

NADINE DEBBAS ACHKAR, ESQ., C.ARB, FCIARB
Attorney & Chartered Arbitrator

Nadine Debbas Achkar is a member of the New York Bar and has been a practicing attorney for over 25 years, with professional experience in the United States, France, and the Middle East.

Nadine is a Chartered Arbitrator specializing in international arbitration, having started her career as an attorney within Shearman & Sterling's Arbitration Group in Paris. She currently serves primarily as arbitrator. In the past few years, she has been appointed as Presiding Arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator or Co-Arbitrator in numerous arbitrations arising from a wide range of disputes under the Arbitration Rules of a variety of institutions as well as in *ad hoc* proceedings under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. Nadine is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

In addition, in January 2022, Nadine was appointed by Royal Decree as a Judge on the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

From 2008 until 2011, Nadine served as the General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Abu Dhabi Basic Industries Corporation PJSC, one of the UAE's largest industrial investment holding companies, mandated by the Abu Dhabi Government to be a key contributor to Abu Dhabi's Economic Vision 2030.

She is a Visiting Professor at New York University Abu Dhabi where she teaches courses on International Commercial Arbitration, Business Law, and Gender in Law. She has also been a Lecturer in Business Law at the American University of Beirut and taught International Business Law as part of the Executive MBA core curriculum at the *Ecole Supérieure des Affaires* (ESA), affiliated with ESCP Europe.

Nadine holds a *Juris Doctor* from Columbia University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Georgetown University. She is a citizen of France, Lebanon, and the United States of America and is a native speaker of Arabic, English, and French and is fluent in Spanish.

Contact Information

P.O. Box 40-250
Beirut, Lebanon
Office: + 961 5 920960
Mobile: + 961 3 432525
Email: NadineDebbasAchkar@gmail.com

Visiting Professor
New York University Abu Dhabi
Saadiyat, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Mobile: + 971 50 497 7039
Email: nd1617@nyu.edu

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Arbitrator

Abu Dhabi, UAE / Beirut, Lebanon

2011-present

- Serves as arbitrator (Presiding Arbitrator, Sole Arbitrator, or Co-Arbitrator) in arbitrations arising out of disputes relating, *inter alia*, to construction, property development, breach of contract, distribution and agency relationships, shareholders' agreements, payment defaults, delay, unmet specifications, force majeure, damages and valuations.
- Has served under the Arbitration Rules of the ICC, ADCCAC, BCDR-AAA, CRCICA, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, and LAMC as well as in *ad hoc* proceedings under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

Visiting Professor

Abu Dhabi, UAE / Beirut, Lebanon

2016-present

- Visiting Professor at New York University Abu Dhabi (courses on International Commercial Arbitration, Business Law, and Gender in Law).
- Lecturer at the American University of Beirut (Business Law).
- Visiting Professor at the *Ecole Supérieure des Affaires* (ESA), affiliated with ESCP Europe (International Business Law).

Judge

Manama, Bahrain

Supreme Court, Kingdom of Bahrain

January 2022-present

- Appointed by Royal Decree as a Judge on the Supreme Court of the Kingdom of Bahrain (Royal Decree No. 3 of 2022).
- Chamber created to hear cases in which the value of the claim exceeds 500,000 Bahraini Dinars (*i.e.*, approximately US\$ 1.3 million) and in circumstances where the dispute is between licensed financial institutions and / or is international / commercial in nature.

External Legal Counsel

Abu Dhabi, UAE / Beirut, Lebanon

2011-2018

Advised a select number of Gulf-based clients on a variety of corporate and transactional matters, including drafting and negotiating project development documentation, share and asset sale and purchase agreements, shareholders' and other joint venture agreements, construction contracts, long-term land, feedstock, utilities and off-take agreements, distribution agreements, etc...

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Abu Dhabi Basic Industries Corporation PJSC (ADBIC)
General Counsel and Senior Vice President
General Counsel and Vice President

Abu Dhabi, UAE
January 2010-June 2011
January 2008-December 2009

- ***Project Development:*** Drafted and negotiated project development documentation for green-field industrial projects, including joint venture agreements and ancillary agreements (intellectual property, marketing and distribution, operation and management), long-term land, feedstock, utilities and off-take agreements, service and consultancy agreements, project management and construction agreements, and equipment supply agreements.
- ***Acquisitions:*** Analyzed due diligence reports, drafted and negotiated share and asset purchase agreements and ancillary documentation.
- ***Corporate:*** Established Legal Department, created legal policies and procedures, drafted and streamlined suite of documentation to address corporate needs, established corporate agreement policies, streamlined competitive bidding process for appointment of outside counsel, oversaw work by outside counsel for successful delivery of external legal services on time and within budget, recruited legal counsels.
- ***Board/Committees:*** Secretary, Board of Directors; Member and Secretary, Management Committee and Investment Committee; advised Board, Chairman and CEO on a variety of corporate issues.

Raphaël & Associés (previously affiliated with Ernst & Young Law)
Partner / Of Counsel
Of Counsel

Beirut, Lebanon
January 2006-December 2006
November 1998-December 2005

- ***International Arbitration:*** Drafted legal briefs, pleaded orally, and cross-examined witnesses in ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL arbitrations in the fields of telecommunications, construction, distribution and advisory services; elaborated strategy and drafted pre-arbitration correspondence in several international construction disputes involving FIDIC contracts.
- ***International Agreements:*** Drafted and negotiated a variety of agreements, including sale and purchase contracts (real estate, aircrafts, vessels, company shares), construction agreements (contracting, sub-contracting, engineering management, and supervision) and telecommunications agreements (licensing, distribution, system turnkey, hosting, content aggregation).
- ***International Transactions:*** Recommended and implemented corporate structures on behalf of foreign investors, advised on employment, intellectual property, real estate, tax, and other corporate matters; conducted due diligence and advised on several corporate acquisitions.

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Shearman & Sterling
Associate

Paris, France
January 1996-July 1998

- *International Arbitration:* Drafted legal briefs and memoranda and participated in hearings and witness examinations in arbitrations involving construction (FIDIC, ICE, cost-plus-fee and other contracts) and oil and gas disputes.
- *International Litigation:* Advised European clients in commercial disputes before U.S. courts on procedural and substantive issues.

Harvard Law School
Research Assistant, Professor Frank E. Vogel

Cambridge, MA
July 1993-August 1993

- Researched issues of Islamic contract law.

Covington & Burling
Legal Assistant

Washington, D.C.
June 1990-June 1992

EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law, New York, NY
Juris Doctor, May 1995

Honors: Parker School Certificate in International Law, with *Honors*, 1995
Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, 1994-1995
John M. Olin Law and Economics Junior Fellow, 1992-1993

Georgetown University, Washington, DC
Bachelor of Arts, May 1990 (Economics / English)

Honors: First Honors, Second Honors and Dean's List, 1987-1990

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Member of the New York Bar, First Judicial Department
- Chartered Arbitrator (C.Arb) and Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- Trained Mediator (American Bar Association and USAID)
- Citizen of France, Lebanon, and the United States of America
- Native speaker of Arabic, English, and French; Fluent in Spanish