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8:55 — 9:00 Opening Address by Chairman
Tom Montagu Smith Q.C., XXIV Old Buildings, London

9:00 — 9:15 Welcome Message by Dubai International Arbitration Centre
Prof. Dr Tarek Fouad A. Riad, Chairman, DIAC Executive

9:15 — 9:45 1st Keynote Speaker — Recent Developments Affecting Arbitration in the MENA Region
Michael Black Q.C., XXIV Old Buildings, London

9:45 — 10:15 Section 1 — Treaty arbitration — How to Protect Your Investment
Cross-border investments require a stable framework to succeed. At the same time, all investors should be aware of options to protect their investments and resolve disputes when necessary. Investment treaty arbitration is an increasingly popular way to achieve this objective.
Anne K. Hoffmann, Legal Director, Clyde & Co
John Lewis, Senior Associate, Clyde & Co

10:15 — 10:45 Section 2 — Avoiding Claims & Managing Disputes
Jeremy Glover, Partner, Fenwick Elliott

10:45 — 11:15 Networking & Morning Refreshment

11:15 — 11:35 Section 3 — Solving Joint Venture Disputes Between a ME and International Companies
Julian Cohen, Barrister and Arbitrator, Gilt Chambers

11:35 — 12:05 Section 4 — MENA M&A and Shareholder Disputes - Some Practical Angles
Nicholas Tse, Global Head, Arbitration, Brown Rudnick
Ravinder Thukral, Barrister & Partner, Brown Rudnick

12:05 — 12:25 Section 5 — Updates from India relating to International Arbitration
Ravi Shankar, Senior Partner, Head of Arbitration, Law Senate

12:25 — 12:45 Section 6 — Investor-State Disputes in the MENA Region: Current State and Trends
Prof. Yarik Kryvov, Director of the Investment Treaty Forum, British Institute of International and Comparative Law
Can Yehinsu, Founder Member Istanbul Arbitration Association and Barrister, 4 New Square Chambers

12:45 — 14:00 Networking Lunch

14:00 — 14:45 1st Grand Panel — Managing the Expert Witness from Both Sides - Advising Inhouse Counsels
Moderator
Victor Leginsky, Independent International Arbitrator
Panelists:
Nassif BouMalhab, Partner, Clyde & Co
Michael Black Q.C., XXIV Old Buildings, London
Shafiq Jamoos, Legal Manager, Deyaar Development PJSC

14:45 — 15:10 2nd Keynote Speaker — The Future of international Dispute Resolution Centres: The Garfield principle
Mark Beer, OBE, Chief Executive and Registrar, DIFC Courts

15:10 — 15:35 Section 7 — International Trade Disputes Resolution in the Middle East
Melissa Quai Currie, Partner Dispute Resolution, Hadef & Partners

15:35 — 16:00 Section 8 — Saving Costs and Time in An Arbitration
Joseph A. Huse, CEO and Editor, Newton Arbitration

16:00 — 16:30 Short Break & Afternoon Refreshment

16:30 — 17:20 2nd Grand Panel — Regional 2017 Update in Enforcement Rules — Different Rules Different Jurisdictions
Moderator
Alec Emmerson, Chief Executive and Trustee, DIFC Arbitration Institute
Panelists:
Christopher Grout, Registrar, QICDRC
DIAC
Mohamed A. ElGhatit, Director and Registrar, DIFC-LCIA
Sami Hourbi, Director, ICC Dispute Resolution Services for Eastern, Mediterranean, Middle-East & Africa and Partner, Hourbi Law Firm
Julian Cohen, Barrister and Arbitrator, Gilt Chambers

17:20 — 17:30 Closing Remarks & Lucky Draw

17:30 — 18:45 Networking Cocktail
Tom Montagu Smith Q.C., XXIV Old Buildings, London

Tom practices in construction, arbitration and general commercial disputes. His work includes civil fraud and Insurance and reinsurance. Tom has been involved in the DIFC Courts since their creation. He assisted in drafting the Rules of the DIFC Courts and drafted the Memorandum of Guidance signed by the DIFC and English Commercial Courts for the mutual enforcement of judgments. He has acted in many of the most important cases in the DIFC Courts. He recently appeared for DNB Bank in DNB v Gulf Eyadah, the leading case on the enforcement of foreign judgments in the DIFC and the use of the DIFC Courts as a “conduit” jurisdiction. He has appeared in many of the claims for enforcement of foreign arbitration awards.

