

Dr. ZEINA OBEID

Nationalities: Lebanese, French
Email: zeina@obeidpartners.com

EDUCATION

MIT Sloan Executive Education (2019)
Artificial Intelligence: Implications for Business Strategy

UNIVERSITY PANTHÉON-ASSAS, Paris, France (2010-2016)
PhD in Law, Thesis (French): "*Setting-aside arbitral awards in the Arab Countries*", Highest Honors (*mention très honorable avec les félicitations du jury*).

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, New York, United States (2015-2016)
Masters of Law LLM

LEBANESE UNIVERSITY, **Beirut, Lebanon (2009-2010)**
Lebanese law degree equivalency program

UNIVERSITY PANTHÉON-ASSAS, Paris, France (2009-2010)
Masters in Litigation, Arbitration and Alternative Modes of Dispute Resolution , Honors.

UNIVERSITY PANTHÉON-ASSAS, Paris, France (2009-2010)
LLM in Business Law in the Arab Countries

UNIVERSITY PANTHÉON-ASSAS, Paris, France (2008-2009)
Masters in Private Law

UNIVERSITY PANTHÉON-ASSAS, Paris, France (2006-2008)
Bachelor in Private Law

WORK EXPERIENCE

OBEID & Partners
Partner (since October 2020)

OBEID & Partners, Beirut, Lebanon
Associate (January 2011- September 2020)

DECHERT LLP, Paris, France
Trainee in the litigation and arbitration department (June – December 2012)

WHITE & CASE LLP, Paris, France
Trainee in the arbitration department (October – December 2010)

CASTALDI MOURRE & ASSOCIÉS, Paris, France
Trainee (January – April 2010)

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (ICC), Paris, France
Trainee (August 2006)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ARBITRATION

- **As Arbitrator:**

  - Acting as sole arbitrator in an ArbitrateAD case between a South African national and an UAE company in relation to a real estate dispute conducted in English language, the seat is UAE and the governing law is UAE law (Arbitrate ad case no. 2025-034)

  - Acting as presiding arbitrator in a DIAC case between two UAE individuals in relation to a shareholder dispute conducted in the Arabic language, the seat is UAE and the governing law is UAE law (DIAC case no. A250011)

  - Acting as a presiding arbitrator in a DIAC case between two UAE companies in relation to a dispute arising out of the construction of a hotel in the UAE, seated in the UAE, conducted in English and governed by UAE law (DIAC case no. 220200)

  - Acting as sole arbitrator in a DIAC case between a British national and a UAE company with respect to a commercial dispute conducted in English, seated in the UAE and governed by UAE law (DIAC case no. 240010)

  - Acting as a presiding arbitrator in an ICC case with respect to a consortium agreement between two Omani parties, conducted in English, seated in Dubai and governed by English law (ICC case no. 28796/KFH)

  - Acting as co-arbitrator in a DIAC case with respect to a sale purchase agreement conducted in Arabic involving an Indian Individual and a UAE construction company, seated in DIFC and governed by UAE law (DIAC case no. 230181)

  - Appointed as presiding arbitrator in DIAC case between a UAE company and a Qatari Company conducted in English, seated in Dubai in relation to a commercial dispute (DIAC case no. 230169)

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC construction arbitration case conducted in English involving Omani companies, seated in Muscat and governed by Omani law. (ICC case no. 27984/KFH)

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC construction arbitration case conducted in English involving Saudi companies, seated in the UAE and governed by Saudi law. (ICC case no. 25099 AYZ/MDY)

- Acting as sole Arbitrator in an ICC arbitration case conducted in English between two Qatari companies in a construction dispute, seated in Qatar and governed by Qatari law (ICC case no. 26157/AYZ/MDY)

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration conducted in English involving two Emirati companies in relation to a construction case, seated in the UAE and governed by UAE law. (ICC case no. 27511/OSI/KFH)

- Acting as sole Arbitrator in an ICC arbitration conducted in English involving two Emirati companies in relation to a construction case, seated in the UAE and governed by UAE law (ICC case no. 24455/AYZ).

