



Lara Hammoud

Nationality: French and Lebanese

Languages: English, French, Arabic (Fluent).
Italian (Conversational)

Lara Hammoud has over twenty years industry experience in International Arbitration and is one of the most sought-after independent arbitrators in the UAE.

Lara specialises in construction & engineering, banking & finance, technology & telecommunications, energy, oil & gas and general commercial disputes including distribution, joint ventures, real estate and sales & purchases.

She has issued over thirty awards and been appointed as tribunal chair, sole and party-appointed arbitrator in both common and civil law jurisdictions under UNCITRAL, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA and ICC arbitration rules seated both in Europe and the Middle-East.

Lara's career has seen her work as a senior corporate counsel at Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and leading global law firms in Paris and Abu Dhabi. A former Secretary to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Arbitration, she served as Deputy Counsel at the ICC in Paris, France.

Lara is a renowned member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR and has written two books on 'Arbitration in the United Arab Emirates' which have been published by the ICC.

Sector Expertise

- Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure
- Commercial Dispute Resolution
- Energy, Oil & Gas
- Banking & Finance
- Technology & Telecommunications

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Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure

Lara has extensive experience as arbitrator and counsel/in-house counsel in construction and engineering disputes involving nuclear energy facilities, complex industrial plants and facilities, oil and gas facilities, ships and vessels and urban developments.

Energy, Oil & Gas

Lara has experience in the Energy, Oil & Gas sector including concession agreements, supply agreements, drilling agreements and EPC agreements related to oil and gas projects. Lara has handled disputes involving, among other projects, the construction of a refinery, design and construction of artificial islands and land reclamation, construction of waste heat recovery units, construction of pipelines, onshore and offshore gas developments as well as oil fields developments.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Lara has extensive experience in general commercial disputes both as counsel and arbitrator. She has been involved in cases dealing with distribution, joint ventures, real estate and sales and purchases agreements.

Banking & Finance

Lara has handled cases involving bank guarantees in commercial and infrastructure projects as well as financial advisory services relating to the sale of shares. Lara has also acted as arbitrator in corporate disputes involving issues related to bank loans, corporate debts and guarantees.

Technology & Telecommunications

Lara has been involved in disputes over software development and IT services involving telecommunication companies.

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Experience

Recent arbitration appointments include:

- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a DIFC-LCIA case seated in Dubai regarding sale and purchase agreements governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in an *ad hoc* case seated in Dubai regarding a shareholders' agreement governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a DIAC case seated in Dubai regarding a construction contract (FIDIC) governed by Jordanian law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in two related DIAC cases seated in Dubai regarding construction contracts (FIDIC) governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a DIFC-LCIA case seated in DIFC regarding a distribution agreement governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a DIAC case seated in Dubai regarding a shipbuilding agreement governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in an ICC case seated in Doha regarding a consultancy services agreement governed by Qatari law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a DIAC case seated in Dubai regarding an IT services agreement governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Co-arbitrator in an ICC case seated in London regarding a design, engineering, manufacture and supply agreement governed by English law
- Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in an ICC case seated in Dubai regarding a financial services agreement governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a DIAC case seated in Dubai regarding an agreement for electrical and street lighting works governed by UAE law
- Appointed as Presiding Arbitrator in a case administered under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 1976 seated in Bahrain regarding a dredging, reclamation and shore protection agreement governed by Bahraini law
- Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in an ICC case seated in Abu Dhabi regarding a purchase agreement governed by UAE law

As Counsel

Arbitrations in which Lara Hammoud has appeared as Counsel include the representation of:

- A European consortium as claimants in ICC arbitration arising out of the construction of a nuclear power plant in Finland. Stockholm seat, Finnish law
- A Middle Eastern individual as claimant in a Dubai corporation in a DIAC arbitration in relation to a real estate development dispute in Dubai

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- An owner of an iron and steel plant in an ICC arbitration in relation to a dispute arising from a gas supply agreement in Oman
- A Middle Eastern owner of a salt plant in an LCIA arbitration in relation to a construction contract dispute
- An Abu Dhabi government-owned entity in defending appeals before the Abu Dhabi Court of Appeal brought by a shipbuilding company
- A US multinational Company in an ICC arbitration in relation to a dispute arising from the cancellation of a joint venture agreement
- A construction contractor in a multibillion-dollar dispute against the owner of the project in Dubai
- A Middle Eastern conglomerate in a multibillion-dollar dispute including litigation and arbitration proceedings

Academic & Professional Qualifications

Education

- Maitrise, Droit Privé (Honours), Université Paris X (France) (1998)
- LL.M in Commercial Law, University of Bristol, (England) (1999)
- Postgraduate Diploma (DESS) in International Commercial Law (Honours), Université Paris X (France) (2000)
- Ecole de Formation du Barreau (Versailles Bar School) (France) (2001)

Bar Admissions

- Avocat, admitted to the Paris Bar (France) (2002)

Professional Experience

- Independent Arbitrator, Arbitra International (2022 – current)
- Senior Legal Counsel, Group Disputes, ADNOC, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2013 - current)
- Shearman & Sterling LLP, Senior Associate, International Arbitration Group, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (2008 – 2013)
- International Chamber of Commerce, Secretary to the ICC Commission on Arbitration, Paris, France (2006 – 2008)
- International Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Counsel, Secretariat of the International Court of Arbitration, Paris, France (2002 – 2004)

Professional Associations & Recognitions

- Member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR
- Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), Panel of Arbitrators
- Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC), Panel of Arbitrators
- Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC), Panel of Arbitrators
- Member of the User Council of the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA)

Publications, Articles & Thought Leadership

Articles

- Interest in ICC Arbitral Awards, 15(1) ICC Bull. 53 (2004) (co-author)
- ICC Arbitration in the Arab World, 25 J. Int. Arb. 2 (2008) (co-author)
- The New ICC Rules of Arbitration: a summary of the most relevant changes to the 1998 rules of arbitration, Concerto arbitral en trois mouvements pour Pierre Tercier: Hammoud, von Wunschein, Zen-Ruffinen (eds), Schulthess, p.67 (2013)

Books

- Concerto arbitral en trois mouvements pour Pierre Tercier: Hammoud, von Wunschein, Zen-Ruffinen (eds), Schulthess (2013)
- Summaries of UAE courts' decisions on arbitration, Arab, Hammoud, Lovett, ICC Publication No. 746E (2013)
- Summaries of UAE courts' decisions on arbitration, Second Edition, Arab, Hammoud, Lovett, ICC Publication No. 789E (2017)

Directory & Client Quotes

"One of the few quality next gen female arbitrators in the middle east".

"Lara has excellent experience in arbitration and dispute resolution and is highly regarded in the UAE".

"She is truly trilingual (English, Arabic & French)".

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