Prof. Tarek F. Riad, Chairman, DIAC Executive Committee and Managing Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm

Prof. Tarek F. Riad is the Managing Partner of Kosheri, Rashed and Riad Law Firm (Cairo) and Professor and Head of the Department of Commercial and Business Law at the German University in Cairo (GUC). Prof. Riad has more than 32 years’ experience in International Arbitration, Litigation and Corporate Law. He has acted as counsel, co-arbitrator, Chairman or sole arbitrator in numerous arbitrations, whether ad hoc or through Institutions including the Abu Dhabi Arbitration Center, the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA), the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Prof. Riad has acted as counsel for numerous domestic and multinational corporations such as Four Seasons, Caterpillar, Colgate, Samsung and Love and Martin. Prof. Riad is an Alternate Member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and Member of the Scientific Council of the ICC World Business Law Institute, in addition to being Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and a Member of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). Prof. Riad is a graduate of the Cairo Law School (LLB 1980) and Harvard Law School (LLM 1982 and SJD 1985). A member of the Egyptian Bar since 1980, and the New York Bar since 1985, he worked at Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison in New York (1983-1984). Prof. Riad has written numerous publications including two books entitled The Applicable Law in Transnational Arbitration and the Egyptian Companies Law, in addition to many articles about arbitration and litigation in Egypt in addition to the legal aspects of doing business in Egypt.

Michael Black Q.C., XXIV Old Buildings, London

Michael Black QC has been an international disputes lawyer with experience in the MENA Region stretching back over 35 years. Chambers and Partners 2016 calls him a “go-to person on DIFC matters” and “singled out for his extensive knowledge of UAE law.”

He regularly acts both as Counsel and Arbitrator in DIAC, DIFC-LCIA/LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL and Ad-Hoc arbitrations seated in the Gulf or relating to MENA-connected disputes.

Michael was the principal draughtsman of the civil procedure rules for the DIFC Courts and was involved in the drafting of the DIFC Arbitration Law. He is a member of the Court of the Casablanca International Mediation and Arbitration Centre and one the authors of Arbitration Rules. He is a member of the ICC UK Arbitration and ADR Committee and the ICC Task Force on Emergency Arbitrators.

For 15 years he served a Deputy Judge of the Technology & Construction Court, London and latterly as a Deputy High Court Judge. He is visiting Professor of Construction & Engineering Law at the University of Manchester and visiting Scholar, National Chengchi University, Taiwan.

He is a member of the Bars of England & Wales, the Dubai International Financial Centre, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and the Singapore International Commercial Court (Foreign Lawyer).

Mark Beer, OBE, Chief Executive and Registrar, DIFC Courts

Mark joined the DIFC Courts in 2008 as Registrar and became Chief Executive in 2009. He is a Judge of the Courts’ Small Claims Tribunal, Chairman of the DIFC Legal Group, a Member of the DIFC Courts’ Rules Subcommittee, Registrar of the Special Tribunal Related to Dubai World and Chief Executive of the Dispute Resolution Authority. He is President Elect of the International Association for Court Administration. Under his management, the Courts have secured a reputation as one of the most efficient commercial courts in the world. He has played a key role in the development of the Courts many formalised relationships with partner judicial systems including New York, London, Singapore, Australia, Kenya, Korea and China. As Registrar, he undertakes judicial functions and other duties prescribed in Article 17 of the DIFC Courts Law and is responsible for administering the DIFC Courts’ office and staff. Mark previously worked for MasterCard Worldwide, where he was Regional Legal Counsel for South Asia, Middle East and Africa and later, Vice President, heading regional Government Relations and Corporate Services.

