



Muhammad Ussama

Partner

Specialty Areas

- Arbitration (domestic, international commercial & investor-State)
- Litigation (before ordinary, administrative & economic courts)
- Settlement Negotiations and Contracts
- Administrative Law (disputes concerning contracts with administrative authorities and/or state-controlled or -owned entities)
- Public International Law
- Construction
- Civil & Commercial Transactions
- Insurance

Bar Memberships

- Member of the Egyptian Bar (Appeal level).

Education

- Diploma in International and Comparative Law from the American University in Cairo (2019).
- LL.M. in International Commercial Law, School of Law, University of Glasgow (2017) (distinction in the dissertation on international investment law).
- Chevening Alumnus and Jameel GAPP Public Leadership Fellow.
- LL.M. in Public Law (with a focus on Arbitration), Faculty of Law, Cairo University (2014).
- LL.B., Faculty of Law (English Section), Ain Shams University (2009).

Languages

Arabic and English

Publications

- Indonesian Journal of International and Comparative Law, October 2019 Vol., 'Sovereign Wealth Funds and Investor-State Dispute Settlement: The Interplay between Domestic and International Law' (Journal Article);
- International Journal of Arab Arbitration, Vol. 11 – No. 2 (2019), 'The Egyptian State Council and the Enforceability of Arbitration Agreements Concluded Within the Ambit of Administrative Contracts: A Case Study' (Journal Article);
- Arbitration Brief, Fall 2020 Publication (**TBD**), 'Sovereign Wealth Funds and Investor-State Dispute Settlement: Examining Questions of ICSID's Jurisdiction and the Impact and Purpose of Investment Treaty Arbitration' (Journal Article); &

- IBA, Fall 2020 Publication (**TBD**), 'Egyptian Courts and the Scope of Review of Arbitral Awards through Nullity Actions: A Case Study' (Article).

Muhammad Ussama is an ex-Judge, a practicing lawyer in Egypt and admitted to the Egyptian Bar (Appeal level). Thus, he is well versed in both private-law and public-law matters and is able to provide professional assistance and legal advice to investors (local and international) at any stage of their investments. Muhammad is currently involved in a number of international commercial and investor-State arbitrations, as well as a number of high-profile litigation cases. The amounts in claim have ranged from a million to well over a billion dollars. Moreover, Muhammad frequently sits as an arbitrator in international commercial arbitrations.

Muhammad has recently acted on the following cases:

- A **CRCICA** arbitration concerning breaches of a hotel management and operation contract. The claims were in the range of EGP 250 million;
- Representing the claimant in an **ICSID** investment arbitration against the Arab Republic of Egypt ('Egypt') concerning treaty breaches by Egypt and the harms incurred by the client's gas distribution project in a number of governorates in Egypt. This arbitration was filed under the Egypt-UAE BIT;
- Acting as Co-Counsel with a Canadian Firm representing a foreign (Canadian) investor in an investment arbitration filed against Egypt for breaches of Egypt's obligations under the Canada-Egypt BIT. This is an *ad hoc* arbitration administered by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (the '**PCA**');
- Acting as Co-Counsel with a Canadian Firm representing the client (a Canadian investor) in an **ICC** arbitration filed under a contract concluded between the client and a state-controlled entity for breaches of the underlying contract;
- Successfully representing a client, an Egyptian real-estate technology start-up company, in a **DIFC-LCIA** arbitration. The dispute was governed by Emirati law and the arbitration proceedings were governed by DIFC law and the Arbitration Rules of the DIFC-LCIA. The claim's value was in the range of USD 15 million;
- Successfully Defending a client (a leading insurance company based in Egypt) in a number of cases, before the first instance, appeal and cassation levels, filed by opposing party under a number of insurance policies;
- The successful representation of a client (one of the world's top leading social media companies) before the Egyptian Council of State (the administrative judiciary) concerning the validity of removal of content from the client's website.

[Updated on 24 November 2020]