



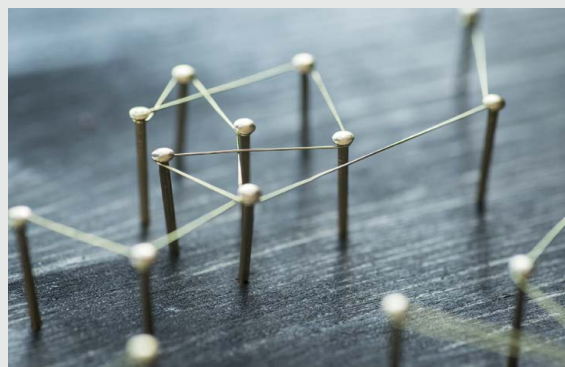
A long and illustrious career

Ali Al Aidarous of Al Aidarous Advocates & Legal Consultants talks about some of the highlights in his 35 years in advocacy work.

ABOUT YOU

I have been practising law for over 35 years and specialise in advocacy work - including both dispute resolution and arbitration. I have full rights of audience before all UAE onshore courts (at Emirate and Federal level) and before the English language common law DIFC and ADGM Courts. I am one of the few Emirati lawyers to have full rights of audience under Part 2 of the DIFC Court Rules. I speak Arabic, English, and French and some Russian. I specialise in dispute resolution in the construction sector, and on real estate development, infrastructure projects, joint ventures, and corporate matters. I began my career as a loan officer in Emirates Industrial Bank where my work involved preparing legal documentation and reviewing project feasibility studies. I was in charge of updating the bank's legal documentation including their letter of credit. One of the most memorable parts of my work there was adopting a new electronic letter of credit system. I then took up the role of an in-house counsel for a local bank which was affiliated to the leading French banking group, Société Générale. This helped to further develop my knowledge of banking facilities and arrangements. Through this work I learnt a lot about both the financial and the legal side of business. As well as appearing in court as a lawyer, I have also provided expert witness reports on UAE law in foreign courts, including in common law courts such as the Courts of England and Wales, Australia, and the US, and civil law courts in jurisdictions such as France, Norway, and Spain. As the UAE law is a civil system heavily influenced by Egyptian and French law, in these expert reports I provide courts and arbitral tribunals (particularly common law ones) with an interpretation of UAE legal issues based not only on UAE legislation and court rulings, but also on Egyptian and to some extent, French jurisprudence on issues where the UAE authorities are limited or absent. In addition, having studied Sharia Law I am also able to provide insight on the Sharia Law areas of UAE law.

One of the cases I am proudest of was our successful representation of the engineer in the Address Hotel fire case which was an action brought by the insurance company for more than one billion AED, based on their alleged liability for the spread of



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the fire in 2015. We have also represented a client in a landmark case before the DIFC Court determining the DIFC court's jurisdiction following the 2011 amendment of Dubai Law No. 12/2004 (the DIFC Judicial Authority Law) which expanded the DIFC Courts' jurisdiction.

ARBITRATION WORK

As well as my court work, I am also active in arbitration. This includes appearing as an expert witness before domestic and international arbitration forums. However, I also act as an arbitrator, including as a sole arbitrator, member of a tribunal or chair, and along with my team provide counsel on international arbitration.

I have served as a UAE representative at the court of the ICC and as part of this work I was a member of an ICC committee which reviewed and scrutinised ICC administered arbitral awards. This meant that I got to be on the other side of the arbitration process and benefitted from being part of the decision-making process.

I have also been the chair of the UAE Commission on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution for the ICC-UAE, which is a very active committee. This involved promoting ICC arbitration and making recommendations to the ICC Court in Paris for arbitrator nominations. During my term in office, we developed the Committee charter and set up a mechanism for nominating arbitrators.

The ICC-UAE Committee also organises conferences (including the popular ICC MENA Conference on International Arbitration in the UAE) and works with national arbitration committees worldwide.