- **Domestic arbitration**

- Acting as sole arbitrator in a domestic arbitration under the Rules of the Lebanese Arbitration & Mediation Center (LAMC) involving Lebanese companies in a commercial representation dispute, conducted in Arabic, seated in Beirut and governed by Lebanese law (LAMC no.262)

- Acting as presiding arbitrator in an ad hoc domestic arbitration case in Lebanon conducted in Arabic in relation to the execution of an agreement in the food supply industry, seat in Lebanon and governed by Lebanese law.

-

- **Tribunal's Administrative Secretary**

- Acting as administrative secretary in a multi-million dollar *Ad Hoc* arbitration conducted in French in relation to a Lease Agreement for a Hotel Complex, governed by Tunisian law, seated in Tunis and in which the arbitrators were acting as *amiable-compositeur*.

- Acting as administrative secretary in an LCIA arbitration case conducted in English in relation to a dispute between an Italian construction company and a Kuwaiti company relating to a contract agreement for the engineering, procurement and construction of a major oil & gas facility and its associated pipelines. The applicable law was Kuwaiti law, and the seat of arbitration London.

- Acting as administrative secretary in a multi-million dollar DIAC arbitration case conducted in English in relation to an Agency Agreement between a UAE-based contracting company and a Malaysian engineering company, governed by the Laws of the United Arab Emirates applicable in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and seated in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- Acting as administrative secretary in a multi-million dollar ICC construction arbitration case conducted in French between a Senegalese construction company and the government of an African country, governed by the Laws of the Republic of Guinea and seated in Paris, France.

- Acting as administrative secretary in a multi-million dollar ICC arbitration conducted in English in relation to a Subcontract Agreement for the MEP Works concerning a Buildings and Services Package project, governed by Laws of the United Arab Emirates applicable in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and seated in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

- Acting as administrative secretary in a SIAC arbitration conducted in English in relation to a purchase agreement for the construction of an up-scale real estate development in the MENA region, governed by the Laws of Singapore and seated in Singapore.

➢ **Counsel**

- Counsel representing an investor against a financial institution under the ICC Rules in relation to a dispute arising out from a loan agreement and a guarantee. The dispute is governed by New York law, with a seat in Paris, and conducted in English.

- Counsel representing a Joint-Venture in a 50 million dollars dispute under the ICC Rules involving the construction and expansion of a steel complex in Algeria. The dispute is governed by Algerian law, with a seat of arbitration in Paris, and conducted in French language.

- Counsel representing a contracting company in a multi-million-dollar ICC arbitration conducted in English in relation to a Consortium Agreement for the design and construction, on a turnkey basis, of a steel bar mill and its related facilities and utilities in Qatar, governed by the Law of Switzerland and seated in Geneva, Switzerland.

- Counsel representing a leading Logistics, Industrial and Construction Company in Kuwait in a multi-million-dollar ICC arbitration conducted in English in relation to the construction of a resort, governed by the Law of Qatar and seated in Paris, France.

- Counsel representing a leading Qatari sub-contractor in a multi-million dollar ICC Case conducted in English in relation to the construction of an airport in the MENA region, governed by the Law of Qatar and seated in Paris, France

- Counsel representing an Australian MEP contractor in a multi-million dollar LCIA arbitration. The dispute relates to a Subcontract Agreement for the supply, delivery, installation, protection and commissioning of mechanical, electrical and plumbing for a major hotel and resort in the UAE, governed by the Law of the United Arab Emirates and seated in the DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- Counsel representing an Australian MEP contractor in a multi-million dollar DIFC-LCIA arbitration. The dispute relates to a Subcontract Agreement for the supply, delivery, installation, protection and commissioning of mechanical, electrical and plumbing for a major mall project, governed by the Law of the United Arab Emirates and seated in the DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- Counsel representing an Australian MEP contractor in a multi-million dollar DIFC-LCIA arbitration. The dispute relates to a Subcontract Agreement for the Design and Build of MEP and Service Diversion Works concerning the expansion of one of the largest malls in the Middle East, governed by the Law of the United Arab Emirates and seated in the DIFC, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- Counsel representing an Australian MEP contractor in a 45,000,000 AED DIAC arbitration. The dispute concerns a landmark project in the UAE against a UAE construction company. The arbitration is seated in the UAE, conducted in English, and governed by UAE law.