Victor P. Leginsky, Independent International Chartered Arbitrator B.Ed., FCIArb

Victor P. Leginsky, Canadian citizen, is an experienced international arbitrator and Barrister & Solicitor, resident in Dubai, UAE since April 2007. Victor has prior high-level mediation experience having been appointed by the Attorney General of British Columbia, Canada, to be the Chair of the Manufactured Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee. He brings over 25 years of arbitration experience in Canada. Victor has earned the internationally-recognized designations of Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is a committee member of the International Court of Arbitration (ICC) – UAE and member of ICC-Canada. He is alternate regional chapter co-ordinator of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN) and launched its seminar on oil & gas dispute resolution in the Middle East. He co-Instructs, with Prof. Dr. Klaus Peter Berger a practical course in International Commercial Arbitration in Dubai. He is registered as a Barrister with the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts and is a member in good standing of the Law Society of British Columbia, Canada.

Alec Emmerson, Chief Executive and Trustee, DIFC Arbitration Institute

Alec moved initially into the shipping and insurance legal sector on joining Clyde & Co in 1977, having previously spent five years handling corporate insolvencies. Both these specialties were put to good use when he managed the Hong Kong office from 1984 onwards, handling headline cases such as the Cariris from many “phantom” ship frauds. Alec also handled numerous arbitrations, investment dispute, disaster and commercial contract litigation, and was well-known in most areas of insurance dispute resolution.

He returned to London in 1996, and then moved to the Dubai office in 1999 as head of the dispute resolution group. He retired early as a partner in mid-2008 to work as an independent arbitrator and as a consultant for the firm acting for clients in complex cases including under ADCCAC, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SCIA, SIAC and SCAAC Rules. He sits as an arbitrator in a wide range of disputes under most of these institutions’ rules as well as in UNCITRAL and other ad hoc arbitrations in the agency/distributorships, construction/infrastructure, energy, financial sectors, hospitality, Insurance and reinsurance, I.T., JV’s, real estate, shipping/shipping and telecommunications.

Alec is a member of the LCIA Court, a trustee of DIFC Arbitration Institute (which runs DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre with LCIA) and its Chief Executive. He is also a member of the Emirates Racing Authority Approval Board. He has been recognised in GAR’s Who’s Who as a leading arbitrator for many years as well as in many other directories.

Shafiq Jamoos, Legal Manager, Deyaar Development PJSC

Acting as Legal Manager for the reputed real estate developer “Deyaar”, Shafiq has worked during the past years as lead counsel on a variety of complex commercial transactions, mixed use projects in Dubai, as well as some of the largest real estate disputes in Dubai and DIFC Courts. He further advised on the drafting of the real estate chapter of a new UAE federal law.

Prior to moving to Dubai in January 2013, he worked as private practitioner and professor of international law and commercial law at An-Najah National University in his hometown, Nablus- Palestine. He was also member of the first Arbitration Committee of ICC Palestine in 2012.

Shafiq received his Master of Laws from the University of Pittsburgh- US, trained at a prominent law firm in Pittsburgh, and he is Alumnus and Ambassador of the Arbitration Academy in Paris. Shafiq is also Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in London and the Arab and International Arbitrators group in Dubai.

Jeremy Glover, Partner, Fenwick Elliott

Jeremy has specialised in construction engineering and law and related matters for most of his career. He advises on all aspects of projects both at home and abroad, from initial procurement and strategic project advice to dispute avoidance and resolution. He acts across a wide range of construction sectors in the UK and internationally, including general construction, transport, communications, process plant, oil, gas, nuclear and renewables.

Recommended in the area of International Arbitration in Chambers UK and The Legal 500 UK, Jeremy is described as “extremely committed and hard-working”, he “has great attention to detail and can always see the bigger picture, and he keeps really calm under pressure”. Jeremy is listed as a leader in his field in The Who’s Who Legal: Construction 2016.

