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Leonora Riesenburg

Practice Summary

Leonora Riesenburg, a seasoned and highly accomplished Independent Chartered Arbitrator and Mediator, operates from the vibrant hub of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Her extensive expertise spans across the UK, the Middle East, and Asia. She stands recognized by numerous prestigious arbitral institutions, both domestically and internationally, holding esteemed affiliations with the ICC, LCIA, SIAC, DIAC, ADCCAC, SCCA, MIAC, among others.

With over two decades of experience in International Dispute Resolution, her professional portfolio boasts a consistent track record of handling intricate, high-value disputes cutting across diverse industries including investment, infrastructure, construction, real estate, partnership, joint ventures, banking, and finance. Notably, Leonora is celebrated for having presided over a number of landmark cases in investment, energy and constructions projects of consequence, and sought after for her adeptness in handling matters of substantial value, complexity or novel issues in law. Her unparalleled attention to detail, combined with her extensive knowledge and seasoned experience in international arbitration firmly distinguish her from her peers.

Leonora's leadership is reflected in her previous roles as Branch Chair of CIArb UAE, as an Elected Member of the Board of Management for CIArb London, and member of DIFC Courts Arbitration Division Working Group. She is a member of LCIA Arabs Users' Council and a member of the Swiss Arbitration Association. Leonora is a highly in demand faculty member for the CIArb globally and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) in the MENA Region and in the UK, playing a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of dispute resolution practitioners. Her global influence

extends through her service with leading institutions worldwide, including in Asia, the Governing Council of the Hyderabad Arbitration Centre (HAC) in India as well as the Global Advisory Panel for Musaliha International Centre for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR) in Pakistan.

Leonora's professional contributions are marked by many honorary and voluntary roles, prestigious awards, authorships and publications. She is a frequent speaker and contributor to conferences, seminars and events in her home market in the UAE and internationality.

Areas of Expertise:

Banking & Finance

Construction & Real Estate (Commercial, Residential, Retail)

Energy & Utilities

Facilities & Asset Management

Hospitality, Leisure, & Entertainment

Infrastructure & Development

Investment & Trade Disputes

Manufacturing & industrial

Partnering & Shareholder Disputes

Shipping, Transportation & Logistics

Case examples:

ADCCAC Arbitration: circa AED 22m claim in respect of several subcontracts for plumbing and drainage works, mechanical works, and LV Electrical Works for a Hotel development in Yas South Integrated Destination Report, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (Arbitrator)

DIAC Arbitration No. 230032 AED 15.1 million subcontract dispute, involving a renowned subcontractor specializing in aluminium and glazing works in the United Arab Emirates and a large consortium acting as the main contractor on a significant construction project for the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority. (Presiding Arbitrator, 3 member Tribunal)

DIAC Arbitration: dispute between a manufacturer and supplier of air cooled heat exchanges for a gas turbine combined cycle power plant for a Sharjah authority (Arbitrator)

ADCCAC Arbitration: dispute on the supply & installation of temporary gantries to a utility, plant in Abu Dhabi (Presiding Arbitrator)

DIAC Arbitration: EURO 2.6m dispute in respect of 4 Purchase Orders for the design, engineering, manufacturing, factory testing and delivery of AC/DC panels and elements to Um El Qasr seaport (Presiding Arbitrator)

DIAC Arbitration : final accounting dispute between the main developer and a pilling contractor related to piling works at Maryam Island in Sharjah (Arbitrator)

DIFC-LCIA Arbitration: SAR 4.2 m dispute in respect of the construction, management and design of a supply pipeline in KSA (Arbitrator)

ICC Arbitration : over USD $ 17m dispute in respect of engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning works on a new tank storage terminal, Al Hamriyah Freezone, UAE (Arbitrator)

DIAC Arbitration: multiple sale and purchase disputes (consolidated) involving a high net worth investor and notable developer in Dubai Sports City, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (Sole Arbitrator)

DIAC Arbitration: over AED 40m fit-out dispute involving a renowned local developer and fit out contractor on building project serviced apartments in Business Bay, Dubai (Presiding Arbitrator)

DIAC Arbitration: over AED 250m construction dispute involving a local family/ Employer and main contractor on the construction, completion and maintenance of 2 high rise towers (commercial and residential) in Tecom, Dubai. United Arab Emirates (Arbitrator)

DIFC-LCIA Arbitration: over 1Bn Major construction dispute involving a KSA entity/ Employer and notable main contractor concerning the design, construction, completion and maintenance of a hotel in Tecom, Dubai (Arbitrator)

DIFC-LCIA Arbitration: circa USD 9m shareholder dispute, local and foreign investors, concerning the share sale and purchase arrangements involving local and foreign holdings in the UAE and Qatar (Arbitrator)

DIFC-LCIA Arbitration: circa AED 35m multiple shareholder dispute involving local and foreign investors, concerning multiple companies, holdings in the UAE and BVI (Sole Arbitrator).