- Counsel representing a Lebanese construction company, acting as the main contractor, in a dispute against an Algerian company, the principal contractor, concerning a project in Algeria. The arbitration is governed by Algerian law and the ICC Rules, conducted in French, with the seat of arbitration in Paris.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

SIAC ACADEMY (2024)
Tutor- Lecturing on the enforcement of arbitral awards in the UAE

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS
Tutor - CIArb Approved Faculty List (AFL)

KING'S COLLEGE, London, UK
Lecturing on the topic of annulment and execution of arbitral awards in the MENA region (July 2019)

SAINT-JOSEPH UNIVERSITY, Beirut, Lebanon
Co-founder and coach of the Lebanese Team in the Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vienna Moot), (2012-2015)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Beirut Bar, Lebanon (admitted in 2011)
- Paris Bar, France (admitted in 2018)
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- Member of the International Bar Association (IBA)
- Member of the Middle Eastern subcommittee for the Pledge initiative.

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

- **Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR** (since 2021)

- **ICC YAAF representative for Dubai and Lebanon** (2024-2026)

- **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb- UAE Branch) –** Committee Member (since October 2021) and Vice- Chair for Dubai since 2025.

- **International Bar Association (IBA)**
    - Co- Chair of the IBA Young Lawyers Committee (2025-2026).

- Previous Middle Eastern Representative of the IBA Anti-Corruption Committee

- **NGO "Youth Network for Development"**
  Founder

- **Beirut Bar Association**
  President of the committee in charge of drafting a law regulating optional civil marriage in Lebanon. (July 2014 – October 2015)

LANGUAGES

Arabic (fluent); French (fluent); English (fluent); Spanish (basic).

PUBLICATIONS

Book:

- "Setting-Aside Arbitral Awards in the Arab Countries" (*Le recours en annulation des sentences arbitrales dans les pays arabes*), Pedone Publisher (December 2017).

Articles:

- India-United Arab Emirates Bilateral Investment Treaty (2024): Towards Stronger Economic Ties, published on Lexology (24 October 2024)
- Investor -State Arbitration (2024)– Saudi Chapter, published by International Comparative legal Guides, six edition, 2024.
- Force Majeure and Unforeseen Events in the Middle East and North Africa, published in « MENA Leading Arbitrators' Guide to International Arbitration", 2023, co-Author.
- Due process in arbitration in the Middle East, published in the book "Due Process as a Limit to Discretion in International Commercial Arbitration", co-Author, Kluwer Law Arbitration, 2020.
- Covid-19, contractual obligations and force majeure, International Bar Association Newsletter, co-author (21 August 2020).
- Covid-19: impact on contractual obligations, International Law Office, co-author (1 June 2020).
- Anti-corruption in light of economic crisis & Covid-19 pandemic in Lebanon, IBA Anti-Corruption Newsletter, (18 May 2020).
- Public-Private Partnerships: Lebanon, International Law Office, co-author (25 February 2020).
- One Belt One Road China Investment Jurisdiction: Lebanon, LexisNexis® Mergers & Acquisitions Law Guide 2020, co-author (2019-2020).
- Chambers Global Law and Practice Guide: Litigation – Lebanon, co-author (5 December 2019).
- Lebanon Chapter, Practitioner's Guidebook to Arbitration in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Al-Tamimi &Co publication, co-author (2019).
- An Alternative Solution : Judicial Mediation, International Law Office, (10 January 2019).
- Arbitration in Lebanon in times of crisis recovery, Young Arbitration Review, co-author (30 July 2018).

