

## Dr Karim Hafez Independent Arbitrator

9 Shagaret Eldor Street  
Zamalek  
Cairo 11211  
EGYPT

E [k.hafez@hafeznet.com](mailto:k.hafez@hafeznet.com)  
D +20 (0) 2 27 98 02 44  
T +20 (0) 2 27 98 02 00  
M +20 (0) 106 852 9991



### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Karim Hafez is a full-time independent arbitrator specializing in international investment and commercial disputes, with an emphasis on Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. He has been involved in over three hundred cases spanning thirty jurisdictions, the principal legal systems and the major arbitration rules. He regularly sits as sole arbitrator, chair and tribunal member in venues around the world, with a majority of his cases conducted in London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Washington, The Hague, and the Middle East.

Dr Hafez is known for quickly and efficiently handling the heaviest and most complex disputes, and is a strong proponent of delivering awards soon after the hearing. By training and practice versed in the two principal legal traditions, he has conducted cases structured around everything from civil law memorials, tribunal-appointed expertise and pleading points; to English stylised pleadings and extensive cross-examination of party-led evidence; right across the spectrum to US-style complaints, dispositive motions, oral examination in chief, and full discovery, complete with interrogatories, depositions, and requests for admissions. In every case, he emphasises active case management techniques leading to early identification of issues, effective pleading, and efficient marshaling and testing of the evidence.

Dr Hafez also regularly appears before international tribunals as expert on the laws of the Arab Middle East, including the principles of Islamic jurisprudence. A substantial number of his cases have involved the laws of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Libya, Jordan, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, and Egypt.

Formerly, he led a team of fifty lawyers in Cairo and Paris prosecuting and defending numerous large and complex arbitrations. His clients included states, local authorities, corporations and private investors.

### ARBITRAL APPOINTMENTS

The cases in which Dr Hafez has been involved featured claims valued in the billions of dollars and concerned most fields of modern economic activity – construction, engineering, oil and gas, oilfield services, waste management, water and sewage treatment, petrochemicals, metallurgy, defence, technology, IP, pharmaceuticals, aviation, space, media, broadcasting, telecom, power generation, real estate, hospitality, leisure, sports, investment, banking, finance, securities, corporate governance, distributorships, franchises, sale of goods, shipping, and insurance.

## CONSTRUCTION CASES

Dr Hafez is regularly appointed as arbitrator in large and complex construction disputes. He also serves on dispute adjudication and review boards as well as a mediator. His past cases involved most project delivery systems, procurement practices, forms of contract, heads of claim, programming methodologies, costing techniques, and project types. He is a strong proponent of active case management in construction disputes, leading to early identification of the issues and expert methodologies and protocols. His recent cases involved dams, ports, airports, rail, roads, petrochemical plants, oil and gas production platforms, pipelines, power plants, water and sewage treatment facilities, smelters, factories, universities, housing, hotels, malls, and mix-used developments.

## ENERGY CASES

Dr Hafez has been involved in numerous complex energy disputes, particularly in the Arabian Gulf. His cases involved upstream project development, oilfield services, pipelines, LNG projects and trading, refineries, processing plants, offshore facilities, petrochemicals, natural gas distribution and transportation; electric generation, transmission, and distribution. Matters in dispute arose out of concession agreements, production sharing contracts, joint venture agreements, joint operating agreements, production services and drilling contracts, representation agreements, farm-ins, farm-outs, pooling and unitisation, development contracts and short- and long-term gas, LPG and crude sales.

## TELECOM CASES

Dr Hafez handled some of the Middle East largest telecom disputes this decade. His cases covered the fixed, mobile, internet, and satellite sectors, and featured incumbents, new entrants, equipment manufacturers, traditional broadcasters, and telecom providers. In addition to regulatory and competition disputes centring on interconnection, access and local loop unbundling, his cases dealt more generally with wet and dry infrastructure, licensing, spectrum, tariffs, unfair practices, privatisation, network convergence, global fibre infrastructure, brand protection, as well as joint venture and shareholders' right in telecom operating companies.