Jeremy has particular expertise in advising clients in international arbitrations under most of these institutions’ rules as well as in UNCITRAL and ad hoc rules. He is also an accredited adjudicator and regularly advises on both the conduct of adjudication and the enforcement of adjudicator decisions.

Jeremy is the co-author of Understanding The FIDIC Red Book: A Clause by Clause Commentary, the second edition of which was published in 2012, and lead editor of Building Contract Disputes: Practice and Precedents. Jeremy organises and regularly advises Fenwick Elliott hosted construction law update seminars. He also edits Fenwick Elliott’s monthly legal bulletin, Dispatch.
Nassif Bou Malhab, Partner, Clyde & Co

Nassif is a barrister and solicitor, and a Partner in Clyde & Co’s Middle East Dispute Resolution Group based in the Dubai office. He practices corporate and commercial litigation and arbitration with an emphasis on shareholder, joint venture, agency, distribution, construction, real estate disputes, and arbitration. Nassif represents a wide range of businesses, including financial institutions and leading multinational companies in the leisure and hospitality, energy, transport and logistics sectors.

Global Arbitration Review, Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration – Future Leaders 2017 acknowledges Nassif as being among the world’s leading arbitration specialists aged 45 and under. The Legal 500 recognises Nassif as one of only seven Leading Individuals for arbitration in the United Arab Emirates.

Nassif is listed amongst Asian MENA Counsel’s External Counsel of the Year 2013 for the United Arab Emirates as voted by the In-House Community, with particular praise as an arbitration practitioner.

While Nassif’s practice chiefly consists of acting as party counsel, he is regularly appointed as arbitrator by the Dubai International Arbitration Centre and the DIFC-LCIA to resolve corporate and commercial disputes. Nassif if fluent in French and English, and is Arabic speaking.

Melissa Qual Currie, Dispute Resolution Partner, Hadef & Partners

Melissa is a Partner in Hadef & Partners Dispute Resolution team advising on commercial disputes. She specialises in complex, often cross-border, arbitration and litigation. She has worked in London, Moscow, Perth and Dubai on many multi-jurisdictional disputes and is experienced in resolving disputes in emerging markets.

Melissa has acted for major international corporations and banks in commercial, corporate, real estate, investment, finance, energy & resources and commodity pricing disputes.

Her international arbitration experience includes representing clients in ad hoc and institutional arbitrations. She has represented clients in arbitrations under the LCIA, ICC, DIAC, SCC and UNCITRAL Rules.

Melissa acts for clients in disputes in the DIFC Courts and in multi-jurisdictional emerging markets litigation.

Melissa is also experienced in representing clients in freezing order and injunction actions (whether in local courts, offshore jurisdictions or in support of arbitrations) as well as enforcing judgments and arbitration awards worldwide.

Prior to joining Hadef & Partners, Melissa was a Senior Associate at Clifford Chance working in Litigation and Dispute Resolution in Moscow and Perth.

She is admitted to practice in England & Wales and Australia (the High Court and Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Western Australia).

Christopher Grout, Registrar, Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre

Christopher has been based at the QICDRC in Doha for just over three years. As Registrar, he is head of the Registry that services both the Qatar International Court and the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Tribunal. He also manages the Dispute Resolution Centre which, over the past year, has played host to a number of arbitrations and mediations where, in the case of arbitrations, the seat has been the State of Qatar. In addition, the Qatar International Court exercises judicial oversight where the seat of the arbitration is the Qatar Financial Centre and so this too falls within Christopher’s remit. More specifically, Christopher is responsible for the management aspects of the Centre and in particular the case management of cases that come before the Court and Tribunal. Where required, Christopher will provide procedural directions in relation to cases and, along with his team, will be available to assist parties with any queries they may have in relation to the workings of the Centre. Amongst other things, he chairs a number of QICDRC user committees, actively engages with the development of legal and judicial education and training in the State of Qatar and provides ad-hoc lectures at a number of universities both in Qatar and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, Christopher is a practicing barrister in England and Wales at 15 New Bridge Street, the Chambers of David Aarongberg QC and James Mulholland QC, having been called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2007. Christopher’s main specialism is in the field of crime where he regularly defends across a broad spectrum of criminal offences.

