SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Ravinder Bhullar



Partner

Dubai **Abu Dhabi**
T +971 4 447 8742

ravinder.bhullar@squirepb.com

About Ravinder

Ravinder Bhullar specialises in international commercial arbitration and international litigation matters, with a focus on disputes arising out of engineering/construction, infrastructure, real estate and hospitality, and energy projects.

Ravinder has extensive experience in arbitrations conducted under the rules of the ICC, DIAC, LCIA and SCC, as well as *ad hoc* arbitrations under the UNCITRAL and other procedural rules. While experienced in arbitrations seated around the world, he has particular expertise in arbitration and dispute resolution connected with the Middle East and Gulf regions. Ravinder represents parties across multiple industry sectors, including construction, energy and natural resources, infrastructure, mining, and oil and gas, where he has advised owners/investors, governments, contractors and insurers. He has also served as an arbitrator in several significant arbitrations.

Ravinder also frequently advises clients on disputes concerning financial institutions, insurance and international trade.

Ravinder has been ranked as a leading international arbitration and construction lawyer in publications such as *The Legal 500*, where he is recommended for construction, and *Chambers Global*, where he has for many years been ranked for Construction: Dispute Resolution.

Prior to joining the firm, Ravinder served as an international arbitration and dispute resolution partner at another international law firm.

Experience

Construction/Engineering and Civil Infrastructure

- Representing an employer, a Middle East government, in *ad hoc* arbitration proceedings against a contractor, a Greece-UAE joint venture, arising out of construction and commissioning of a sewage treatment plant. The dispute involves substantial claims for extension of time, compensation for alleged acceleration measures and counterclaims for liquidated damages.

- Representing an employer, a UAE government-controlled entity, in ICC arbitration proceedings against a contractor, a Hong Kong-UAE joint venture, arising out of the construction of a mixed-use tower in Dubai. These proceedings involve claims for extensions of time, prolongation costs and counterclaims for liquidated damages and other losses.
- Representing an employer, a UAE government-controlled entity, in an *ad hoc* arbitration, two separate DIAC arbitrations, and statutory tribunal proceedings against a UAE-based contractor, arising out of construction of infrastructure at two separate master developments in the UAE.
- Advising an employer, a UAE government-controlled utility entity, on claims asserted by a prominent Spain-based international contractor arising out of the construction of an open cycle gas turbine power station (peak load unit) in the UAE.
- Advising a main contractor, a Japanese-led consortium, on multibillion-dollar disputes and possible arbitration proceedings in relation to civil works on the Dubai Metro project. These were quite likely the largest construction disputes in the world at the time.
- Advising one of the world's largest contractors on claims against a concession holder under an English law governed cost reimbursable construction and engineering contract regarding facilities for an iron ore mine in West Africa.
- Representing an employer, a UAE government-controlled entity, in a Dispute Adjudication Board process against a joint venture of prominent Europe-based international contractors in connection with the deep tunnel storm water system project.
- Representing a UK-based firm of architects (and its professional indemnity insurer) in Dubai International Financial Centre Court proceedings relating to the design and construction supervision of a major tower development in Dubai, UAE. This was one of the first construction disputes before the DIFC Courts.
- Representing a main contractor in separate *ad hoc* and DIAC arbitration proceedings in Dubai against the employer and a nominated subcontractor arising out of construction of a high-rise development in the UAE.
- Representing a subcontractor in arbitration proceedings against a China-based civil works contractor in connection with the Nad Al Sheba Racecourse development in Dubai.
- Advising a UAE-based marine engineering firm on disputes arising out of the construction of a living quarters module and helipad for an offshore gas processing plant in Indonesia.
- Advising an employer on disputes, including a DAB referral and ICC arbitration, arising out of a multibillion-dollar EPC contract regarding a large hydroelectric scheme in South America.
- Advising an international petroleum company on disputes with (i) an African government under a concession agreement and (ii) an EPC contractor, in relation to the construction of a light petroleum pipeline in Africa.
- Advising an employer, a UAE government-controlled entity, on claims and potential liabilities arising out of three substantial road interchange projects being undertaken by an Italy-based international contractor.
- Advising an India-based EPC contractor on disputes against an international petroleum company in relation to alleged delays to completion of piping works for a condensate fractionation plant in Saudi Arabia.
- Advising a Hong Kong-based international contractor on disputes with employers and subcontractors on two separate high-rise projects in Dubai.
- Advising a large US-based design consultant regarding payment disputes, and defending claims for alleged negligence, arising out of an iconic project in Dubai.

Real Estate and Hospitality

- Representing an investment bank in ICC arbitration proceedings against a global hotel operator arising out of hotel management and related agreements in respect of a hotel and branded residences project in Eastern Europe.
- Representing a UAE government-controlled developer in two DIAC arbitration proceedings against a private sub-developer in relation to the sale and purchase of land for development on a substantial coastal project. These arbitrations form part of a broader dispute, involving claims and counterclaims of around US$1 billion.
- Representing a UAE government-controlled developer in DIAC arbitration proceedings against a private sub-developer in relation to the sale and purchase of a reclaimed island in the Arabian Gulf.
- Representing a UAE government-controlled entity in DIAC arbitration proceedings against a private property developer in relation to the sale and purchase of plots on an iconic offshore development in Dubai.
- Representing a UAE government-controlled entity in five separate DIAC arbitration proceedings against private property developers in relation to the sale and purchase of plots of land in Dubai.

