- Acting in a series of disputes in adjudication, arbitration and mediation between a major public infrastructure and public transport authority and a consortium composed of major global contractors and telecoms engineers, relating to a high-profile PFI contract for the renewal of the telecoms system on a major underground railway.
- Acting on an ICC arbitration for a major German engineering company relating to the setting-up of a concrete plant on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia.
- Acting on an ICC arbitration between an electricity producer, an Indian state engineering company and a major US engineering corporation, advising (amongst other things) as to the correct measure of damages under an EPC contract concerning steam-driven turbines and the level of their power output.
- Acting as key adviser in an ad hoc international adjudication between a major Indian engineer and the Government of Tanzania.
- Acting as counsel, including presenting all oral submissions (including at a one-day hearing involving submissions and cross-examination) and producing all written submissions, in two adjudications for a major London-based property developer.
- Acting counsel, drafting mediation submissions and conducting oral advocacy at a mediation between a FTSE-100 company and a former shareholder.
- Acting on the above TCC case, the first reported judgment on the duties of a quantity surveyor in 40 years. Acted for the quantity surveyor on a major residential house project in Surrey, United Kingdom, and secured a judgment that ultimately resulted in all claims being dropped against the client together with a contribution towards its costs.
- Acting for a Qatari architect, assisting with payment claims and defending threatened counterclaims in arbitration, as well as advising on potential mediation in the United States, arising out of a major project in Al Rayyān Municipality.

Non-Contentious Advice

- Advising the state-related entity for establishing new economic zones on redrafting their entire suite of standard-form construction contracts.
- Advising on the construction elements of the first PPP agreement under the new PPP Law in Dubai, relating to the construction and concession for a new car parking facility for Dubai Courts.

- Acting as sole in-country external counsel for the Spanish energy giant, including drafting the contract for the fit out of their new offices in the QSTP.
- Advising the Indian-headquartered designer and builder of hydro-electric power facilities on its global terms for EPC Contracting.
- Sole external counsel seconded to Qatar Rail to assist with the tender analysis and contractual review on the ground-breaking new railway to be constructed in Qatar in time for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- Advising the Qatari real estate developer on numerous scheme agreements relating to a major mixed-use development in Doha, Qatar.
- Advising the leading global contractor in respect of a number of issues arising out of its NEC3 contract with Crossrail for a number of substantial construction packages at Paddington Station.
- Carrying out all construction-related drafting, as part of a cross-firm team, in a funding and implementation agreement on behalf of TfL relating to the new extension to services on the North London Line, one of the London 2012-related infrastructure projects.
- Carrying out all drafting and negotiation and acting as lead client contact for TfL on the NEC3 form for multi-million-pound infrastructure contracts on the East London Line link to the North London Line.
- Assisting with construction-related drafting, including acting as sole legal reviewer with the project team of all technical documentation, on behalf of TfL relating to the main works contract for the East London Line extension.
- Providing all construction and dispute resolution drafting and advice relating to LUL's Periodic Review of its PPP contracts with Tube Lines.
- Advising on the construction aspects of the fitting-out of its store at Westfield Stratford, London, the landmark retail development in the Olympic Park, London.
- Drafting trade contracts and a secondment agreement and reviewing other construction documentation concerning a five-star boutique hotel project in Knightsbridge, London.
- Advising a leading international architect and drafting sub-consultancy documents relating to a major international infrastructure project in Doha.