

	<b>Title:</b>	Ms.
	<b>First / Given Name:</b>	Aarta
	<b>Family / Surname:</b>	Alkarimi
	<b>Post-Nominals:</b>	LL.M. C.Arb, DipICIArb, FCIArb (arb/med)
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	<b>Nationality</b>	British (birth) Persian (ancestry)
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### Awards / Recognitions

- Lawyer Monthly ADR Awards - Mediator of the Year, United Arab Emirates (2023)
- Top 5 most appointed female arbitrators worldwide in Construction Arbitration – Jus Mundi (2023)
- Arbitration Practitioner of the Month, Jus Mundi (September 2022)
- Who’s Who Legal (WWL) - Global Leader in Construction Law (2014 through 2020, and 2023)
- As part of WWL’s (2023) independent research peers and clients state:
  - *“Aarta is a market-leading name.”*
  - *“She is a very impressive arbitrator who holds her own among more experienced colleagues and always provides sensible direction.”*
  - *“She is skilled both as a construction lawyer and a lawyer.”*
- Best Female Arbitrator in second place, Dubai International Arbitration Centre (2018)

### Bar Admission

**Attorney:** New York State Bar (2002)

### Court Admissions

United Arab Emirates, DIFC Courts in Part II (2015 and due for renewal)  
Supreme Court of the United States of America (2008)  
Federal District Court of the Southern District of New York (2005)

### Positions

#### Current:

1. Founding Partner - Chrysalis International Legal Advisors (2016 – present)
2. Officer/Council Member-Diversity & International Council, International Bar Association (2019-present)
3. Vice-Chair, International Bar Association – International Projects Committee (2024-2026)

#### Previous:

4. Senior Counsel - Nabarro (Middle East) LLP (Dubai- 2014-2016)
5. Senior Diversity & Inclusion Officer - International Bar Association’s (IBA) committee on International Projects (UK- 2019-2020)
6. Co-Chair- the International Bar Association’s (IBA) Sub-Committee on International Construction Projects (UK- 2018-2020)
7. Co-Vice-chair - IBA, Sub-Committee on International Construction Projects (UK- 2016-2018)
8. Counsel – Chadbourne & Park (Dubai - 2012-2014)
9. Senior Associate - Squire Patton Boggs (Abu Dhabi and Doha - 2008-2012)
10. Associate – Peckar & Abramson PC (New York- 2003-2008)

## Professional Accreditations

1. Chartered Arbitrator (C.Arb)
2. Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Fellow (Arb/Med - FCIArb)
3. CIArb Accredited Mediator
4. Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (DipICIArb)
5. New York State Bar – Licensed Attorney

## ADR / Professional Experience

### Examples of Arbitral Appointments:

#### Chairperson

- ICC sits on a complex multi-party construction dispute under Qatari laws (seated in Qatar)
- DIAC - Sat as chairperson on a dispute with respect to construction and fit out of a hospital project (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC - Sat as chairperson on a construction dispute arising out of wrongful termination/excessive descopeing of the project, design defects, unpaid variation orders (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC - Sat as chairperson on a real estate dispute with respect to late handover, design defects various other breaches (seated in Dubai)

#### Sole Arbitrator

- ICC - sits as sole arbitrator in a dispute involving acquisition of a company active in mineral manufacturing (governing laws Iran, seat of arbitration Istanbul)
- ICC - Sits as sole arbitrator or a commercial arbitration related to the food and drug industries (seat Abu Dhabi Global Market)
- DIAC – sits as sole arbitrator on a dispute arising out of a value engineering contract with respect to large development in Abu Dhabi (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC- sits as Sole arbitrator on a construction dispute between employer and contractor with respect to a high-rise building in Dubai (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC – sits as sole arbitrator on a dispute arising out of a value engineering contract with respect to a large development in Abu Dhabi (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC - sat as sole arbitrator on a complex construction dispute involving encashment of advance payment guarantee, termination of contractor and allegations of fraud (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC – sat as sole arbitrator on a complex construction dispute with respect to construction of internal road systems of a large development in the UAE (seated in Dubai)
- DIFC/LCIA Sat as sole arbitrator on an intellectual property and shareholder's dispute (seated in DIFC, UAE)
- DIAC- sat as sole arbitrator on a shareholders dispute related to the sale of an advertising agency (seated in the Dubai)
- DIAC– Sat as sole arbitrator on a real estate related dispute with respect to sale and late delivery of two identical unites in a high-rise building in Dubai (seated in the Dubai)
- DIAC- sat as sole arbitrator on a real estate related dispute with respect to late handover of a villa project Dubai (seated in the Dubai)
- DIAC - sat as sole arbitrator on a real estate related dispute with respect to sale of an apartment unit (seated in the Dubai).
- DIAC – sat as sole Arbitrator in a real estate dispute with respect to payment of the registration fees (seated in Dubai)

