



Guillaume Hess

Special Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Guillaume Hess is special counsel in the firm's Construction and Infrastructure and the International Arbitration practice groups. He focuses his practice in complex dispute resolution through arbitration, litigation, mediation, and negotiations. He has over a decade of experience representing public and private owners and contractors in resolving disputes arising out of the construction and the operation of major projects.

While Guillaume primarily focuses on construction disputes, he also has broad experience in general commercial disputes and in investment treaty disputes. He has handled a broad range of disputes under the auspices of most of the major rules of arbitration (including the ICC, LCIA, ICSID, DIFC-LCIA, ADCACC, DIAC, ADCCAC, SICAC) and before the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, where he has full rights of appearance.

Guillaume studied law both in France and in the State of New York. He qualified in the State of New York. He has extensive experience in the Middle East and is comfortable working in either a common law environment or in a civil law environment.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Guillaume worked in Dubai as a senior associate for in one the world's top ranked firms for international arbitration. Guillaume started his career in 2012 at an international firm based in Dubai.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer for Dispute Resolution in Qatar, 2025

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "[Role of Investor State Dispute Settlement mechanisms](#)," International Investment Promotion and Facilitation in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Conference organized by the UNESCO Chair on Environmental Law and Sustainable Development at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Qatar, Invest Qatar, and the GCC Branch of the International Law Association, Qatar, 7 December 2025

- Speaker, [E-Discovery in Construction Disputes: Best Practices for Challenging Data Sources](#), Webinar hosted by TransPerfect Legal, 12 September 2024
- Moderator, Session 3 “Encouraging research and innovation through IP,” [International Mediation and Arbitration Conference: The Role of IP in Fostering Economic Growth](#), Qatar, 3 June 2024
- [Panelist](#), Construction Law & Dispute Resolution Developments, [Qatar Business Law Forum Conference & Awards Ceremony](#), Hosted by LexisNexis, 14 November 2023

EDUCATION

- LL.M., Cornell Law School, 2011
- Master of International Business Law, University of Paris XI - Sud, 2008 (*International Business Law, Class Valedictorian with Honors*)
- Maitrise, University Lille II, 2007 (*Private and Criminal Law*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Dubai International Financial Centre Courts

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 20 March 2026, Geopolitical Uncertainty in the Gulf: Contractual Risk, Force Majeure, and MAC Clauses
- January 2026, Arbitration World
- October 2024, No Faith in International Arbitration: A Comparative Discussion of the Nature and Application of the Principle of Good Faith in Arbitrations Conducted Under Common Law and Civil Law
- 8 February 2024, Roundtable: Procurement Strategies and Dispute Avoidance for the GCC Projects

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, “[Contract Formation and Enforcement in Qatar: Overview](#),” *Thomson Reuters*, Practical Law Country Q&A, 1 May 2025
- Co-Author, “[Islamic finance disputes: Arbitration and litigation](#),” IFN Annual Guide 2024, *Islamic finance news*, 19 December 2023
- Co-Author, “[ADR in the United Arab Emirates: proactive dispute management](#),” *Asia Business Law Journal*, 25 October 2023

- Co-Author, "[Expert Briefing: Investment Activities in Singapore: A Legal Perspective](#)," *Asia Business Law Journal*, 19 October 2023
- Contract Management Best Practices to Limit the Risk of Disputes (Parts I and II), *Construction Law*, 2023
- Chapter on Construction Arbitration: Saudi Arabia, *Global Arbitration Review*, 2023
- The Midnight Disaster of Defective Arbitration Agreements, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 2020
- Expert Firm Services: Where Does the Duty Lie?, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 2020
- Unforeseen Adverse Ground Conditions, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 2020
- Dispute Boards - A Globally Growing Popularity but Limited Use in the Middle East, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 2019
- Middle East - A Mediation Desert?, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 2019
- It Ain't Over Till It's Over, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 2018

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 March 2026, In-House Counsel Ask the Questions: Infrastructure Arbitration Worldwide, Hosted by Paris Arbitration Week
- 17 December 2025, K&L Gates Advises on US\$4 Billion Damascus International Airport Redevelopment
- 12 September 2024, E-Discovery in Construction Disputes: Best Practices for Challenging Data Sources, Hosted by TransPerfect Legal
- 14 November 2023, Qatar Business Law Forum Conference & Awards Ceremony, Hosted by LexisNexis

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Construction and Infrastructure
- International Arbitration

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented a major contractor in Qatar in three disputes arising out of the construction of a residential project for the FIFA World Cup. These disputes also involved complex jurisdictional issues due to anomalous contract drafting. The total value of the claims is circa US\$300 million. The arbitrations are seated in Qatar (ICC Rules).
- Represented the project company and the building contractor on a major PPP project in Qatar. Assisted the clients in managing claims, drafting correspondence, proposing amendments to contracts, issuing notices, and other matters to mitigate the risk of disputes.

- Represented the State of Qatar in multiple disputes arising out of the construction of the airport, a US\$15 billion project. This engagement required project counsel services and serving as lead counsel in international arbitrations and ADR proceedings. The claims were estimated at approximately US\$4 billion.
- Represented the employer in a dispute brought by the engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM) contractor in a major petrochemical project in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The claims arose out of the construction and the commissioning of a US\$22 billion integrated petrochemicals complex in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest chemical plant ever to be constructed in one phase. Claims related to scope of works, performance issues, and delays. Total value of the claims circa US\$680 million. The arbitration was seated in London (ICC Arbitration). Also advised the employer on all contentious construction matters arising out of its contracts for the construction of the project.
- Represented the employer (same project as above) in a dispute brought by a Lump Sum Procure and Build (LSPB) contractor in two separate arbitrations. Total value of the claims circa US\$350 million. The arbitrations were seated in London (ICC Arbitration).
- Represented the employer (same project as above) in a dispute brought by a Lump Sum Procure and Build (LSPB) contractor. Total value of the claims estimated at US\$60 million. The arbitration was seated in London. Acted as lead lawyer and first chair and secured a favorable award for the employer (ICC Arbitration).
- Represented the employer to defend a series of claims brought by two contractors arising out of the construction of a mixed-use project in Jeddah. Arbitration proceedings are likely once the project is completed.
- Represented a contractor in a dispute against the employer arising out of the construction of a power station in Al Nasiriya in Iraq. Due to the Islamic State uprising, completion of the contract was frustrated by war. The client commenced a LCIA arbitration seated in Amman, Jordan against the Ministry of Energy. Total value of the claims circa US\$800 million.
- Assisted a client in settlement discussions in the context of a dispute arising out of the termination of an international hotel operator in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The settlement resulted in successfully avoiding arbitration proceedings.