

Jonathan H. Sutcliffe

Partner

Dubai
+971.4.427.2747

Jonathan.Sutcliffe@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Jonathan Sutcliffe is a partner and is a member of the International Arbitration practice group. Jonathan has significant experience in international arbitration and dispute resolution and has acted for numerous clients on a diverse range of international commercial arbitration, ADR, and litigation matters in the energy, construction, hospitality, real estate, defence, insurance, international joint venture, and film sectors, and on investor-state disputes. Jonathan is a member of the firm's hydrogen group.

Jonathan also sits regularly as an arbitrator, including under the rules of arbitration of the ICC, DIFC-LCIA, DIAC, and ADCCAC, and in ad hoc arbitrations. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Jonathan is qualified in England and Wales, and New York and is registered as an advocate in the DIFC Courts. He is recommended for international arbitration and projects and energy disputes by various leading legal guides, including Chambers, The Legal 500, and The International Who's Who of Commercial Arbitration.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Jonathan served as a partner at an international law firm in Dubai. Previously, he served as a partner and associate at international law firms in London, New York, and Houston.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *Chambers Global* for Construction: Dispute Resolution in United Arab Emirates, 2024-2026

Recognised as an “excellent leader,” and providing “advice in a manner which is easy to understand and digest.” (*Chambers Global* 2024)

- Recognised by *Chambers Global* for Dispute Resolution in United Arab Emirates, 2011-2026

"Thorough, careful, hard-working and an excellent lawyer," "really intelligent, and good at explaining complicated matters in a simple way." (*Chambers Global* 2024)

Handling matters “in a fair manner,” offering “detailed reasoning.” (*Chambers Global* 2023)

“A very good practitioner…a very practical and pragmatic lawyer” with “a lot of knowledge on domestic and international laws.” (*Chambers Global* 2022)

- Recognised by *Chambers Global* with a Band 1 ranking for Dispute Resolution, Middle East-wide, 2013-2025

“Recommended for his construction disputes expertise.” (*Chambers Global* 2023)

“One of the most impressive arbitration partners in the region.” (*Chambers Global* 2022)

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 EMEA* in United Arab Emirates
  - Leading Partner for Dispute Resolution: Arbitration and International Litigation, 2009-2026
  - Recommended Lawyer for Construction, 2024-2026

Noted as “an excellent lawyer: accurate, measured, calm, responsive, and easy to work with” and “technically very strong.” (*The Legal 500 EMEA* 2023)

“Very practical, readily available and straight forward with his advice.” (*The Legal 500 EMEA* 2022)

- Recognised by *The Legal 500, Arbitration Powerlist: Middle East* for Private Practice Arbitration, 2022-2023
- Recognised by *Business Today* as one of the 10 Leading Dispute Resolution Lawyers in the UAE, 2023
- Recognised as Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer, 2023, 2026

"Intellectual rigour and teamwork with the business."

"I think that he has a great intellectual rigour, he is meticulous in his responses and I like his proportionality how much time and money is spent on different parts of the project."

- *Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) Thought Leaders: Arbitration* 2017, 2022-2026

"Jonathan is highly experienced, detail focused while simultaneously keeping the macro view in mind" (Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2025)

"He is very reliable, very experienced and very hardworking" (Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2025)

- *Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) Thought Leaders: Construction* 2021-2026

Jonathan Sutcliffe is “one of the best". Clients say: "He provided insightful, strategic advice that was crucial to navigating our case"

Jonathan always goes the extra mile for us and has never let us down.