#### Co-Arbitrator

- Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC) sat on a complex dispute in relation to construction of a strategic infrastructure project (seated in Abu Dhabi)
- DIAC Case –dispute in relation to construction of a highway (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC –commercial agency/consultancy agreement dispute with respect to a chain of hospitals in the Middle East (seated in Dubai)
- DIAC – dispute in relation to a construction of a waterway system (seated in Qatar).
- LCIA- dispute related to a dredging contract (seated Doha, Qatar)
- DIAC - complex construction case (seated in the Dubai)

- DIAC – appointed by LCIA court as co-arbitrator with respect to a complex and high value construction dispute in relation to cladding and fireproofing (seated in Doha, Qatar)
- Ad hoc arbitration –in relation to a shareholder’s dispute seated in the (seated in DIFC, UAE)
- Institutional case, appointed by the parties in relation to high value construction dispute with respect to an airport project in the region (seat is confidential)
- ADCCAC – potential breach of a high value supply agreement for a strategic project in Abu Dhabi (seated in Abu Dhabi)
- ADCCAC– high value construction dispute (seated in Abu Dhabi)

**Counsel:**

**Chrysalis (FZE), Dubai, UAE (2016 -Present)**

- Represents family office in relation to a DIAC arbitration arising out of construction of a luxury villa on Palm Jumeirah – dispute is in relation to delay, and design defects value of the dispute (claim and counterclaim) is AED 10.5 million and the seat is Dubai.
- Represented UAE Contractor in DIFC/LCIA arbitration against Saudi owner in relation to a re-measurable contract involving a mixed-use facility in the UAE. Claims exceed AED 500 million in relation to wrongful termination, unpaid variations, unpaid certified payments; and counterclaims of AED 600 million for design defect and progress delays/liquidated damages.
- Represented Contractor in a DIAC arbitration exceeding AED 86 million in claims in relation to construction of an iconic high-rise in Dubai.
- Advised employer with legal aspects in management of a contract in relation to construction of a hotel (to be operated by the Marriott Group) in Dubai.
- Represented Developer/Respondent in a DIAC arbitration related to a high-profile mixed-use facility of over 106 stories comprising of hotel, apartments, and a shopping complex in relation to prolongation costs, valuation of variations and allegation of wrongful termination in total claims of AED 1 billion.
- Represented developer in a DIAC arbitration related to a mixed-use facility in Dubai in relation to a delay claim exceeding AED 212 million.
- As co-counsel, represented a regional solar company/claimant in an LCIA arbitration seated in London against a French company involving construction of a 40-megawatt solar project in a Middle Eastern Country.
- Advised a South Asian government in relation to termination of the main contractor on its major airport.
- Advised contractor in claims related to construction of compressor stations of the Turkish section of a significant transnational pipeline project. Claims involve compensation for design changes imposed by the Employer/Owner. Project is over USD 8 billion.
- Liaised with and managed external counsel and reported to head of legal of a client/Saudi conglomerate, in relation to an anticipated DIAC arbitration involving an AED 400 million shareholder dispute.
- Managed external counsels (two law firms based in Dubai) and reported to the head of legal of a client/developer in relation to over twenty-five ADCCAC and DIAC arbitrations.
- As co-counsel, represented Respondent (transportation company) in two international arbitrations, in relation to claims arising out of transportation and sale of jet fuel to a Swiss company for use by significant intergovernmental military alliance forces in Afghanistan.

