



Karim A. Youssef, J.S.D.

CEO and Chairman, Head of International Arbitration, Head of High Net-Worth Individuals

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EDUCATION

YALE Law School

J.S.D., 2007

LL.M., 2002

Paris-1 University (Sorbonne)

LL.M., 2001

D.E.A, Licence, 2001

JD, 2002

Cairo University Law School

Licence, 1999

D.E.S., 2000

BAR ADMISSIONS

Cairo, Egypt

SPOKEN LANGUAGES

English

French

Arabic

**YOUSSEF
+PARTNERS**
Arbitration Leaders

PRACTICES

International Commercial Arbitration | Investment Treaty Arbitration | High Net-Worth Individuals

Dr. Karim A. Youssef is the founder of Youssef & Partners, a Global Arbitration Review (GAR) 100 law firm, and a regional leader in dispute resolution. Karim was named a Star Individual in the Chambers Guide since 2021 –the highest ranking given to practitioners in their fields.

He leads the international arbitration and international law practices at the Firm. His practice focuses on commercial arbitration, investment treaty arbitration, complex high-value disputes, and international law, and is world-renowned in these respective fields.

Karim represents key Egyptian and regional clients, including several Fortune 500 companies and some of the World's most significant global corporations in high-profile local, regional, and international disputes. His expertise in high-value complex claims is unmatched among MENA practitioners: Karim regularly features as counsel, arbitrator, or legal expert in some of the highest-profile and largest commercial and investment treaty claims in the region.

He also spends part of his time giving strategic advice to some of the region's most significant corporations across a wide array of key industries and sectors, and he also heads the firm's high net-worth individuals' practice.

Karim has received some of the highest distinctions from peers and clients. Among others, he has been described as

"a leading light in international arbitration" (Legal 500, 2018), "a leading figure in international arbitration" (Chambers Global, 2024) and "the number one arbitration lawyer in Egypt" (Chambers Global Guide, 2021). He has an impressive, region-spanning practice which sees him represent international companies in investment treaty disputes and other arbitration claims against state entities. With expertise in international law, he frequently represents clients in "multibillion-dollar arbitrations seated around the world" (Chambers Global, 2020).

He has further been praised as "a master of strategy" who thinks "light years ahead" of other practitioners (Chambers Global, 2022) and described as a "leading counsel in the MENA region" (Who's Who Legal, 2019).

Market sources have described him as "super-smart, very much on top of his game," with one client adding, "he'll be our first choice for any future matter" (Chambers Global Guide, 2018). Karim's distinctions also include earning the 2019 GAR Award for best global speech and being appointed to CRCICA's Advisory Committee. He also wrote a well-known book on multi-party arbitration and consent issues prefaced by Jan Paulsson.

Karim has garnered a number of additional distinctions. Karim is member of the newly established BVI-IAC arbitration committee. Karim is also the first Arab and the first international

arbitration practitioner worldwide to be appointed to the [Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession's Advisory Board](#). He has been elected as the Vice-Chair for the [Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration \("CRCICA"\)](#). Additionally, Karim has been named to the Who's Who legal [Global Elite Thought Leaders' 2024 List](#). According to WWL, the Global Elite Thought Leaders are those who are *"the best of the best across our research, achieved by only around 5% of WWL-listed practitioners."* This list includes the top 95 arbitration practitioners worldwide. ([Karim A Youssef - Youssef + Partners Arbitration Leaders - Experts - Lexology](#))

Karim has acted as an arbitrator, expert or counsel work exceeds 184 international arbitrations across four continents, focusing on the MENA region and GCC countries and major cosmopolitan seats, including Cairo, Dubai, Paris, London, and New York.

Karim's *"sharp intellect" and "responsiveness as an arbitrator" makes him a favorite on the international arbitration circuit.* (Who's Who Legal, 2018). *"He is held in extremely high regard for his expert handling of investment treaty claims against government entities"* and is further praised as an *"extremely hands-on" adviser who "gives game-changing strategy."* (Chambers Global Guide, 2021). Timeless highlights of his work include representing Cementos La Union SA v. the Arab Republic of Egypt in the first investment treaty arbitration arising from the cement industry; and the CBC Channel in claims against Egyptian satirist Bassem Youssef.