- *Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal): Arbitration* 2010-2026

"He is an excellent arbitrator and advocate" (Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2025)

“He is technically excellent and a pleasure to deal with.” (*Who's Who Legal: Arbitration* 2024)

“Very intelligent,” “he has very good strategic judgment and is able to focus on the issues that really matter,” “a truly excellent arbitrator.” (*Who's Who Legal: Arbitration* 2023)

“I was very impressed with his handling of a case as an international arbitrator.” (*Who's Who Legal: Arbitration* 2022)

- *Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal): Construction* 2010-2026

"Jonathan always goes the extra mile for us and has never let us down." (*Who's Who Legal: Construction* 2025)

“Jonathan is very knowledgeable, offers excellent analysis and is hard working and easy to work with." (*Who's Who Legal: Construction* 2023)

- Listed in *Guide to the World's Leading Experts in Commercial Arbitration* for commercial arbitration, 2009, 2011, 2013-2015, 2020
- Recognised by *Global Arbitration Review* as a Name to Know, 2009-2010, 2016-2018, 2020

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Fellow
- AIPN (Association of International Petroleum Negotiators) MENA Organisation Committee, member
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Independent Professional Member

Arbitration Institutions

- International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR), Panel of International Arbitrators
- Dubai International Arbitration Centre, listed as an arbitrator
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, List of Arbitrators
- Singapore International Arbitration Centre, Panel of Arbitrators
- CPR Panel of Distinguished Neutrals
- Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association, listed in Roster of Arbitrators
- LCIA (London Court of International Arbitration)
- ADGM Arbitration Centre, Panel of Arbitrators
- Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration, Roster of Arbitrators
- Qatar International Center for Conciliation & Arbitration (QICCA), List of Arbitrators

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Representative recent speaking engagements include:

- Co-chair, "ITA-SCCA-PSU Joint Symposium: Complimentarity of Courts and Arbitration Institutions; AI Top 10 Recommendations; and the Saudi Civil Code," Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 24 February 2025
- Moderator, "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, Speaker, Dubai, November 2022
- Current trends in litigation funding, panel moderator, The Legal 500 Disputes Summit Middle East 2022, Dubai, September 2022
- Featured Speaker, "Ask the Arbitrator" Q&A Session, National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) International Arbitration Affinity Group, June 2022
- "Virtual Hearings - Lessons Learnt," Society of Construction Law (Gulf), 10 March 2021
- Trends in Upstream Oil & Gas Disputes, panelist, September 2020
- Litigation Funding - An introduction, Qatar Business Law Forum, Doha, November 2019
- Drafting Enforceable Awards, ICC Institute Advanced Training, Presenter, Abu Dhabi, October 2019
- Not Paying the Piper: Third-Party Funding - the Solution to Liquidity Constraints?, Moderator, The Legal 500 Middle East Disputes Summit 2019, Dubai, May 2019
- Different Approaches to Cross-Examination and Advocacy, Panelist and advocate, 6th Annual GAR Live Istanbul, June 2018
- Dispute Resolution in Saudi Arabia, Panelist, Association of Corporate Counsel Middle East, Dubai, January 2018.
- Efficient Case Management Procedure with Experts, Speaker, ICC Conference on Construction Arbitration, Dubai, November 2017.
- Bilateral Investment Treaties and Claims in Construction, Speaker, Hill International and CIOB Construction Masterclass, October 2016.

EDUCATION

- Legal Practice Course, College of Law, Guildford, 1994 *(Distinction)*
- B.A., University of Oxford, 1993 *(with Honours) Jurisprudence, Worcester College (First Class)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 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
- 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
- October 2025, September and October 2025 Accolades
- 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
- 10 July 2025, June and July 2025 Accolades
- 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
- 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
- 6 November 2024, October 2024 Accolades
- 2 August 2024, July 2024 Accolades

