



**Dr. Karim A. Youssef**

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Dr. Karim A. Youssef is the managing partner and head of international arbitration and international law practices at Youssef & Partners in Cairo, Egypt, a full-service law firm, whose flagship practice is commercial and treaty arbitration and high-end and diverse litigation, with a focus on complex and high-value claims.

Karim's practice focuses on commercial arbitration, investment treaty arbitration and international law, and he has extensive experience in these fields.

Karim has acted as counsel, party-appointed or presiding arbitrator in numerous international arbitrations under a variety of arbitration rules including the ICC, CRCICA, DIAC, SCC, LCIA, UNCITRAL and ICSID. He has also acted in ad hoc arbitrations governed by national laws. Karim represents regional and international clients in high-profile local and regional disputes and large-value claims, across a wide array of industries and key sectors, including energy, mining, hospitality, construction, development, technology, telecommunications and infrastructure.

Highlights of Karim's counsel work include representing investors in investment treaty claims, including in *Cementos La Union SA & Aridos Jativa SLU v. the Arab Republic of Egypt* and, previously, representing the CBC Channel in commercial claims against Egyptian satirist Bassem Youssef.

Karim also acts as counsel or arbitrator in some of the largest commercial claims arising in context of the Arab Spring, including in disputes concerning the post-2011 unwinding of Mubarak-era privatization transactions and disputes relating to certain mega projects in Egypt and the Middle East. Karim represents Al Kholoud SAE in commercial claims arising from the nullification of the privatization transaction of Al-Nasr Company for Steam Boilers.

**Honors & Distinctions**

GAR 100 GUIDE 2018

*Who's Who Legal:*  
International Commercial Arbitration – Egypt, 2014 to 2018

*Who's Who Legal:*  
Future Leaders – Egypt, 2017

*Chambers & Partners Global Guide:* Dispute Resolution: Arbitration – Egypt, Band 1, 2018

**From the Chambers Global Guide:**

'Karim Youssef is a respected figure in the arbitration arena, frequently representing clients from the construction and oil and gas industries. Market sources describe him as "super-smart, very much at the top of his game." One client added: "He'll be our first choice for any future matter."

**Education**

Yale Law School  
J.S.D., 2007  
LL.M., 2002

Paris-1 University (Sorbonne)  
D.E.A., 2001  
License, 1999

Cairo University, Law School  
License, 1999  
D.E.S., 2000

**Bar Admissions**

Cairo, 1999

In addition to his role as counsel and arbitrator, Karim has also provided opinions pertaining to Egyptian and Arab law and issues of jurisdiction and non-signatories, and testified as expert on numerous occasions in arbitral and foreign court proceedings relating to the Middle East or involving Middle Eastern parties.

Karim's memberships include the board of reporters of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration (ITA) for Egypt and the editorial board of the Journal of Arab Arbitration.

Karim was educated at Yale Law School (where he received LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees), the University of Paris and the University of Cairo. During his time at Yale, Karim was a Howard Holtzmann Yale fellow in international dispute resolution.

### Publications:

#### *Inter alia*

- 'The Impact of the Arab Spring on International Commercial and Treaty Arbitration in Egypt and the MENA Region', *Arbitration: The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management* (Vol. 83, Issue 1), 2017
- 'Consent Ltd.: A Brief History of Egypt's Ministerial Approval Requirement for Arbitration of State Contracts and Why It Should Be Abolished', *BCDR International Arbitration Review*, 3.1, September 2016
- 'The Quest for Cosmopolitan Law and Arbitration in the Arab World - Where Do We Stand Now?', *Festschrift Ahmed Sadek El-Kosheri: From the Arab World to the Globalization of International Law and Arbitration*, Kluwer, 2015
- *Consent in Context: Fulfilling the Promise of International Arbitration, Multi-contract and Non-contract arbitration*, West, 2009-2012 (Preface by Jan Paulsson)
- 'Universal Arbitration Between Freedom and Constraint: The Challenges of Assessment and Control of Jurisdiction in Multiparty Multi-Contract Arbitration', *Arbitration: The Next Fifty Years*, ICCA Congress Series, 2011
- 'The Group of Companies Doctrine under Egyptian Law', *International Arbitration Court Decisions*, eds. Stephen Bond & Frédéric Bachand, 2011
- 'The limits of consent: the right or obligation to arbitrate of nonsignatories in groups of companies', *Multiparty Arbitration*, ICC Institute of World Business Law, 2010
- 'The Death of Inarbitrability', in *Arbitrability: International and Comparative Perspectives*, Kluwer Law International, 2009

### Languages

Arabic  
English  
French  
Italian (working)  
Spanish (working)

### Practice Areas

International Commercial Arbitration  
International Investment Arbitration  
Public International Law  
Government Contracts & Disputes  
Construction Arbitration & Litigation

### Industries & Fields

#### *Inter alia:*

Construction/Supply  
Hospitality  
Development Projects/Real Estate  
Oil & Gas/Energy  
Intellectual Property  
Telecommunications  
Government Contracts  
Banking/Finance  
Media

### Regions

Egypt, UAE, Middle East

### Affiliations

Include: Conseil Franco Egyptien des Affaires (CFEA)