Karim was educated at Yale Law school (LL.M, J.S.D.), Paris 1 (Sorbonne) and Cairo universities.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Karim's experience highlights as a counsel:

- Acted for a major UK-listed company and its subsidiaries and successfully represented them in ICC proceedings

against multiple parties, including major Arab businessmen.

- has successfully secured a victory for a high-net-worth individual and his family in a \$250 million dispute involving highly complex and novel issues concerning non-signatories and consent to arbitrate. The case also involved very complex issues of governing law to jurisdiction and merits and the competing application of at least three different legal systems, along with a very intricate and sensitive factual matrix.
- has successfully secured a victory for one of the leading global groups in waste management in a mega dispute involving major commercial claims and counterclaims brought against the Governorate of Alexandria, Egypt, under the city's waste management contract. The dispute also arose from the first Public-Private Partnership PPP project ever implemented in Egypt.
- represented and secured a favorable settlement for an exclusive commercial agent in a longlisting dispute with a global supplier in relation to one of Egypt's largest commercial agency disputes.
- successfully represented foreign investors (through an Egyptian JV) in the second-largest commercial claim historically against the Egyptian state or a state entity involving claims in excess of USD 2.3 billion in relation to the termination of a 40-year concession agreement between the Damietta Port Authority and a consortium of some of the world's largest shipping, port logistics, and supply-chain management companies.
- represented and secured a historical favorable settlement for investors in major commercial claims in the high-profile Steam Boilers case, relating to the judicial unwinding of the Privatization Program of Egypt.
- Secured the enforcement of a USD 80 million foreign arbitral award together with interest in Egyptian courts for one of the firm's international clients.
- Acted as co-counsel for the World's largest construction conglomerates, against the sovereign fund of an Arab

State concerning major cost overruns, delays, and disruption damages in relation to the construction of a national iconic project.

- Successfully represented exiting shareholders in a major UNCITRAL proceeding in a dispute arising from a partnership agreement of a closely held company incorporated in the UAE that is holding multiple companies offshore. The dispute involved amounts in excess of USD 90 million and a number of orders for the specific performance of share sales and related specific performance.
- prevailed in favor of a global UAE developer in major claims arising from construction and master development works conducted in one of the largest real estate projects off the coast of Dubai (the behemoth Dubai World project).
- secured a major victory for the CBC Channel in eight-digit arbitration claims against former TV satirist Bassem Youssef and his production company, Q-Soft, in a dispute arising from the unlawful termination of a contract for the exclusive broadcasting rights of The Show.
- successfully represented a global group of companies in the field of supply of electrical power in arbitration proceedings concerning the construction of a cement complex with a Middle Eastern government.
- secured the lifting of unlawful travel ban measures and an asset freeze issued against a high-profile individual and his family in context of a complex cluster of civil and criminal litigations, and administrative proceedings.
- was able to secure the setting aside of two criminal judgments involving long-term prison sentences rendered in absentia against an investor. The dismissal ended a long-standing related commercial dispute against the government.
- represented one of the Middle East's largest investment companies in two related arbitrations arising in connection with the acquisition of shares in a large group of companies,

involving 16 parties, and cross-claims in excess of USD 54 million.

- represent global group Cementos La Union (the second largest cement producer in Egypt through its stake in the Arabian Cement Company) in World Bank treaty claims in relation to cement licenses and the cement market in Egypt. (*Cementos La Union S.A. and Aridos Jativa S.L.U. v. Arab Republic of Egypt*, ICSID Case No. ARB/13/29). represented a global leader in license plate production and manufacturing against the Egyptian government in the famous "License plate" dispute. (Erich Utsch Aktiengesellschaft, Helmut Jungbluth and Utsch M.O.V.E.R.S. International GmbH v. Arab Republic of Egypt, ICSID Case No. ARB/13/37.)
- acted as counsel in major commercial claims concerning the sale and delivery of oil with a value exceeding USD 350 million and involving a Middle Eastern oil behemoth and a Middle Eastern sovereign fund.
- represented a major oil and gas corporation in nine-digit arbitration claims related to payments and damages arising from three major oil concessions located in the Middle East.
- advised and represented a major Middle Eastern airline in relation to a cluster of enforcement and annulment proceedings before Egyptian courts
- successfully resisted annulment proceedings of a major award rendered against the Egyptian Postal Service and prevailed in multiple court proceedings initiated with the intent to obstruct enforcement.
- Represented an insurance company in LCIA proceedings in a dispute based on an underlying contract post the recent FEX devaluation.
- Representing a number of shareholders concerning a dispute following a venture capital acquisition in one of Egypt's healthcare conglomerates.
- Representing a development company in a significant construction dispute concerning the impact of project delays and currency devaluation on contractual terms with the landowner.

