

GAR Live: Abu Dhabi

Wednesday 9 February, ADGM Square, Abu Dhabi



PROGRAMME

All times are in Gulf Standard Time (UTC +04:00)

09:00-09:30 **Welcome and registration**

09:30-09:45 **Chairs' opening remarks**

Alec Emmerson, *Independent arbitrator*

Lara Hammoud, *Senior Legal Counsel, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Independent arbitrator*

09:45-10:15 **Keynote address**

10:15-11:30 **Perfecting persuasion – GAR Live Advanced Advocacy**

In this session we will bring together a panel of leading arbitrators to share their war stories, hints, and tips to improving advocacy skills. Hear our distinguished panellists share their advice and memorable moments to best equip you with practical skills to apply to your practice.

Our panellists are expected to cover:

- Opening and closing statements – effectively bookending your case
- Successful advocacy in a virtual hearing
- What is the role of the expert?
- To what extent the arbitrator should examine the expert?
- Do's and don'ts

Moderator:

Nayla Comair-Obeid, *Partner, Obeid & Partners*

Panel:

Georges Affaki, *Independent arbitrator, Avocat, AFFAKI*

Nadine Debbas Achbar, *Independent arbitrator*

Anne Hoffmann, *Independent arbitrator*

11:30-12:00 **Coffee break**

12:00-13:15 **The effect of Covid-19 on construction projects – claims, strategies, and tactics**

Working through a series of scenarios, our panel will address the effect of Covid-19 on construction claims and the most effective strategies implemented by the relevant stakeholders.

Our panellists are expected to cover:

- Risk allocations – has Covid-19 emphasized the unbalance?
- The contractor's strategies and tactics – how Covid-19 affected contractors' claims
- The employer's strategies and tactics - how Covid-19 affected employers' claims
- Key strategic considerations

Moderator:

Lara Hammoud, *Senior Legal Counsel, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Arbitrator*

Panel:

Alex Bevan, *Partner, Shearman & Sterling*

Cheryl Cairns, *Partner, Trowers & Hamlins*

Cameron Cuffe, *Partner, Ashurst*

Amir Ghaffari, *Ghaffari Partners*

13:15-14:15 **Networking lunch**

14:15-15:30 **The UAE Federal Arbitration Act – Now we are three**

Three years into the UAE Federal Arbitration Act, this panel will take a snapshot of developments since the implementation of the law.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Has the law addressed all the concerns practitioners had regarding the UAE as a seat?
- What remains to be done?

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- Disappointments, remaining challenges, and courts decisions

Moderator:

Alec Emmerson, *Independent arbitrator*

Panel:

Alain Farhad, *Partner, Mayer Brown*

Paul Stothard, *Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright*

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-17:15 **The GAR Live Debate**

In Oxford Union style, we will hear teams of debaters argue in favour of, or against, a motion. A panel of judges will then voice opinions on what has been heard, before choosing which side to support and giving reasons for their decisions.

Motion: '*This house believes that Decree 34 will promote arbitration in Dubai, the UAE, and the region.*'

Judges:

Fatima Belfaqeeh, *Founder, Managing Director, RKAH*

Soraya Corm-Bakhos, *Counsel, Watson Farley & Williams*

Sami Huerbi, *Independent arbitrator*

Debaters:

Michael Black QC, *Barrister, XXIV Old Buildings*

Karim Nassif, *Independent arbitrator*

17:15-17:30 **Chairs' closing remarks**

Alec Emmerson, *Independent arbitrator*

Lara Hammoud, *Senior Legal Counsel, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Independent arbitrator*