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Michael has been appointed as arbitrator around the world and previously appeared as Counsel in the Caribbean Supreme Court, Isle of Man, Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, Bermuda and Singapore International Commercial Court. He is now a full time international arbitrator and continues to sit as a Judge in the DIFC Court of Appeal and Judge in charge of the Digital Economy Court (DEC).

Throughout a career spanning more than 45 years, Michael's practice has involved disputes relating to joint ventures, construction, energy, oil and gas, banking and financial services disputes, AI and technology, civil fraud and asset recovery, hedge funds and structured investment vehicles, company, partnership and insolvency.

For the last 30 years Michael has also maintained an arbitrator practice, accepting appointments as sole, party-appointed and chair in ad-hoc proceedings in England & Wales, Africa, India, Middle East, Russia, Singapore and China as well as under the City Disputes Panel, ICC, LCIA, SIAC, UNCITRAL, LMAA, SCMA and DIAC Rules. Michael has sat in over 150 arbitrations and throughout his career, Michael has been highly regarded both as Counsel and Arbitrator for his contribution to the arbitral community. He is referred to as one of the "*Most in Demand Arbitrators in the UAE*" and "*... exceptionally fair, measured and thoughtful, whilst remaining utterly charming towards the parties. He is a consummate professional who is at the top of his game as an arbitrator, with decades of experience in complex commercial disputes all around the world*" (Legal 500).

Michael has practiced in international arbitration appearing as Counsel in several leading English and Privy Council cases which include: **B v A** – whether failure to apply chosen law a "mere error" or procedural irregularity – status of dissenting opinions; **Michael Wilson & Partners v Emmott** – challenging tribunal's award as to its substantive jurisdiction – decision on procedural matters; **Cetelem SA v Roust Holdings Ltd** – whether judge has jurisdiction to make interim mandatory order pending ICC arbitral proceedings – whether court usurping arbitral process; **Henry Boot Construction (UK) Limited v Malmaison Hotel (Manchester) Limited** – powers of Court of

Appeal to review decision of Judge on appeal from arbitrator; *Al-Naimi v Islamic Press* – duties of judge when considering stay of court proceedings; *IPCO v NNPC* – enforcement of a New York Convention award subject to challenge at the seat; *Anzen v Hermes One* – optional arbitration clauses and stay of proceedings. *ZCCM v Kansanchi* – procedural order or award – section 68 Arbitration Act 1996. He was known to be “*top of many people’s list for international arbitration work*”.

He also writes widely on arbitration both in the UK and the USA. Most recently completing the chapter on arbitration in the leading English text on compromise and a chapter on ethics in international arbitration in the US textbook “*International Construction Arbitration Handbook*”. Publications have included a Chapter on international arbitration in “*Discovery Deskbook for Construction Disputes*” (American Bar Association | 2006), Chapter on ethics in international arbitration in “*International Construction Law*” (American Bar Association | 2009), Chapters on Arbitration and Construction in Sweet & Maxwell’s “*The Law & Practice of Compromise*” (7th edition, 2010), Chapter on arbitration in the Legal Year in Overview section of The UK Supreme Court Yearbook (Volume 8, 2016-2017 Legal Year).

CALL | 1978

SILK | 1995

- RECENT APPOINTMENTS -

- POSITIONS HELD -

- RECENT JUDGMENTS -

- AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS -

RECENT APPOINTMENTS:

- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Doha, Qatari law) dispute concerning landscaping works
- **Oman Arbitration Centre** – (seat Muscat, Omani law) dispute concerning termination of large infrastructure project **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Doha, Qatari law) dispute concerning descoping of works on large infrastructure project
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, Indian law) dispute concerning media rights to major sporting events
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Abu Dhabi, UAE law) dispute concerning the impact of COVID on large infrastructure project
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Abu Dhabi, UAE law) dispute concerning the impact of COVID on substantial oil & gas project
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning the purchase and integration of AI technology in well-known social media platform
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) shareholders' dispute concerning control of very substantial Gulf-based group of companies
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Muscat, Omani law) – dispute concerning the design and construction of airport buildings
- **Ad hoc Arbitration** – (seat London, UAE law) – dispute concerning sub-contract works in connection the development of onshore oil operations
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning the termination of a project to design, develop, construct, manage and operate a touristic and residential resort comprising a luxury branded hotel and private residences in central Europe
- **SIAC Arbitration** – (seat Singapore, Singapore law) dispute concerning the termination of a joint venture in the automotive industry
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Doha, Qatari law) dispute concerning construction of mass transit facility
- **DIFC-LCIA/LCIA** – (seat DIFC, English law) dispute concerning hotel management contracts in Saudi Arabia
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Doha, Qatari law) dispute concerning the construction of sports facilities
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning settlement agreement of long running dispute relating to the sale and carriage of gasoil involving multiple jurisdictions
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, law of a Gulf State) dispute relating to tax stabilization clause in joint venture between foreign investor and state-owned enterprise
- **DIAC Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute in respect of rights and liabilities arising out of sale of multinational group of companies supplying technology and services to oil & gas industry
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Dubai, English law) dispute relating to joint venture for the manufacture, supply, servicing and maintenance of equipment used for the production of oil and gas

- **ICC arbitration**– (seat Dubai, Iranian/English law) dispute concerning sale of tinplate by Chinese party to Iranian party
- **ICC arbitration**– (seat London, Jordanian law) dispute under Power Purchase Agreement concerning construction and operation of Gas/Distillate Fired Combined Cycle Electric Facility
- **ICC arbitration**– (seat Paris, English law) dispute concerning the sale and purchase of a pharmaceutical manufacturing business in Egypt
- **DIAC Arbitration**– (seat Dubai, UAE law) dispute concerning design and construction of landmark leisure facility
- **Ad hoc arbitration** – (seat Mumbai, Indian law) dispute concerning architectural design services in relation to airport
- **ICC arbitration**– (seat London, Moroccan law) dispute concerning the construction of a process engineering plant
- **ADCCAC arbitration** – (seat Abu Dhabi, UAE law) dispute concerning execution of MEP works
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat Oman, Omani law) dispute concerning construction of residential development
- **Ad hoc arbitration** – (seat Oman, Omani law) dispute concerning construction of energy infrastructure
- **LCIA arbitration**– (seat London, English law) dispute concerning agreement for use of private jet
- **Ad hoc arbitration** – (seat Oman, Oman law) dispute concerning consultancy services in relation to infrastructure project
- **Ad hoc Arbitration** – (seat Dubai, UAE law) dispute relating to construction of infrastructure works
- **LCIA Arbitration**– (seat London, English law) sole arbitrator in 7 consolidated arbitrations arising out of demerger of multinational group of companies
- **ICC Arbitration**– (seat Qatar, Qatari law) dispute relating to construction of process engineering works
- **Ad hoc Arbitration** – (seat Dubai, UAE law) dispute relating to construction of infrastructure works
- **DIFC-LCIA Arbitration** – (seat DIFC, English law) claim between two investment funds relating to the management of an SPV incorporated for the purpose of acquiring and managing a shareholding in a target company.
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) claim concerning the bidding for the construction of petrochemical plant
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) claim for commission on contract to construct power plant in Middle East
- **DIFC-LCIA Arbitration** – (seat DIFC, English law) claim relating to bidding for oil exploration rights – claim USD 94M+;
- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) claim concerning sale of onshore and offshore oil and gas rights by major oil company in African state – USD 100m+;