- Representing a major Egyptian corporation in a dispute arising from a sales agreement involving a global Bahraini Company in LCIA proceedings.

Karim's experience highlights as an arbitrator:

- Acted as a judge in a dispute arising under an agreement between two major Bahraini companies and a Kuwaiti company and its foreign branch before the BCDR Courts
- Acted a co-arbitrator in ad hoc investment treaty claims under the SCC Rules involving an African state and claims in excess of 100 million USD.
- Acted as the chairman in an International Islamic Center for Reconciliation & Arbitration (IICRA) dispute arising under a series of agreements between a major bank institution, a Middle Eastern behemoth oil producer, and a Moroccan company specialized in refining petroleum products, involving claims in excess of 300 million USD.
- Acted as sole arbitrator in an ICC dispute arising under an agreement between a major Middle Eastern Free Zone located in the Middle East and a group of Indian Shareholders.
- Acted as co-arbitrator in a Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) dispute related to a Sale and Purchase Agreement between one of the largest hotel management companies in Egypt and one of the most important global hotel developers worldwide.
- Acted as chairman in a major CRCICA dispute between a Cairo-based oil field contractor and a major oil and gas company (claims in excess of USD 50 million).
- Acted as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator, or chairman of the tribunal in more than 14 international arbitrations seated in the UAE, including under the DIFC-LCIA Rules and under the DIAC Rules. The disputes related to many of the significant projects concerning real estate and developments in the UAE and the application of UAE law.

- Acted as co-arbitrator in a DIAC dispute related to a breach of a share purchase of shares agreement, between a Dubai based investment company and a subsidiary of one of the largest real estate development services companies in Dubai.
- Acted as co-arbitrator in a DIAC dispute between one of the UAE's main real estate developers and one of the largest companies specialized in the management and maintenance of real estate projects.
- Acted as member of the Tribunal in one of the UAE's highest profile arbitrations concerning the Dubai World project between multiple investors and purchasers and the owner company. The dispute involved unique and novel issues of land reclamation at sea, and uniquely complex contractual issues.

Karim's experience highlights as a legal expert appointment:

- Provided legal expert testimony on behalf of an ultra-high-net-worth individual (listed on Forbes' richest) in relation to a wide range of issues under Kuwaiti law, including public policy, overlap of different aspects of liability, good faith, fundamental notions of liability, termination, etc.
- Provided expert testimony on Qatari law and on the Qatari construction industry in an arbitration emerging from a contract for the design and construction of a mega infrastructure project in Qatar.
- Acted as a legal expert on Qatari law in a multi-billion-dollar dispute on behalf of a global construction company against the Qatari Foundation in relation to a mega-national project in Qatar.
- Provided legal expert testimony under Egyptian law in a major dispute concerning services agreements in the Sokhna port of Egypt.
- Provided legal opinions in relation to key issues of Egyptian law in the context of Union Fenosa's commercial claims against Egyptian State entities in a multi-billion USD dispute.
- Provided a very extensive legal expert opinion concerning complex issues of

Egyptian law on the transfer of technology and the validity and continued existence of arbitration agreements in the transfer of technology agreements under Egyptian law on behalf of a major renewable energy consortium in context of nullification and enforcement court proceedings before Dubai courts (proceedings are about to extend to DIFC courts in Dubai).

- Provided legal expert views on Egyptian law and Kuwaiti law on issues of civil and criminal liability on behalf of foreign clients before Kuwaiti courts in multi-jurisdiction claims.
- Provided legal expert testimony on behalf of Egypt Air in relation to a long-standing dispute with one of its main suppliers before UK courts and before the High Constitutional Court of Egypt in relation to enforcement proceedings.
- Legal testimony before UK courts (Egyptian law), - High Court of Justice Queen Bench Division, Claim No. HQ10X0488: Karim provided legal expert opinions under Egyptian law concerning third-party liability and issues of breach and contractual and tort liability on behalf of a major hotel chain (the Movenpick Hotels and Resorts Management AG).
- Acted as legal expert in UNCITRAL arbitration proceedings based in the UK on behalf of a major international trading company specialized in commodities in relation to claims brought against a major Middle Eastern hydrocarbon company under an agreement for the supply of low-density ammonium nitrate (material used in the production of high explosives for use in the mining industry).