- 15 March 2024, February 2024 Accolades
- 23 February 2024, The Dubai Court of Cassation Raises Questions Over an Arbitral Tribunal's Power to Award Legal Costs
- 1 February 2024, January 2024 Accolades
- 13 December 2023, Dubai Court of Cassation Rules That an Arbitration Clause Extends to Subsequent Purchase Orders
- 24 October 2023, If You Cannot Enforce a Judgment in Your Jurisdiction, You May Still Be Able to Enforce in England
- 8 September 2023, DIFC Court Rules on Conditions Precedent and Liquidated Damages for Employer Delay in Construction Claims
- June 2023, Arbitration World
- 26 May 2023, The Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration Adopts New Arbitration Rules
- 6 April 2023, March 2023 Accolades
- 6 March 2023, ICC Arbitration Seated in Abu Dhabi Held To Be Subject to the Supervisory Jurisdiction of the Courts of the Abu Dhabi Global Market
- 10 January 2023, English Court Sees No Obstacles to Enforcement of an English Court Judgment in the UAE
- 19 December 2022, Dubai Courts Refuse Enforcement of an Arbitral Award Against a Foreign Party
- 22 November 2022, Swearing an Oath Remains a Requirement for Witnesses in Onshore UAE Arbitration
- 7 March 2022, The DIAC Publishes Its 2022 Arbitration Rules
- 17 June 2021, Change to Interest Rates Applied by the Courts in Dubai
- 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
- 26 January 2021, Time to Rethink Strategy: The New Foreign Investment Rules in the UAE
- 15 September 2020, Trends in Upstream Oil and Gas Disputes
- 14 April 2020, Arbitration World
- 20 February 2019, A Step Forward for Expedited Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in the United Arab Emirates

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications include:

- Co-author, “ADR in the United Arab Emirates: proactive dispute management,” *Asia Business Law Journal*, 25 October 2023
- Co-author, "Expert Briefing: Investment Activities in Singapore: A Legal Perspective," *Asia Business Law Journal*, 19 October 2023
- Chapter on International Arbitration - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG): Outside Counsel Perspective, Co-author, International Commercial Arbitration Practice: 21st Century Perspectives (updated, 2020)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 March 2026, K&L Gates Recognised in 2026 Edition of *The Legal 500 EMEA*
- 12 February 2026, *Chambers Global* 2026 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 26 March 2025, K&L Gates Recognised in 2025 Edition of *The Legal 500 EMEA*
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 24 February 2025, Institute for Transnational Arbitration Joint Symposium, Hosted by The Institute for Transnational Arbitration, The Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration, and Prince Sultan University
- 13 February 2025, *Chambers Global* 2025 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 15 February 2024, *Chambers Global* 2024 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 16 February 2023, K&L Gates Recognized in 2023 *Chambers Global* Guide
- 17 February 2022, K&L Gates Recognized in 2022 Chambers Global Guide
- 24 February 2021, K&L Gates Recognized in 2021 Chambers Global Guide
- 19 November 2019, K&L Gates Honored with Multiple Qatar Business Law Forum Awards
- 29 May 2019, K&L Gates Secures First Public Company Capital Reduction Court Approval Under New Dubai Law
- 22 May 2018, K&L Gates Hires Leading International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Partner in Dubai Office

AREAS OF FOCUS

- International Arbitration
- Commercial Disputes
- Construction and Infrastructure

- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Energy Disputes
- Investor-State Arbitration

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Hydrogen
- Oil and Gas
- Power
- Power Generation and Transmission
- Transportation and Logistics
- Transportation Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Acting for the developer of a water project in Saudi Arabia in relation to a contractor request for an extension of time and prolongation costs in relation to a US$650 million desalination project
- Representing a MEP contractor in a major DIAC rules, Dubai seat arbitration against the main contractor in relation to the construction of a terminal for a major international airport, governed by U.A.E. law
- Representing a major broadcaster in a LCIA rules arbitration in a dispute with a main contractor and systems integrator relating to a workplace transformation and modernisation project
- Advising a third party litigation funder in relation to Dubai insolvency proceedings in which the funded entity had been declared bankrupt; successfully resolving the funder's interest in the bankruptcy proceedings
- Advising a master franchisor in the food and beverage industry in disputes regarding misuse of its IP rights and trade marks with franchisees in Qatar, Egypt and Kuwait
- Representing a global entertainment company in a SIAC rules, London seat arbitration in a dispute under a distribution and licensing agreement for television channels in the United Arab Emirates, governed by English law
- Representing a German cement company in an ICSID arbitration relating to a dispute concerning the privatisation of a cement plant in Iraq
- Successful application for reduction of share capital of a real estate investment trust in the DIFC Court
- Representing a U.A.E. MEP contractor in a DIAC rules, Dubai seat arbitration against the main contractor relating to the construction of a data centre