Anne K. Hoffmann, Legal Director, Clyde & Co

Anne is a Legal Director at Clyde & Co in Dubai. Prior to moving to Dubai in 2013, she practiced in London and Geneva for more than a decade. A lawyer qualified to practice both in Germany as well as in England & Wales, Anne’s practice focuses on international commercial and investment arbitration where she regularly acts as counsel in disputes arising under all major rules (in particular ICC, LCIA, CISID, Swiss Rules, DIAC, UNCITRAL) as well as in ad hoc proceedings involving disputes from a wide variety of sectors, governed by various procedural and substantive laws. Anne also regularly serves as arbitrator, in both commercial and investment arbitrations.

Anne is also a visiting lecturer at Humboldt University Berlin and regularly speaks and publishes on arbitration issues. She is recognized by Who is Who Legal as one of the legal arbitration practitioners in the UAE. She speaks English, German, French and Russian.

John Lewis, Senior Associate, Clyde & Co

John has practised commercial dispute resolution in the Middle East since 2006 at which time John was based in Sana’a, Yemen, representing the Government of Yemen in what is recognized as one of the major arbitration successes of recent years. Following the successful outcome of that arbitration, John relocated to Clyde & Co’s Dubai office in 2008 and has practised out of Dubai ever since.

John’s practice focuses on commercial litigation and international arbitration with an emphasis on corporate, commercial, real estate and transport and logistics disputes. He has acted as counsel in arbitrations proceeding under various rules by a range of international institutions including DIAC, ICC, LCIA and the DIFC-LCIA and currently sits as arbitrator on a number of DIAC arbitrations.

Mohamed EI-Ghazali, Director, DIFC-LCIA

Mohamed is the Director of the DIFC-LCIA. He has more than 10 years’ experience working in the Middle East. Previously he worked in Hogan Lovells’s dispute resolution group where he regularly acted as counsel and arbitrator in a broad range of complex and transnational disputes in various sectors including real estate, construction, oil and gas, IT, hotels and tourism and banking. Mohamed spent a significant portion of his time advising on engine and general construction disputes. He has handled cases under most of the major arbitration rules, including ICC, LCIA, DIAC, CRCICA, QIAC and UNCITRAL. Arab Civil law qualified, Mohamed is also able to advise clients in regional Court litigation. He has also been involved in Court litigations in numerous jurisdictions including, Egypt, Syria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE (including DIIFC) and England.

Mohamed has been recognised in a number of industry publications including Legal 500 and Chambers where he is seen as a “tremendous asset” and “a bilingual lawyer with a solid knowledge of litigation.” Previously, Mohamed worked for the Ministry of Justice in Egypt.

Sami Hourbi, Director, ICC Arbitration and ADR for the Mediterranean, Middle-East and Africa and Partner, Hourbi Law Firm

Sami Hourbi is the Director of the ICC Eastern Mediterranean, Middle-East and Africa ICC Dispute Resolution Services, where he is in charge of raising awareness about Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms throughout the region and promoting ICC Arbitration and ADR Rules. Prior to that, he was member of the Secretariat of the International Court of Arbitration in Paris, where he was directly involved in the administration and managing ICC arbitration proceedings.

Mr Hourbi is a registered lawyer of the Tunis Bar Association and the Managing Partner of Hourbi Law firm, which areas of practice include mainly: Corporate Law, Arbitration and Litigation. Sami Hourbi acts regularly as arbitrator under ad hoc and various international arbitration institutions. He holds a post-graduate degree in international law from the University of Paris II and an LL.M in German Law from the Ludwig-Maximillian University in Munich. His working languages are Arabic, English, French and German.