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Chambers Global, Egypt Dispute Resolution Arbitration – Star Individual, 2021 – Present
- Who's Who legal – Arbitration Global Elite thought Leader 2021 – Present
- Forbes Middle East Leader in the Egyptian Market, 2021

- Legal 500, Egypt Dispute Resolution Arbitration – Leading Individual, 2014 – Present
- Chambers Global, Egypt Dispute Resolution Litigation – Band 2, 2022 – Present
- Chambers Global, Egypt Dispute Resolution Arbitration – Band 1, 2015 – 2020
- GAR Award Best Lecture or Speech, 2019
- Who's Who Legal Arbitration, 2014–2019
- Chambers Global Egypt Most in Demand Arbitrator – Since 2016
- Expert Guides: The World's Leading Lawyers Chosen By Their Peers

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Vice-Chair of the **Advisory Board of the CRCICA**
- Member of the **Advisory Board of Harvard Law School Centre of the Legal Profession** (see: [Karim A. Youssef joins Center on the Legal Profession Advisory Board - Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession](#))
- Member of the AI Guidelines Review Committee of the **Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediate Center (SVAMC)**
- Member of BVI-IAC Arbitration Center Committee (see: [Diverse new committee for BVI centre - Global Arbitration Review](#))
- Member of the ICCA-ASIL Task Force on Damages in International Arbitration, who released a significant international report and an application for the use of the international arbitration community in 2021.

COURT ADMISSIONS

- Cairo, 1999

ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Youssef, K. A. (2023). Against Stigma: How to Refute Negative Perception and Self-Reproach in Investment Treaty Arbitration and Fight Stigma in the Age of Global Arbitration. In *Arbitration Beyond Borders*. essay, Kluwer Law International B.V. (Karim A Youssef

Disrupts Stigma in International Arbitration)

- '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
- '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 non-signatories 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
- 'The Independence of International Arbitrators: An Arbitrator's Perspective', *ICC International Court of Arbitration Bulletin*, 2007, Special Supplement 2008; with Professor Ahmed S El-Kosheri
- 'The Assignment of Transmission of the Arbitration Clause: An overview of the Major Trends in Comparative Law, With Special Reference to Arbitration Clauses in bills of Lading', *Journal of Arab Arbitration*, 2007

- 'The Reception of the Groups of Companies Doctrine in Egyptian Law? A Case Commentary', 3 Stockholm International Arbitration Review 103, 2007

HIGH PROFILE SPEECHES/LECTURES

- CRCICA – Sharm El Sheikh Conference VIII, Egypt – *Globalization in a De-globalized World – COP-27 moment for Arbitration* – The Speech was shortlisted for 2024's GAR global awards, for best speech, 6 December 2022
- 8th ICC MENA Conference on International Arbitration (Opening KEYNOTE SPEECH – *The Quest for Cosmopolitanism in MENA region and International Arbitration* - The speech was shortlisted for 2021's GAR global awards, for best speech. February 2020
- Sharm El Sheikh VII (The Role of State Courts in International Arbitration) – *"Against Stigma in international arbitration: How Egypt aced the test of the Arab Spring."* Karim's speech in the conference won the 2019 GAR global award for Best Speech. - 9-10 December 2018
- ICCA-ASIL Task Force on Damages, Washington, D.C. - 11 April 2017
- CRCICA-AILA Conference, Cairo - 2 April 2017
- 2nd Meeting of the ICC Arab Arbitration Group- Karim gave the opening remarks - 20-21 January 2017
- ICC-SCL International Annual Conference – Dispute Resolution and Construction Contracts in Egypt - 5-6 December 2016
- Sharm El Sheikh VI (The Role of State Courts in International Arbitration) - 19-20 November 2016
- GAR Live Dubai - 17-Nov-2016
- ICC YAF: MENA Regional Conference, Opening keynote speech - 30 September – 1 October 2016
- CRCICA International Conference on International Investment Arbitration involving Arab parties: Issues & Challenges, Cairo - 31-Mar-2016
- Bahrain Chamber International Investment Arbitration Conference, Bahrain - 10-Dec-2015