- Advising a third party litigation funder on issues relating to the potential funding of a major infrastructure arbitration in the U.A.E.
- Successful application for recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award in the DIFC Court
- Representing a Gulf country government organ in an ad hoc arbitration regarding the construction of a major social infrastructure project regarding claims for acceleration and prolongation costs
- Representing a contractor in a DIFC seat arbitration under the DIFC-LCIA rules relating to a dispute with a joint venture partner concerning MEP works for an airport
- Representing a Gulf country individual and sports club against their former adviser in a London seat LCIA arbitration regarding a sports-related development project and in English court proceedings
- Advising a U.S. oil company regarding a dispute with the government of Kurdistan under a Production Sharing Contract
- Representing the Employer in a Dubai seat ICC arbitration involving a mixed-use tower in Dubai regarding claims for extensions of time, prolongation costs and counterclaims for liquidated damages and other losses
- Advising a U.S. oilfield services and engineering company with respect to a dispute with its Middle East customer regarding compliance of gas metering equipment with specification and issues relating to a site accident
- Representing the Employer in a Dubai seat DIAC arbitration against the Contractor regarding the construction of a large scale residential housing project in Dubai concerning issues of delay, prolongation costs, and variations
- Representing a hotel owner in a Cairo seat UNCITRAL arbitration against an international hotel management company regarding the termination of a hotel management agreement concerning a hotel in Cairo
- Advising a major US oilfield services company with respect to court proceedings in the UAE regarding the termination of an oilfield services contract with respect to an offshore oilfield
- Representing an international organization in an UNCITRAL arbitration regarding the supply of goods and services by a Saudi Arabian company
- Advising a purchaser of two plots of land for development in Dubai Marina regarding the transfer of title to the plots and damages resulting from the delay in transfer
- Advising a contractor with respect to the settlement of its claims against a Dubai World company through the restructuring and settlement process set up to deal with creditor claims
- Advising a Canadian oilfield services company with respect to court proceedings in Erbil, Kurdistan relating to the seizure and recovery of drilling equipment
- Advising various clients with respect to the termination of agency, distributorship, and sales representation agreements in Kuwait

- Representing a major U.S. engineering firm in relation to a dispute about the design and construction of a highway in the Middle East
- Representing a major U.S. oilfield services company in a Houston-seat ICC arbitration against its joint venture partner concerning an oilfield services joint venture in the Middle East
- Advising a golf course landscaping company in a dispute with a golf course developer in Dubai
- Advising a group of partners in a major accounting firm regarding their move to another major accounting firm in the Middle East
- Representing a facilities management company in a dispute with a government property developer in the Dubai World Special Tribunal regarding a facilities management contract
- Representing a purchaser of units in the Burj Khalifa in a Dubai-seat DIAC arbitration regarding cancelation of the purchase and payment issues
- Advising a US and Asian sub-contractor regarding a dispute with a main contractor in respect of the construction of certain parts of a light rail system in the Middle East
- Advising a construction company on a dispute between consortium members in respect of a marine dredging project in the Middle East
- Representing the seller of a Russian mobile telephone retail business in linked London-seat LCIA arbitrations concerning payment and breach of warranty issues
- Advising an international tobacco company regarding litigation in Saudi Arabia involving various tobacco distributors
- Representing a major U.S. chemicals manufacturer in a London-seat ICC arbitration against its joint venture partner concerning a chemicals manufacturing joint venture in the Middle East
- Advising a North American energy company regarding structuring its investment in an offshore oil field to obtain bilateral investment treaty protection
- Advising a European oilfield services company in a dispute relating to the design, manufacture, delivery, and operation of process plant on board a floating process storage and offloading platform (FPSO) offshore Africa, involving multiple contracts with different governing laws and various fora in which the disputes were to be resolved
- Advising a U.S. oil company in a dispute relating to repairs and downtime in respect of a drilling rig for an oilfield offshore Africa
- Advising a global telecommunications company on enforcement of a foreign arbitral award and a foreign court judgment in the UK
- Representing a U.S. oil company in a London-seat LCIA arbitration concerning a Joint Operating Agreement drilling costs dispute in respect of an oilfield offshore West Africa