- Instructed and managed external law firm and tax advisers on behalf of the private office of a prominent UAE family on a variety of complex property-tax related issues involving properties in the UK.
- Supervised and managing the restructuring of UK and offshore real estate holding companies of a family office in relation to assets that are located in the UK, France and Italy.
- Advised German supplier in a dispute (potential ADCCAC arbitration) with contractor on a government funded infrastructure project in the Middle East.
- Represented a solar engineering company in construction of a 15-Megawatt solar project in the Middle East.
- Advised a private business owner in relation to restructuring of real estate assets, succession and estate planning in the UAE and UK.
- Represented developer in relation to a Master Development Agreement between a company held by UAE nationals and a Chinese developer in relation to development of two towers in major Middle Eastern city.
- Instructed and managed Canadian lawyers on behalf of a UAE engineering company in relation to claims filed before the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia involving a project in Abu Dhabi.
- Advises Swiss chocolate manufacturer (family-owned business) in relation to setting up an operation in the UAE.
- Managed US IP counsel on behalf of a UAE engineering company in relation to purchase of IP assets from a US entity as part of a global acquisition.

**Nabarro (Middle East) LLP, Dubai, UAE (2014-2016)**

- Performed due diligence and contract review, advised client on chances of success with respect to claims arising from construction of a large housing development in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Advised a UAE owned limited liability company, in a joint venture with a US defense contractor and Swedish technology provider. Project included transfer of assets and intellectual property rights from various jurisdictions to the UAE-based joint venture entity. The transaction was structured to gain offset points from “Tawazun” for the US defense contractor in relation to its arms sales to the UAE government.
- Assisted with preparation and presentation of several RFPs in relation to the firm’s business development efforts.

**Chadbourne & Parke LLC, Dubai, UAE (2012-2015)**

- Advised Turkish contractor in preparation for arbitration in relation to upgrades to Abu Dhabi’s waterway and sewage systems in claims exceeding AED 500 million.
- Advised India’s largest private school establishment in all corporate commercial and construction matters related to set up and operation of schools in the UAE. Advised the same entity in relation to its expansion into Bahrain and Kuwait.
- Advised Saudi Arabian contractor in connection with construction of one of Saudi Arabia’s largest university campuses and surrounding mixed-use facilities in Jeddah. Tasks included providing day-to-day advice in relation to contractual obligations and dispute avoidance that arose during construction, preparation of delay and direct cost claims in anticipation for formal dispute resolution.

- Advised and represented an education entity in arbitration against the Engineer in construction of its campus in Dubai.

**Squire Patton Boggs, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2009-2015)**

- Advised Australian/UAE general contractor in claims related to extension of time, valuation of works, and injunction of project bonds related to a hospitality and residential project.
- Represented regional government's steering committee in one of the largest airport expansions in the GCC in matters related to construction of passenger terminal and maintenance hangar. Representation included strategic advice in relation to schedule overruns, variation orders filed by contractors, design defect claims, re-negotiation, and eventual de-scoping of certain sections of project management and EPC contracts, drafted and negotiated construction of telecommunication towers related to indoor and outdoor network coverage, advised client with respect to termination at cause and for convenience of several contractors.
- Led mediation of several large claims with respect to construction of Doha International Airport's maintenance hangar.
- Lead associate in drafting project management and design services agreement for phase one of the Etihad Rail Project (Shah Habshan line) in Abu Dhabi.
- Lead associate in drafting and revising sewage services contracts with private and public entities on behalf of Abu Dhabi Sewage Services Company.
- Assisted with preparing draft of the Owners' Association rules for Sun & Sky Tower on Reem Island, Abu Dhabi.
- Represented large Qatari owner/developer in claims exceeding USD 100 million with respect to construction of a golf resort in Morocco.
- Represented owner/investor in matters related to construction of Queen Alia Airport in Amman, Jordan.
- Represented UAE Sovereign Wealth Fund in negotiations with respect to development of real estate in Bahrain.
- Counseled UAE Sovereign Wealth Fund in class action related to its investments in US and European funds.
- Advised India's largest private school group with its expansion plans across the Middle East; including compliance with KHDA, ADIC, and Sharjah Education Zone regulations.

**Peckar & Abramson, New York, USA (2003-2009)**

- Firm's sole relationship attorney (for New Jersey real estate matters) to the world's largest public corporation by revenue. Responsibilities included management of the Client's account related to corporate and real estate matters in the State of New Jersey, liaising with client's legal department and the relevant real estate and corporate teams in charge of the assignment at the Firm.
- Represented lump sum turnkey contractor on various matters related to construction of a USD 5.4 billion crude oil pipeline, connecting the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. Representation included assisting with preparation of direct cost and delay claims in anticipation for ICSD arbitration. The assignments included extensive overseas travel over the course of 30 months and working alongside a prominent London law firm in alliance with Peckar & Abramson.
- Advised one of the largest Indian developers with respect to construction of two major townships in Mumbai and Chennai, India. The total cost of the project exceeds USD 700 million -

representation included contract drafting and negotiation with various parties including US based design consultants and resident architect in India.