General Commercial

- Representing an India-based software company in ICC arbitration proceedings against a prominent US-based oilfield services company arising out of a software licensing agreement.
- Representing a group of Yemen and UAE entities in SCC arbitration proceedings against a Chinese household goods manufacturer for wrongful termination of a joint venture agreement for the distribution of goods in the Middle East and North Africa.
- Representing a UK-based household goods manufacturer in ICC arbitration proceedings against a Middle East distributor regarding termination of a commercial agency agreement.
- Representing a UAE-based commercial bank in ADCCAC arbitration proceedings arising out of alleged guarantees regarding its customer's purchase of three high-rise buildings in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- Advising an Asia-based infrastructure provider on potential disputes under multiple English law governed agreements regarding a long-term project in Saudi Arabia.

Energy and Natural Resources

- Advising a Saudi Arabia government-controlled entity on a series of disputes arising out of power purchase agreements in connection with its IPP programme. Issues also included those arising out of corresponding EPC contracts relating to delay, quality and commissioning issues.
- Advising an international petroleum company on potential claims under a French law governed joint operating agreement and an English law governed drilling contract with respect to offshore operations in West Africa.
- Advising an international petroleum company on a dispute with a Middle East government regarding calculation of the price of diesel in a long-term supply agreement.
- Advising a Middle East government on disputes with a power generation and distribution company under a concession agreement arising out of a series of power interruptions and alleged substation faults.
- Advising an international petroleum company on potential liabilities arising under a joint operating agreement in relation to exploration in the Mediterranean Sea.

Arbitrator Appointments

- Co-arbitrator (2012-13): Dispute arising out of the sale and purchase of property in the UAE. Final award rendered (DIAC Rules, Dubai seat, UAE law).

- Chairperson (2016): Construction dispute in the UAE. Settlement reached (DIAC Rules, Dubai seat, UAE law).
- Sole arbitrator (2019-2020): Construction dispute in the UAE. Final award rendered (DIAC Rules, Dubai seat, UAE law).
- Sole arbitrator (2020-2021): Dispute arising out of the sale and purchase of multiple properties in the UAE. Final award rendered (DIFC-LCIA Rules, DIFC seat, UAE law).
- Chairperson (2023): Construction dispute in the UAE in relation to the Abu Dhabi Midfield Terminal Building (ADCCAC Rules, Abu Dhabi seat, UAE law).

*Some of the experience represented here may have been handled at a previous firm.

Credentials

Education

- University of Melbourne, Bachelor of Commerce
- University of Melbourne, Bachelor of Laws

Admissions

- Supreme Court of Victoria, 2002

Memberships & Affiliations

- Treasurer, Society of Construction Law (Gulf)
- Member, LCIA
- Registered Practitioner (Part II) of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, since 2010
- Legal Consultant, registered with the Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department

Recognitions

- Recognised in *Chambers Global* 2025-2026 for Construction: Dispute Resolution
- Recognised in the 2026 *Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Litigators* guide
- *Chambers Global* 2023, Construction: Dispute Resolution, Band 2 individual ranking, noting that "Ravinder Bhullar is an esteemed lawyer who is widely acknowledged for his considerable strengths across a range of construction disputes. He is based in Dubai and is particularly skilled in representing contractors before the DIAC," and "Ravinder Bhullar knows the market inside-out, he has very good client management and is very effective."
- *The Legal 500* 2023: Construction, Band 2 practice ranking, noting that "Ravinder Bhullar is tremendously experienced in the region. Fantastically good with clients, and a great ability to see the commercial angle in disputes," and "Ravinder Bhullar and Thomas Wilson are excellent commercial disputes lawyers, particularly in the construction field. Both have huge experience of arbitration in the UAE, and take a pragmatic and sensible approach."

Expertise

Services

- International Dispute Resolution

Industries

- Construction & Engineering

Speaking Engagements

- Construction Disputes in MENA: Dubai and MENA – 6th Annual International Arbitration & Regulatory Global Summit hosted by Kluwer, Dubai, 12 February 2019.
- Efficiency in Arbitration – Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Dubai, 12 November 2017.
- What makes an effective and efficient seat in international arbitration – Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Dubai, 31 October 2016.
- Arbitration has become too slow and expensive and is no longer a viable alternative to national courts – Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Dubai, 31 October 2015.
- UK Delay and Disruption Protocol & Managing EOT Claims – Society of Construction Law International Conference, Kuala Lumpur, 31 August 2014.
- EPC Contracts: Dispute Resolution – EPC Expert Forum organised by the German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce, Dubai, 30 April 2014.
- Building The Gulf: Legal Challenges and Solutions – Society of Construction Law 2014 Conference, 31 March 2014.
- Regional Dispute Resolution: Options and Observations from the Front Line – Laurence Simons General Counsel seminar series, Dubai, 31 October 2013.
- 2012 AIPN Model Form Joint Operating Agreement: Revisions to Anti-Bribery/Anti-Corruption and Dispute Resolution Provisions – Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, Dubai, 31 October 2012.
- Construction law and disputes in the UAE – International Construction Law (Master of Laws programme) lecture, University of Melbourne, 30 April 2012.
- Negotiating Dispute Resolution Provisions in Energy Contracts – Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, Dubai, 29 February 2012.
- Why Arbitration in the UAE is Different – Society of Construction Law (Gulf), Dubai, 31 March 2009.

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.