ADCCAC Arbitration: circa AED 278m banking and securities dispute involving a manufacturing company and an onshore Abu Dhabi bank (Arbitrator)

Accolades and Professional Contributions:

• UAE Business Awards 2024: ADR Practitioner of the Year 2024• Acquisition International 2021 Legal Awards: ADR Specialist of the Year 2021 (Middle East)• Acquisition International 2020 Legal Awards: Best Female Adr Specialist (Middle East)• International Arbitrators & Experts in Engineering Sector (IAEE UAE), 2019 Award for Outstanding Woman of the Year• Acquisition International 2019 Legal Awards: Most Influential Woman in Adr (Middle East)• AI Global 2018 Leading Adviser Awards: Leading Investment Management Consultant of the Year (UAE)• Acquisition International 2018 Dispute Resolution Awards: Mediator of the Year (UAE)• Acquisition

International 2017 Dispute Resolution Awards: Arbitrator of the Year (UAE)• Acquisition International 2016 Global Excellence Awards: Recognised for Global Excellence in Middle East Investment Disputes• Acquisition International 2016 Dispute Resolution Awards: Recognised for Sustained Excellence in Middle East Investment Disputes• Acquisition International 2015 Dispute Resolution Awards: Best in Investment Disputes (UAE)• Global Legal 500, 2014: Leading Individual in Dispute Resolution – Construction• Global Legal 500, 2014: Leading Individual in Banking & Finance• Global Legal 500, 2013: Leading Individual in Dispute Resolution – Construction

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Professional Qualifications

- Diploma in International Arbitration, CIArb Dubai (July 2015)
- Accredited Certification, Commercial Mediator, CIArb London (December 2014)
- Masters of Law International Dispute Resolution, Queen Mary/ University of London (December 2011)
- Postgraduate Diploma Corporate and Commercial Law, Queen Mary/ University of London (August 2011)
- Qualified Lawyers Transfer Certification, BPP Law School, London (2007)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Vocational Training for the Bar, BPP Law School, London (June 2005)
- Bachelor of Arts Joint Honours in Law and Sociology, University of Warwick, UK (July 2004)

Memberships

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- London Court of International Arbitration
- Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Arab International Arbitration Group
- Swiss Arbitration Association
- Law Society of England & Wales
- Lincoln’s Inn, London Inns of Court

Languages

- English – native language
- French – business proficient

Positions Held in UAE

- Independent International Arbitrator, Accredited Mediator at INTADR DMCC, Dubai, privately owned independent ADR practice
- Previously, Group Head of Legal/ Group GC at GGICO, listed public investment conglomerate
- Previously, Advocate and Senior Legal Consultant, Galadari Advocates & Legal Consultants – Projects and Construction (Disputes – Arbitration and Litigation

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Global Advisory Boards, Working Groups, Professional Forums, Courts & Arbitral Institutions

- Governing Council, Hyderabad Arbitration Centre (HAC) (2022 onwards)
- Global Advisory Panel. Musaliha International Centre for Arbitration & Dispute Resolution (MICADR)(2022 onwards)
- Member, DIFCC-Arb Working Group (2020 onwards)
- Member, LCIA Arab Users Forums (2022 onwards)

Honourary Appointments, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

- Member, Global Advisory Panel, MICADR Pakistan (2022 onwards)
- Member, Governing Council, HAC India (2022 onwards)
- Independent Member, DIFCC-Arb Working Group (2020 onwards)
- Independent Member, CIArb Board of Management (2019 -2021)
- Chairman, CIArb UAE Branch (2017 -2020)
- Honorary Secretary, CIArb UAE Branch (2015- 2017)

Key Training Roles, CIArb & RICS

- CIArb Regional Pathway Leader in the International Arbitration and Commercial Mediation, MENA Region
- CIArb Course Director/ Tutor/ Examiner/ Assessor on the International Arbitration Faculty
- CIArb Course Director/ Tutor/ Assessor on the Mediation Faculty
- RICS DRS Training Faculty Member

Areas of Expertise

- Commercial
- International Arbitration