- ICC-SCL International Annual Conference – Dispute Resolution and Construction Contracts in Egypt - 25-26 October 2015
- 3rd ICC MENA Conference, Dubai -13-15 April 2015
- ICCA 50th anniversary, Geneva - Inaugural Plenary Session, 2011

SELECTED TESTIMONIALS

- "Karim Youssef is a heavyweight arbitration lawyer with extensive experience acting on multibillion-dollar claims. As counsel, he represents an enviable client list, which features numerous well-known international companies and high-net-worth private clients. He also regularly sits as arbitrator. He is held in extremely high regard for his expert handling of investment treaty claims against governments." – Chambers Global Guide, 2024
- "Karim Youssef is a sophisticated lawyer and a leading figure in international arbitration." "Karim Youssef is very innovative in his approaches and gives you even more than you expect. He supports us with hard work and dedication." "He understands the market and what international clients want." "It is a pleasure working with Karim. He is an excellent lawyer: hard-working and intelligent." – Chambers Global Guide 2024
- "Karim is a top-notch lawyer who explores many angles to reach the winning strategy." "he is a very sophisticated individual with strong legal skills and commercial awareness." – Chambers Global Guide 2023.
- "He is a well-known arbitrator in his own right, so he was a great resource to us in framing our arguments to the tribunal in a persuasive manner." - GAR 100, 16th Edition, 2023
- Clients describe Karim Youssef as "the number one arbitration lawyer in Egypt." and is further praised as an "extremely hands-on" adviser who "gives game-changing strategy." – Chambers Global Guide, 2021
- "He is an exceptional lawyer: knowledgeable, a master of strategy, and he thinks light years ahead. Karim is a

true arbitration star and is the go-to for big, complicated cases." "Karim is very sharp, analytical, thorough, and highly intelligent." "He's a very sophisticated, talented lawyer with a deep understanding of international arbitration." – Chambers Global Guide 2022

- One client describes Karim as "a true star of arbitration and the go-to lawyer for big, complicated cases" –Chambers & Partners 2022
- 'Karim A. Youssef "has a deep knowledge of arbitration," "is a leading expert in Egypt, especially in terms of strategic expertise and innovation in thinking," and provides a great service and operates with a high level of expertise." – Who's Who Legal, 2023
- "He is well known in Egypt as the arbitration man. He is a truly superior litigator and a great strategist, and his reputation in the market is that his legal strategy is game-changing. I have worked with many large international law firms, and Karim is a world-class litigator in comparison." – Chambers, 2022
- "Youssef & Partners was 'excellent in all aspects' when acting as expert witness on Kuwaiti law" – GAR 100, 2022
- Clients consider him as "a global leader in arbitration, and one of the region's top litigators. he is the only Middle East and North Africa-based practitioner on par with international law firms." They also describe him as a lawyer with "excellent experience and the sharpness to handle sophisticated and complex cases" - Chambers Global Guide, 2023
- 'Clients describe Karim Youssef as "the number one arbitration lawyer in Egypt." – Chambers & Partners, 2021
- Karim Youssef is recognized in the market as a "top arbitration guy." He has an impressive, region-spanning practice which sees him represent international companies in investment treaty disputes and other arbitration claims against state entities. With expertise in international law, he frequently represents clients in multibillion-dollar arbitrations seated around the world. A client was glad to say that Youssef has "proved to be an effective

advocate."—Chambers Global Guide, 2020

- *'Karim A. Youssef is a highly regarded arbitration specialist who is praised by peers for his high caliber practice. He has a vast range of arbitration experience, having acted as counsel in numerous commercial and investment treaty cases. One of his clients enthused: "He has an incredible knowledge of international law, and his negotiation skills are also impressive" – Chambers Global Guide 2019*
- *"Karim Youssef at Youssef & Partners Attorneys is a leading light in international arbitration and excels in investment treaty matters" – Legal 500, 2018*
- *"A client said "he consider him and his "excellent team essential to their success." "He believes him to have "carried the day." –Chambers Global Guide, 2022.*