- **LCIA Arbitration** – (seat London, English and North Macedonian Law) claim under agreement for smelting of feronickel ores involving issues of fraud and insolvency
- **DIFC-LCIA Arbitration** (seat DIFC, UAE law) reinsurance dispute
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat Abu Dhabi, UAE law) USD100 million plus insurance coverage dispute
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning construction of satellite ground control station in Central Asian state.
- **Ad hoc arbitration** – (seat India, Indian law) dispute concerning termination of BOO project worth in excess of USD 50 million
- **SCMA Arbitration** – (seat Singapore, Singapore law) 25 consolidated claims for the purchase of fuel oil by bank claiming as assignee from insolvent company.
- **UNCITRAL Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning the provision of road traffic management services in country in Middle East.
- **LCIA arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning the purchase of timber in Russia.
- **DIAC arbitration** – (seat Dubai, Dubai/UAE law) construction dispute concerning development in Dubai Marina.
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat DIFC, law of Iraq) dispute concerning the removal of wrecks, debris and unexploded ordnance from oil fields in the Persian Gulf.
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) – dispute between US and Indian parties concerning agency with respect to the sale of products and services relating to sugar cane-to-energy cogeneration in South America
- **LMAA arbitration** – (seat London, English law) termination of \$600m contract for construction of Drillship
- **LCIA arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning repayment of deposits in Caucasian bank. Allegations of possible money-laundering
- **DIFC-LCIA Arbitration** – (seat DIFC, UAE law) dispute concerning the construction of district cooling works
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat London, English law) dispute concerning aircraft engine maintenance in Switzerland
- **ICC Arbitration** – (seat London, Jordanian law) dispute concerning Joint Venture and Distributorship & Agency Agreements
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat Qatar, Qatari law) USD 156 million dispute relating to construction of airport.
- **Ad hoc arbitration** – (seat New Delhi, Indian law) USD 40 million+ concerning termination of construction of hydro-electric project
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat London, Indian law) shareholders' dispute in joint venture between Indian and Italian parties
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat London, US & UAE law) dispute concerning the procurement of military equipment and services.
- **LCIA arbitration** – (seat London, law of Gibraltar) dispute arising out of sale of oil leases.
- **ICC arbitration** – (seat London, English and Saudi law) concerning Joint Venture for oil exploration.

- **ICC arbitration**– (seat London, Indian law) concerning Joint Venture in automotive industry.
- **DIAC arbitration** – (seat Dubai, UAE law) arbitrator in AED 180m+ dispute concerning the cancellation of a hotel project.
- **UNCITRAL arbitration** – (seat New Delhi, Indian law) arbitrator in GBP 500m+ dispute concerning construction management services in connection with the construction of a grassroots oil refinery.
- **LCIA arbitration**– (seat London, English law) concerning the sale and purchase of shares in a Cypriot company dealing in crude oil.
- **UNCITRAL arbitration** – (seat London, Zambian Law) concerning supply of electrical equipment.
- **ICC arbitration**– (seat London, English law) concerning the production of natural gas.
- **ICC arbitration**– (seat London, UAE law) concerning construction of sporting facilities.
- **ICC arbitration**– (seat London, English law) concerning sale of aircraft.
- **Ad hoc** – claim concerning insurance of loss of profits of oil refinery in India damaged by cyclone. Indian law, seat Mumbai. Said to be the largest domestic arbitration to take place in India.
- **LCIA** – dispute between shareholders in and traders on Middle East oil trading market. English law, seat London.
- **ICC** – 3 arbitrations between government agency and European contractor regarding construction of motorways and national roads. Romanian law, seat Bucharest.
- **City Disputes Panel** – claim for indemnity against mis-selling by financial institution against agent. English law, seat London.
- **ICC** – concerning the construction of a power and desalination plant in Middle East by Far East contractor. English law, seat London.
- **ICC** – dispute between state petroleum corporation and US contractor concerning construction of refinery in Caribbean. English law, seat Caribbean.
- **ICC** – dispute concerning the management of oil concessions in Nigeria. English law, seat Paris.
- **DIAC** – dispute concerning architectural and engineering consultancy. UAE law, seat Dubai.