- Delos Guide to Arbitration Places (GAP) Chapter on Lebanon, 1st edition GAP 2018, co-author (2018-2020).
- Arbitration in commercial representation disputes: walking the line between tradition and modernism), International Law Office, co-author (19 July 2018).
- "Surgical Nullity" and other steps to preserve the validity of arbitration agreements, International Law Office, (6 November 2014).
- Arbitration and immunity from execution: a bold court decision, International Law Office, (10 April 2014).
- Recognition and enforcement of international arbitration awards: plain sailing? International Law Office, co-author (13 June 2013).

Conferences (speaker):

- Moderator at the Dubai Arbitration Week in the session on "*The Art of Persuasion: Effective Advocacy in International Arbitration*", 13 November 2024
- Speaker at the Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice, New Delhi, on "*Introduction to the IBA Young Lawyers' Committee: starting young at the IBA – opportunities and challenges*", 8 November 2024
- Speaker at the Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice, New Delhi, on "*Hot topics and recent trends in international arbitration: an international perspective*", 8 November 2024
- Moderator at the IBA Mexico in the session on "AI revolution: Are we too young to die?", 18 September 2024
- Tutor at Applied Arbitrators for Fellow by CIArb, 8 & 9 June 2024
- Speaker at the India-UAE Chamber of commerce conference on "*the role of arbitral Institution & financial centres in fostering an investor friendly eco-system,* 29 May 2024
- Speaker at the joint webinar between CIArb UAE Branch and CIArb Qatar Branch on "*First Appointment and Beyond*", 20 May 2024.
- Moderator at the IBA/CIArb Webinar, "*Bridging the Gulf: opportunities for young lawyers from recent developments in the UAE and India*", 19 January 2024
- Moderator at the CIArb Conference in the session on "*exploring AI's Impact and new technologies on arbitration*", CIArb conference during Dubai Arbitration week on "*Arbitration Unleashed: Exploring AI's Impact and Construction Dispute Trends in the Gulf*", 14 November 2023.
- Moderator of the session " *Career development – how to succeed in a changing world*", IBA Young Lawyer Training Course: The Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice, 28 October 2023.
- Moderator of the session "*New trends in international dispute resolution*", IBA Young Lawyer Training Course: The Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice, 29 October 2022
- Speaker at the IBA Annual Conference on the session "*Law school curricula and the future of the legal practice*", 30 October 2023.

- Speaker at the IBA Webinar "Resolution of cross border disputes", 4 February 2022.
- Moderator at the IBA webinar "Corruption and the threat to the Rule of Law: How democracy is endangered?, 14 December 2021.
- Moderator at the IBA webinar "Young Lawyers Leadership in times of crisis" (15 July 2021)
- Moderator at the 2nd IBA Virtual Entrepreneurship Conference: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the 'next normal' (22 to 25 March, 2021).
- Exploring the 3Es in Construction Arbitration: Evidence, Experts and Efficiency", Al Tamimi-HKA- Eldan Webinar, 4 March 2021
- Due process as a limit to discretion in international arbitration, NYU-DIAC webinar (25 November 2020)
- 10 years after the Arab Spring: is fighting corruption a reality or a dream? – IBA webinar organized by the IBA Anti-Corruption Committee (26 August 2020).
- The anatomy of a bribe: actors, tools and facilitators in corrupt transactions – IBA Annual Conference, Seoul (25 September 2019).
- Overview of Arbitration Proceedings in the MENA region, in The Fundamentals of International Legal Business Practice, IBA conference organized by the IBA Young Lawyers Committee, Budapest, (25 May 2019).
- Setting-aside of Arbitral Awards in the Arab Countries, in Execution and Annulment of Arbitral Awards, Société de Législation Comparée, Institut de Droit Comparé, Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris II, (4 April 2019).
- Setting-aside of Arbitral Awards in the Arab Countries, Beirut Bar, (19 June 2018).
- Setting-aside of Arbitral Awards in the Arab Countries, in Nuts and Bolts of Arab Arbitration: Finality and Enforceability of Arbitral Awards, ICC YAF, (20 September 2018).