- Represented owner/developer in a USD 70 million design defect claim regarding construction of an international terminal at one of the major airports on the East Coast of the United States.
- Represented owner of a commercial building in Manhattan against the owner's insurance company for non-payment of the covered loss in a claim arising out of extensive water damage to the structure and interiors (the Court of Appeals' decision in this action set precedent in New York State, giving rise to collection of consequential damages as a result of the insurer's breach of contract).

#### **Panel Admissions**

- Presidential Panel of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Dubai International Arbitration Center (DIAC)
- Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)
- Maldives International Arbitration Centre (MIAC)
- Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC)
- Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC)
- Abu Dhabi Global Markets (ADGM)
- Russian Arbitration Center (RAC)
- Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC)
- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)
- Asia Pacific Maritime Arbitration Centre (through KCAB)
- American Arbitration Association – International Center for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)

#### **Sectors / Practice Areas (*indicative, not exhaustive*)**

- Construction, engineering, and infrastructure
- Commodities
- Commercial Agency
- Environment
- Employment
- Civil/Commercial
- Corporate and Companies
- International Trade
- Real Estate
- Oil and gas
- Pipelines
- Shareholder and partnership disputes
- Transportation
- Technology

#### **Publications**

- Article - "*Mediation: What Are the Benefits to Clients and Counsel?*" - Lawyer Monthly/Online July 2022
- Article/Questionnaire Diversity & Inclusion Initiative IBA - Construction Law International Volume 16 Issue 4 December 2021
- Country update - "*Changes to Dubai's legislation on arbitration centers*" IBA's Construction Law International - March 2022
- Article - "*Keys to Successful Project Establishment*" IBA's Construction Law International quarterly journal - April 2019
- IBA Guidelines peer reviewed Persian/Farsi translations of "*The IBA Guidelines on Conflict of Interest in International Arbitration*" Online and in print – April 2018

- IBA Guidelines peer reviewed the Persian/Farsi translations of “*the IBA Rules on Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration*” – April 2018
- IBA Guidelines peer reviewed the Persian/Farsi translations of “the IBA Rules on Taking on Party Representation” Online and in print – 2018
- Article - “*Tackling Global Construction Claims in the Middle East*” BCDR International Arbitration Review Volume 4, Issue 1 (2017) pp. 175 – 193
- Article - “*The Road to Qatar’s Construction of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Stadiums*”- IBA’s Construction Law International October 2016
- Article - “*Tips for Construction Contractors to Avoid Costly Missteps*” - Chadbourne’s Project Finance NewsWire and Lexolgy online - April 2013
- “*Construction Law 2008*”- United States Chapter Getting the Deal Through, 2008.
- “*Construction Law 2007*”- United States Chapter Getting the Deal, Through 2007.

### Speaking / Lecturer Engagements

- Moderator - “*energy-transition landscape insights and strategies for effective procurement and dispute resolution in this evolving sector*, International Bar Association’s Annual Conference, Paris, France– November 2023.
- Instructor/Trainer - Dubai International Arbitration Centre, DIAC’s stage two arbitration training. Dubai, UAE – October 2023
- Speaker - “*Ask the Arbitrator*” Vinson & Elkins’ Global Construction Conference Series. Middle East Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure Conference. Dubai, UAE - October 2023
- Instructor - “*The Moot Court Bench, International Commercial Arbitration Program*”. Colombo Sri Lanka (conducted online) – June 2023.
- Instructor/Trainer - Dubai International Arbitration Centre, DIAC’s stage one arbitration training. Dubai, UAE – May 2022
- Speaker - “*Ask the Arbitrator*” Vinson & Elkins’ Global Construction Conference Series. Middle East Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure Conference. Dubai, UAE - November 2022
- Speaker – “*Impact of War and Conflict on International Arbitration*” - GAR LIVE Dubai - November 2022.
- Moderator - “*The Impact of ESG in Construction & Infrastructure Projects*”, International Bar Association’s Annual Conference, Miami, USA – October 2022.
- Speaker - “*Forum on the key issues and opportunities for female legal professionals seeking greater diversity within the profession. In partnership with Arbitra International and with the support of Arbitral Women, the GREAT Legal Services team at the UK Ministry of Justice*”. Dubai, UAE – May 2022.
- Speaker - “*Issues arising during the life cycle of the UAE seated arbitrations*”. Online event organized by CIArb’s UAE Chapter. Dubai UAE – 2020.
- Moderator – “*Update on the Society of Construction Law Delay and Disruption Protocol - What’s New, What’s Better?*” A webinar presented by the IBA International Construction Projects Committee of the IBA Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL). – September 2020
- Moderator - “*Effective tools in managing diversity and inclusion challenges in the construction industry*”. A webinar presented by the IBA International Construction Projects Committee of the IBA Section on Energy, Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL). October 2020