- Advising a Chinese State-owned company in relation to a London-seat LCIA arbitration involving 3D seismic survey services in connection with a proposed investment by the State-owned company in an oil field in Central Africa
- Representing a U.S. energy company in an ICSID arbitration in respect of its investment during privatization in an electricity-generating company in a Latin American State arising out of additional tax assessments imposed by the State
- Acting for a Russian energy company in a London seat LCIA arbitration arising from its merger with another Russian energy company
- Representing a Russian energy company in a London-seat UNCITRAL arbitration relating to crude oil supplies to a Central European oil refiner
- Acting for a Swiss oil trading company in a London-seat UNCITRAL arbitration relating to crude oil supplies to a Central European oil refiner
- Acting for a U.S. energy company in its ICSID arbitration relating to gas transportation assets against a Latin American State under a bilateral investment treaty
- Acting for an international consortium in a Geneva-seat ICC arbitration against a State relating to the transfer of power stations to private operation
- Representing a client in an ad hoc London-seat insurance arbitration involving a number of major insurance entities in relation to claims of £500 million
- Acting for a financial institution in its dispute with a borrower group (a German and Dutch cable TV and telephony business), encompassing a number of different proceedings in the English High Court and German courts and involving integrating advice on English, German, and Dutch law
- Advising a paper industry client on its potential claims against a Central Asian State under a bilateral investment treaty
- Defending an energy client in an UNCITRAL arbitration commenced by its drilling rig construction contractor
- Advising a UK defence industry client on its dispute relating to the termination of its commercial representation arrangements with a Middle Eastern adviser
- Representing a South Asian State in an ICSID arbitration commenced by a Swiss entity under a bilateral investment treaty
- Representing a Spanish film distributor in a number of Los Angeles-seat American Film Marketing Association arbitrations concerning the distribution of over 15 motion pictures and other programs
- Representing an African government authority in a Paris-seat ICC arbitration relating to the construction of roads in the African State by an European contractor
- Acting for a U.S. medical products company in a Japan Commercial Arbitration Association arbitration against its joint venture partner in Japan

- Representing a U.S. entity providing business outplacement and counselling services in an AAA arbitration against its Japanese licensee
- Acting for an oil company in a London-seat multi-party UNCITRAL arbitration against the operator of a Latin American offshore oilfield relating to cost-overruns under the Joint Operating Agreement
- Defending a UK defence industry client in English High Court litigation relating to an agency agreement with a Middle Eastern adviser
- Advising a UK entertainment industry client in an expert determination relating to the accountancy principles and practices to be applied to the calculation of amounts under a key executive's earn-out provisions
- Acting for a Middle Eastern energy company in a London-seat LCIA arbitration relating to a fuel oil pipeline project in Pakistan
- Acting for an English automotive parts manufacturer in English High Court litigation relating to warranties under a business sale and purchase
- Acting for a Western European State electricity body in a London-seat arbitration concerning the long-term supply of liquefied natural gas from Africa under a take or pay contract
- Acting for a U.S. energy company in North Sea gas take or pay (and related) litigation in the English High Court