

BASSAM MIRZA

Attorney at the Paris and Beirut Bars
Lebanese, French and Greek

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Bassam Mirza is a lawyer at the Paris and the Beirut Bars and regularly acts as arbitrator. He is a member of the "Comité français de l'arbitrage" and referenced as arbitrator on the ICC France list of arbitrators. He is a lecturer in civil law at the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University and regularly speaks in international arbitration conferences. Bassam represents Lebanon on the ICSID's panel of conciliators. He is fluent in English, French and Arabic. He practiced international arbitration and litigation in Paris for more than seven years within prestigious international law firms (Magic Circle law firm Linklaters LLP and French law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel). He then went back to his home country, Lebanon, where he headed the international arbitration practice group of a leading middle eastern law firm based in Beirut. After that, he founded Mirza Law Office a boutique law firm specialized in international arbitration, part of Pellerin Kecsmar Mirza's Law Firm based in Paris which he co-founded (www.pkm-avocats.com). He is recognized by "Who's who Legal Arbitration - Future Leaders" as "emerging as one of Asia's foremost arbitration experts" and as "excellent adviser throughout the different steps of an international arbitration process". Bassam holds a post-graduate degree in International Law from the University of Paris II Panthéon-Assas as well as a post-graduate degree in Litigation, Arbitration and ADR from the same university.

EDUCATION

2004 – 2005	Master II (DESS) in Litigation, Arbitration and Alternative Disputes Resolution Under the supervision of Professor Charles Jarrosson, Paris II University (Panthéon-Assas), with Distinction. Thesis on " <i>The Res Judicata effect of arbitral awards</i> ".
2003 – 2004	Master II (DEA) in Private International Law and International Trade Law Under the supervision of Professor Bernard Audit, Paris II University (Panthéon-Assas), with Distinction. Thesis on " <i>State contracts between International Law and Lex Mercatoria</i> " under the supervision of Professor Charles Leben.
1999 – 2003	Private Law Degree , Saint-Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), with High Distinction.
July 1999	French Baccalaureate , Carmel Saint-Joseph, Beirut, with Distinction.

EXPERIENCE

Dec. 2014 - Present	Founding Partner of MIRZA LAW OFFICE - BEIRUT part of PELLERIN KECSMAR MIRZA - PARIS (website: www.pkm-avocats.com) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counsel to a French investor in an ICC arbitration against a North African State, on the basis of a bilateral investment treaty for breaches of a construction contract of 70 schools as well as of a settlement agreement concluded between the parties subsequently. Award amounting to 450 million US Dollars rendered in favor of our client.
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- Counsel to an international telecommunications equipment company in an ICC arbitration against a West African State relating to the wrongful termination of a contract for the supply and installation of computing equipment. Award amounting to 25 million Euros rendered in favor of our client.
- President of the Arbitral Tribunal in an ICC arbitration in a dispute between a German company and an Iraqi company in relation to the construction of a water plant near Baghdad. Amount in dispute: 134 million US Dollars.
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration between a UAE company and the Central Bank of a middle eastern State in relation to the construction of the Head Office of the Central Bank. Amount in dispute : 18 million US Dollars.
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in relation to an alleged illegal termination of an agency agreement concluded between a Kuwaiti company and an English company. Amount in dispute : 7 million US Dollars.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in relation to a dispute between partners of various companies. Amount in dispute : 21 million US Dollars.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in relation to a construction dispute between a Qatari company and a Spanish company. Amount in dispute : 6 million US Dollars.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in relation to an alleged breach of a joint-venture agreement relating to a construction project in Qatar. Amount in dispute : 62 million US Dollars.
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in a dispute between a contractor and a sub-contractor in relation to MEP works in 3 towers in Abu-Dhabi. Amount in dispute : 5 million US Dollars.
- Co-arbitrator in a BCCI arbitration related to a real estate dispute on a waterfront plot situated in the reconstructed area of the Beirut Central District. Amount in dispute : 60 million US Dollars.
- Sole arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration between a Lebanese company and a Jordanian company in relation to an alleged breach of an information system implementation contract. Amount in dispute : 5 million US Dollars.
- Counsel to members of the Qatari royal family in a CMAP arbitration relating to the termination of a contract for the renovation of a private residence in the South of France. Amount in dispute: 5 million US Dollars.
- Counsel to a company in the energy sector in annulment proceedings brought by an Egyptian public body against an arbitral award for alleged breach of due process due to the inadmissibility of procedural objections raised by the arbitrators of their own motion.
- Annulment proceedings on behalf of a renowned Lebanese group against five partial awards rendered against a Central African State for non-payment of works for the construction of roads and war damages suffered by the group's African subsidiary, for breach of the arbitrators' duty of independence and impartiality and breach of due process.