- Speaker/Tutor - US Department of Commerce – Office of the General Counsel –Commercial Law Development Program lecturer on International Commercial Arbitration for Maldives International Arbitration Centre, Malaysian International Arbitration Centre, Kabul Arbitration Centre, Sri Lankan International Arbitration Centre. 2018 – present.
- Moderator - “*Use of New Technology Including Blockchain and Smart Contracts in Relation to the Construction Industry*”, IBA Working Weekend - Athens, Greece - May 2019.
- Moderator - “*An Interjurisdictional Approach to Penalties and Liquidated Damages in Construction Contracts. Differences, Similarities and Red Flags for the Unwary*”, Co-panelist, International Bar Association’s Committee on Construction Law- Edinburgh, Scotland. May 2017.
- Speaker - “*Quantum in International Arbitration*”, 5th ICC MENA Conference on International Arbitration. Co-panelist. Dubai, UAE. April 4, 2017.
- Speaker - “*Lessons Learned from the Construction of Major Sports Facilities in the World – Road to Construction of Qatar’s 2022 FIFA Sports Facilities*” International Bar Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., USA – September 19, 2016.
- Speaker - “*Construction and Engineering - Legal Aspects of Mega Projects*” – Saudi Law training Center. Dubai, UAE - May 2015.
- Moderator - “*EPC Contracts Are They All Inclusive?*”, International Bar Association’s Planning Committee Meeting Cancun, Mexico - May 2015.
- Speaker - “*Use and Abuse of Tiered Dispute Resolution Processes*,” International Bar Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, USA - October 6, 2013.
- Speaker - “*Construction Contracting in the Middle East*,” Kharafi National Group Workshop, Kuwait- June 2013.
- Speaker - “*Insight on the Region and the Challenges Faced: Defining the Areas Where You Should Develop Resilient Risk Mitigation Strategies*”, 6th Annual Arabian World Construction Summit, (MEED Conferences) Abu Dhabi, UAE- May 15, 2013.
- Speaker - “*How to Promote Your Business and Attract Talent*”, Women's Solar Seminar - MENASOL 2013, Dubai, UAE - May 13, 2013.
- Speaker - “*Construction contracts in the Middle East: expect the unexpected*” IBA Annual Conference- Dubai UAE (2011)
- Speaker - Mock session on Procurement under FIDIC Redbook. IBA Annual Conference. Madrid Spain – October 2009

#### Languages

- Active (*for oral hearings*): English (native), Persian (native), French and Arabic (basic)
- Passive (*for reading documents*): English (native), Persian (native), French and Arabic (basic)
- Drafting (*for writing Awards/Decisions/etc.*): English and Persian

#### Education

- LL.M International Business and Trade Law, Fordham University, New York New York (2002)
- LL.B, Tehran University (2000)
- Oxford Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (2021)
- CIArb Accredited Mediator (2019)

#### Professional Memberships



- Committee Member - CI Arb UAE Branch
- Officer and Council Member - Diversity & Inclusion Counsel of the International Bar Association (IBA)
- Member- Society of Construction Law (Gulf)
- Member- New York State Bar Association
- Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow and Chartered Arbitrator - Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb)
- Member - London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Users' Councils
- Member - ICC UAE Chapter
- Member- ArbitralWomen
- Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand Inc (Fellow)

**Technology**

ICC Case Connect and other document management systems, Zoom, Microsoft Teams.  
Have conducted several virtual hearings as co and sole arbitrator.

**Availability** Generally available for overseas and international appointment with the ability to travel to most locations