Ravi Shankar, Senior Partner, Head of Arbitration, Law Senate

S. Ravi Shankar is an International arbitration lawyer practising in the field of arbitration and corporate dispute resolution. He is a Senior Partner in the New Delhi based Law Senate Law firm. He is a qualified Advocate on Record in the Supreme Court of India. He is also the President of “Arbitration Association of India” which is a national body of practitioners, arbitrators and users. He is holding a Post graduate degree in Business Administration and a degree in the field of law. He is having about 20 years of experience in the field of dispute resolution and has travelled across the globe on various assignments. He has published various publications in the field of law particularly in the field of Arbitration. He also has addressed various international conferences and conferences in the field of dispute resolution. He has handled various high value arbitrations and litigations in India and outside India. He is an active member of various international professional organisations including IBA, ICCA, IAI, AAI etc.

Julian Cohen, Barrister and Arbitrator, Gilt Chambers

Julian has nearly 25 years of specialist experience of heavyweight international commercial arbitration in Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Europe. In addition to acting as counsel, he also acts sits regularly as an arbitrator. His areas of practice include a wide range of company and commercial disputes as well as construction and engineering arbitrations. He was called to the Bar in England in 1990, became a solicitor in 1991, and moved to Hong Kong in 1998. He was a Partner in the Construction and Engineering Disputes practice of Pinsent Masons before moving to the Hong Kong Bar in 2010. Julian has been recognised as one of the world’s leading construction disputes lawyers (Expert Guides 2013 and 2015) and lectures and writes regularly on arbitration related topics.
Joseph A. Huse, CEO and Editor, Newton Arbitration

Joseph Huse is the CEO and Editor of Newton Arbitration. (Newton Arbitration is an international arbitration think tank with a web-based international arbitration resource platform.)

Prior to 2012, he was the MENA Regional Managing Partner of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP and a member of its Projects and International Arbitration Groups for over twenty years.

Ravinder Thukral, Barrister & Partner, Brown Rudnick

Ravinder is a barrister and partner in Brown Rudnick’s London office. His practice focuses on a wide range of commercial disputes in litigation, arbitration and mediation. He has particular experience of banking and finance, civil fraud, real estate, shareholder and employment disputes both in the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

Ravinder also represents individuals and businesses charged with criminal offences including fraud, regulatory offences and money laundering. He has appeared in the High Court (Commercial Court and Chancery Division) and the appellate courts, as well as the DIFC Courts (Dubai) and QF Court (Qatar).

Nicholas Tse, Global Head, Arbitration, Brown Rudnick

Nicholas Tse is an experienced commercial advocate who has acted both for and against governments, multinationals, banks, and financial institutions.

He heads our worldwide international arbitration team and leads the Firm’s MENA Practice Group, but is also active in advising governments and corporates on risk allocation and management for major projects and transactions, especially in developing countries and emerging markets.

Nicholas is an English barrister. Bilingual, he subsequently qualified as a French Avocat, and frequently handles matters in both English & French.

He is also admitted before the DIFC Courts and the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, and regularly acts in complex multi-jurisdictional & offshore matters.

Nicholas Tse is a barrister at 4 New Square Chambers where he undertakes a broad range of commercial disputes work, specialising in international and commercial litigation and in particular international commercial arbitration. Can also practices in the areas of constitutional law, sports law, public law and human rights law.

His notable experience in the field includes work on major disputes, projects, and/or transactions across the globe. As well as work before the English Courts, he has represented China vs. the US before the WTO Appellate Body, and has handled many cases involving the MENA region, appearing as counsel in high profile cases before the DIFC Courts and the Dubai World Tribunal, and major arbitrations in London, Paris, New York, Geneva and Dubai, as well as offshore in Bermuda, the BVI, Cayman, Jersey, and the DIFC Courts.

Can Yeginsu is a barrister at 4 New Square Chambers

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Can Yeginsu, Founder Member Istanbul Arbitration Association and Barrister, 4 New Square Chambers

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For enquiries and registration, please contact Alma Lam

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