Oct. 2014 - Present **Lecturer** in Civil Law at Saint-Joseph University Law School - **BEIRUT**

Nov. 2012 - **ALEM & ASSOCIATES - BEIRUT**

Nov 2014 **Partner, Head of Arbitration and ADR practice Group**

- Acting as counsel for a UAE company (controlled by a Syrian investor) in an ICC arbitration against a Saudi Group in a dispute related to the illegal termination of a joint venture agreement concluded between the parties in order to distribute in Ethiopia and East Africa the products of a major US manufacturer of consumer products. The amount in dispute: US\$ 20 Million.
- Representing one of the largest construction companies in Lebanon and the region, in an ICC arbitration case relating to the breach by the opponent of its obligations under a subcontract agreement concluded for purposes of executing MEP works in one of the largest Mall projects in Beirut. The amount in dispute: US\$ 14 Million.
- Acting as counsel for one of the largest restaurant in Lebanon in an ICC arbitration launched against its franchisee in the UAE on the basis of a franchise development agreement. The amount in dispute: US\$ 6 Million.
- Acting as counsel for one of the leading television series producer in the region in a DIAC arbitration launched against an Egyptian company on the basis of three distribution agreements of television series. The amount in dispute: US\$ 10 Million.
- Acting as counsel in a BCCI arbitration launched against our client (a Pakistani investor) by two Lebanese traders for an alleged illegal termination of a shareholders' agreement related to the establishment of a trading company in Lebanon. The amount in dispute: US\$ 8 Million.
- Enforcing in Saudi Arabia two ICC arbitral awards rendered in Paris in favor of a major French Bank against a Saudi Company and amounting to US\$ 150 Million.

Sept. 2011 - **GIDE LOYRETTE NOUEL A.A.R.P.I. - PARIS, International Arbitration Department**

Oct. 2012 **Senior Associate**

- Acting as counsel for a major French Bank in two ICC arbitrations, one against a Saudi company and the other against the manager and guarantor of that company in a dispute related to the termination of a loan agreement aimed to finance the construction of a hospital in Saudi Arabia. Our client was awarded US\$ 150 Million in damages. Parallel proceedings were introduced in France, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Syria.
- Acting as counsel for a US manufacturer of cleaning products in a CPR arbitration related to an alleged illegal termination of a distribution agreement concluded with a Moroccan distributor. Parallel proceedings were introduced by the distributor before local Courts. Amount in dispute: US\$ 30 Million.
- Assisting an international arbitrator in an ICC arbitration launched by a Lebanese company against an African State in a complex case related to the non-payment by the State of an old debt resulting of construction works and amounting to US\$ 700 Million.

July. 2005 –
July. 2011

LINKLATERS LLP – PARIS, Litigation and Arbitration Department
Senior Associate

- Acting as counsel in an ICC arbitration in which our client claimed damages from an African State and a state-owned company for wrongful termination of a contract giving our client an 80% interest in a mine and involving the construction of a railway and a port. The case involved a challenge to jurisdiction by the State on the basis that there was no agreement to arbitrate between it and the claimant, since it signed the agreement as supervisory authority. Our client received an award in its favor ruling that the Tribunal had jurisdiction over the African State and awarding US\$ 130 Million in damages to our client for lost opportunity, together with interest and costs.
- Acting as counsel in an ICC arbitration defending two respondents (major German and Greek companies) in the industrial gas industry in a claim for revision of prices provided for in a supply agreement for the sale of industrial gases, as well as damages in tort for acts which allegedly damaged the claimant's reputation. The amount in dispute: US\$ 200 Million.
- Acting as counsel for a major European satellite operator in the defense of a claim brought by another EU satellite operator regarding a sub-lease of certain satellite transponders and an alleged breach of certain frequency coordination agreements. We successfully challenged the jurisdiction of the Paris Commercial Court to hear the dispute on the basis of an ICC arbitration clause and then advised the client in the arbitration phase. The amount in dispute: US\$ 200 Million.
- Advising a major French company in the petroleum sector in the pre-arbitration phase regarding potential claims to be brought in ICSID arbitration proceedings associated with the possible withdrawal of our client from a joint venture project in a northern African country due to the potential refusal of a state investment advisory board to grant certain dispensations from local legislation.
- Acting as counsel in the challenge of an ICC arbitral award before the Paris Court of Appeal rendered against our client (a major German company in the industrial gas industry) on the basis that the award breached EU Competition Law principles. Amount in dispute: US\$ 200 Million.
- Acting as counsel for a Dutch company (that controls a Portuguese oil company) which received a favorable ICC award and which was the respondent in the proceedings brought before the Paris Court of Appeal seeking to set aside the award. Amount in dispute: US\$ 80 Million.
- Drafting of multi-parties and multi-contracts arbitration clauses in the context of complex international projects as for example the mining partnership concluded between Areva and Jordan to implement the nuclear civil program in the kingdom.

OTHERS

- Speaking at the 9th ICC MENA Conference held on 24 February 2021 on the "*Arbitrability of Commercial Agency Contracts in the MENA region*".
- Speaking at a conference on "*Conducting International Arbitral Proceedings in the Arab region*" organized by the ICC and held in Beirut on 21 September 2018.

- Moderating the debate on : "*The Role of the Arbitrator is to Seek and Provide Justice?*" at the ICC YAF Regional Conference held in Beirut on 30 September and 1 October 2016.
- Conducting a training organized by the ICC on a mock study under the ICC Rules among a panel of leading practitioners held at USEK University in Jounieh on 1-3 March 2016.
- Speaking at a conference organized by the CIArb (Lebanon branch) on "*Arbitration and ADR in Oil and Gas*" among a panel of leading practitioners which was held in Beirut on the 8-9 May 2014 and where I presented a paper on "*Arbitrating Against the Host State in Oil and Gas disputes*".
- Leading and conducting a workshop in Arabic on "*Raising Awareness of UAE Investors on Arbitration within the Framework of Bilateral Investment Treaties*" on the 19-20 February 2013 in Abu Dhabi. I was invited by the United Nations which organized this event in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Economy and hosted by the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Speaking at a conference organized by PWC about Perspectives in International Arbitration among a panel of leading practitioners which was held in Dubai on 15 May 2013 and where I presented a paper on "*The Challenges Pertaining to the Enforcement of Arbitral Awards in the Middle East*".