POSITIONS HELD & ASSOCIATIONS:

- Court of the Casablanca International Mediation and Arbitration Centre
- Judge in DIFC Court of Appeal (2022)
- Judge in charge of the Digital Economy Court (DEC) (2022)
- Deputy High Court Judge,
- Deputy Judge of the Technology and Construction Court
- ICC UK Committee for Arbitration and ADR (2015)
- ICC Commission Task Force on Emergency Arbitrator Proceedings (2015)
- Bencher Middle Temple (2006)
- Deputy High Court Judge (2008 – 2013)
- Member of Court of Appeal panel of mediators (2001 – 2003)
- Member Civil Procedure Rule Committee (2000 – 2004)
- Assistant Commissioner, Parliamentary Boundary Committee for England (2000)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Panel of Mediators (2000)
- Deputy Judge of Technology and Construction Court (1999-2013)
- Recorder of the Crown Court (1999-2013)
- RICS President's Panel of Arbitrators (1999)
- Presenter (Disciplinary Prosecutor) for Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (1995)
- Visiting Professor at Manchester University
- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- Member of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee and the Civil Justice Council

Memberships

- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Swiss Arbitration Association
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration
- London Court of International Arbitration
- International Bar Association
- Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
- Chinese Arbitration Association
- Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration
- Emirates Maritime Arbitration Centre
- Member ADGM Arbitration Centre Panel of Arbitrators (2020)
- Member of Commercial Litigators' Forum Panel of Arbitrators (2020)
- Member SIAC Panel of Arbitrators (2019)

- Member of ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR (2017)
- Chartered Arbitrator (2017)
- Member of Court of Casablanca International Mediation and Arbitration Centre (2016)
- BVI International Arbitration Centre Panel of Arbitrators (2016)
- Member Civil Justice Council (2005-9)
- FIMBRA panel of arbitrators (1993 – 1995)

Advocate

- Singapore International Commercial Court (Full Registration)
- Bar of the Dubai International Financial Centre
- Bar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court
- Bar of the Isle of Man (ad hoc)
- Bar of the Cayman Islands (ad hoc)
- COMBAR

RECENT JUDGMENTS:

Techteryx Ltd v Aria Commodities DMCC & Ors | DIFC Courts

First worldwide Freezing Order relating to US-dollar-pegged stablecoin which included evidence on dissipation (DEC-001-2025) ([\[2025\] DIFC DEC 001](#))

Nael v Niamh Bank | DIFC Courts

Consideration of the ambit of the public policy ground for refusing enforcement and recognition of an arbitral award ([\[2024\] DIFC CA 015](#))

(1) American International Group UK Limited & Ors v Qatar Insurance Co. | DIFC Courts

The effect of the US sanctions against Iran on US-owned reinsurers participating in 100% reinsurance of a policy indemnifying a Middle East bank ([\[2024\] DIFC CA 008](#))

ARB 009/2024 Narciso v Nash | DIFC Courts

Anti-suit injunction restraining the prosecution of proceedings in the courts of Sharjah in favour of arbitral proceedings under DIAC Rules following the abolition of the DIFC-LCIA ([ARB 009/2024](#))

(1) Gate Mena DMCC (2) Huobi Mena FZE v (1) Tabarak Inv. Ctl Ltd (2) Christian Thurner | DIFC Courts

The first judgment in the world of an appellate court after a full trial in crypto currency case holding that Bitcoin are property of a third kind capable of being owned and transferred ([\[2023\] DIFC CA 002](#))

(1) Korek Telecom Company LLC; & Ors v (1) Iraq Telecom Limited & Ors | DIFC Courts

Whether an Arbitral Tribunal is precluded by the “act of state doctrine” from making any finding of tortious conspiracy because it involved a finding that a public authority of a foreign country had made its decision as a result of bribes

[\(\[2024\] DIFC CA 016\)](#)

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Leading Counsel as arbitrator (Tier 1: 2025)
- Leading Silks (Tier 2: 2025)
- Global Leader in Who's Who Legal Arbitration (2023)
- Who's Who Legal: UK Bar – Arbitration (2022)