## INVESTMENT CASES

Dr Hafez has been appointed by states, investors, and international organizations in numerous investment cases involving treaties and international agreements. The biographic details of his ICSID arbitral appointments are a matter of public record and include:

Antoine Abou Lahoud and Leila Bounafteh-Abou Lahoud v. Democratic Republic of the Congo (ICSID Case No. ARB/10/4)

MAKAE Europe SARL v. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (ICSID Case No. ARB/17/42)

Togo Terminal v. Republic of Togo (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/16)

Capital Financial Holdings Luxembourg S.A. v. Republic of Cameroon (ICSID Case No. ARB/15/18 – Annulment Committee)

## PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Dr Hafez is regularly acknowledged by industry publications as a leading international arbitration lawyer. He is featured as Legal Thought Leader in **Who's Who of International Arbitration** and **Who's Who of Construction**. He was also included in the **Global Arbitration Review's 45 under 45**. **Legal 500** says "Karim Hafez is one of the most knowledgeable and skilled lawyers around ... his grasp of the law and strategies is second-to-none"; "Hafez is widely acknowledged as the pre-eminent arbitration practice in many sectors, as is Karim Hafez personally as an arbitrator and counsel of international standard"; "the outstanding arbitrator of the younger generation"; "a very, very good lawyer"; "has a 'superlative' reputation: both as counsel and as arbitrator". **Legal 500** called the firm Hafez "the leading practice in arbitration across the Middle East". **Chambers and Partners** called him "brilliant ... English-educated, very precise, knowledgeable, well-spoken and generally impressive".

## INSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Dr Hafez is a current member of the Advisory Committee of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, and past member of the London Court of International Arbitration, the Court of Sport Arbitration, and the Board of Trustees of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre. He was a member of the IBA Task Force on Drafting International Arbitration Clauses and the UNCITRAL Working Group on the Revision of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. He also sits on the Editorial Board of the Global Arbitration Review.

## PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Dr Hafez appears on numerous institutional arbitration panels including;

- The International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes
- The London Court of International Arbitration
- The International Chamber of Commerce
- The International Centre for Dispute Resolution
- The American Arbitration Association
- The Dubai International Arbitration Centre
- The Abu Dhabi Centre for Conciliation & Arbitration
- The Bahrain Centre for Dispute Resolution
- The Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration
- The Tehran Regional Arbitration Centre
- The Shanghai International Arbitration Centre

## VISITING ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Dr Hafez has taught international arbitration at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva), and international investment law and international dispute settlement at the American University in Cairo. He was also elected to research fellowships at the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law in Cambridge, and the International Legal Studies Program at Harvard.

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

"Egypt National Report" in ICCA International Handbook on Commercial Arbitration, (Kluwer Arbitration, 2004-18)

"Egypt Country Report" in ICC Guide to National Procedures for Recognition and Enforcement of Awards under the New York Convention (ICC, 2017)

Chapter 3, in Choice of Venue in International Arbitration (M. Ostrove, C. Salomon, B. Shifman eds., OUP, 2014)

"Styles of advocacy, arbitrator temperament, and the analytics of arbitral scholarship," 8 Arab J. Int'l Arb. 19 (Aug. 2005)

"The Supervisory Jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice," 64 Arbitration 228 (Aug. 1998)

His six-volume Encyclopaedia of the Arbitration Laws of the Middle East is forthcoming.

## **EDUCATION**

Karim Hafez was educated at the universities of Cairo, Cambridge, and Harvard. His PhD, from Cambridge University, is for a dissertation entitled 'Complex Arbitration.'

## **LANGUAGES**

Dr Hafez handles cases in Arabic, English and French.

## **ADMISSIONS**

Egypt

## **NATIONALITY**

Egyptian