

Curriculum Vitae

Sultan M. Al-Abdulla
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Profile:

Mr Al-Abdulla is the founder and managing partner of Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners in Qatar. Prior to joining private practice, he worked for the national oil company in Qatar, Qatar Petroleum, where he served for nearly 22 years. During this period, he served in a number of positions including, the position of QP's managing counsel. During his career with QP, he represented the government of the State of Qatar, QP and QP subsidiaries in numerous oil and gas transactions, usually as a lead negotiator.

Since starting his private practice in 1999, he advised and represented many government agencies and national and multinational corporations on corporate, commercial and transactional matters.

He currently focuses on representing clients before judicial and arbitral tribunals in and outside Qatar. His arbitration practice includes serving as a sole arbitrator, presiding arbitrator and Qatari law expert witness before international arbitral tribunals.

Career:

November 1976
November 1998
Qatar Petroleum (QP)

- During his tenure with QP, Mr Al-Abdulla worked in many departments and positions, the last of which was the position of the Managing Counsel, reporting to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

At the time of working with the legal department of QP, he negotiated on behalf of the Government of the State of Qatar, QP and QP subsidiaries production sharing, joint venture, sale & purchase, land lease, port use, EPC, technical services and other agreements for oil, gas, LNG and other petroleum products.

In addition, he participated in project financing transactions; prepared many legal instruments; and managed claims, litigation, arbitration and the development of model contracts.

Finally, he served as chairman of many committees and teams, as a board member of a downstream company and represented QP in many meetings.

**From 1999 – To-date
Practicing Attorney**

Mr Al-Abdulla founded and is currently managing his law firm, Sultan Al-Abdulla & Partners. The Firm comprises of multinational lawyers from varied legal backgrounds (including civil and common law).

While the Firm is licensed to practice in all aspects of the legal profession, it focuses on corporate and commercial advisory work as well as litigation and arbitration.

In his private practice, Mr Al-Abdulla has counseled, and negotiated on behalf of, local and multinational clients, major business transactions and projects.

As a litigator, he represents clients before all tiers of courts in Qatar up to the Court of Cassation and he is ranked in by Chambers and Partners in Band 1 for Dispute Resolution.

As part of his arbitration practice, he represented numerous entities in local and international arbitration matters. He frequently sits as a sole arbitrator or as a president or a member of an arbitral tribunal. In addition, he is frequently called to appear as a Qatari law expert before international arbitral tribunals.

Pursuant to Article 13(1) of the ICSID Convention, he was designated as an arbitrator on the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators for a period of six years with effect from May 2019.

Arbitration:

- Acting as a co-counsel in an ICC arbitration seated in London on behalf of a Japanese trading house relating to alleged unpaid commissions to a Qatari agent.
- Acting as a sole arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration in relation to a dispute between shareholders in an intellectual property company.
- Representing a subcontractor against the main contractor in a QICCA arbitration relating to claims for an extension of time and prolongation costs for glass façade works on a tower project in West Bay, Doha.
- Representing the respondent, a major Qatari agricultural company indirectly owned by the Government of Qatar, in an LCIA arbitration relating to the termination of a joint venture.
- Acting for a Qatari sub-contractor in a dispute with an Indian main contractor in an ICC arbitration.
- Acting as a Qatari law expert in an ICC arbitration seated in Doha relating to unpaid dues for the supply of asphalt by a Bahraini supplier to an international joint venture.

- Representing a Qatari sub-contractor in an ICC arbitration against a main contractor in a dispute arising from works carried out on a major residential and commercial building project in Doha.
- Representing a local MEP subcontractor against a contractor in a QICCA arbitration relating to a major shopping mall and hotel project in Qatar.
- Representing a Qatari sub-contractor against an international main contractor in a QICCA arbitration regarding the construction of a major highway in Doha.
- Acting as a sole arbitrator in a QICCA arbitration in a dispute relating to design and implementation of an integrated IT system by a major local IT company for a well-known local conglomerate.
- Acting as co-counsel for a Japanese contractor against its subcontractor in an ICC arbitration relating to a major railroad project in Qatar.
- Co-representing, with an international law firm, a European contractor in an ICC arbitration against the Qatari Government, arising from the construction of the new airport in Doha.
- Acting as a Qatari law expert in a multi-billion Qatari Riyals construction dispute seated in London during the jurisdictional challenge stage between an international joint venture and semi-governmental Qatari entity.
- Acting as co-counsel for a major Qatari broadcaster in an investment treaty (ICSID) arbitration against the Government of a country in the MENA region.
- Representing a property developer in an ICC arbitration, in its claim against a contractor arising from the construction of a shopping mall.
- Representing a South Korean company in contesting enforcement in Qatar of a judgment of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board relating to a subcontractor's claim.
- Representing a South Korean construction company in an ICC arbitration against a Qatari Government-owned company relating to the construction of offshore subsea gas pipelines.
- Representing a Chinese contractor in the recognition and enforcement of an ICC arbitral award against the Government of Qatar.
- Acting as a president of a tribunal in an arbitration under QICCA Rules in relation to a construction dispute to the tune of several hundred million Qatari Riyals.
- Acting as a Qatari law expert in an ad hoc arbitration seated in Qatar between a major Qatari conglomerate and a Japanese company over alleged unpaid commissions.
- Representing an engineering company in a QICCA arbitration relating to the construction of the Lusail Expressway, a major road in Qatar.
- Co-representing, with an international law firm, a Qatari real estate firm against a contractor in a claim brought under the QICCA Rules.
- Co-representing, with an international law firm, a Qatari contractor in an ICC arbitration against a Qatari governmental entity, arising from an infrastructure project.

- Acting as a sole arbitrator in an arbitration under QICCA Rules relating to unpaid dues to a project management services company by a project owner.

Mediation:

- Acting as a mediator between the co-owners of an IP company. The differences between the parties involved accusations of mismanagement and misappropriation of funds by the managing partner. A settlement was reached whereby the managing partner exited the company and paid a settlement sum.
- Acting as a mediator between the partners in a law firm. The parties settled by agreeing a new management structure and revised division of responsibilities.
- Acting as a mediator between a company owner and a manager. The issues involved accusations of mismanagement due to declining company business and unpaid commissions. The matter settled by the manager leaving the company after achieving certain KPIs and collecting some key account receivables.
- Participating in a mediation exercise as counsel for one of the parties. The matter involved claims and counterclaims to the tune of over QR. 2 billion. While the matter was being litigated before the Qatari courts, the parties agreed that it is more economical to settle their differences through mediation. For this purpose, a mediator was hired and mediation agreement was signed. After nearly a year of meeting, the mediation exercise was terminated without agreement.
- Acting as a co-mediator between company shareholders. The company was owned by four shareholders, who designated one of them as the company manager. The Qatari shareholder accused the non-Qatari shareholders of mismanagement, fraud and violating their non-competition covenants. The dispute was settled between the Qatari shareholder and two of other shareholders, by the latter providing certain financial undertakings and in all three shareholders pressing criminal charges against the fourth shareholders.
- Acting as a mediator in a dispute between the Qatari and non-Qatari shareholders of a major construction company over management of the business. Rather than liquidating the company, as the parties have discussed before mediation, the dispute was settled by the Qatari shareholder agreeing to divest his shares to his children against a sizable settlement amount and a new management structure.

Education:

Bachelor of Laws - Beirut Arab University – Beirut – Lebanon

Master of Laws (International and Comparative Law) - Southern Methodist University – Dallas - Texas – USA

Languages:

Arabic and English