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COMMERCIAL JUSTICE AT SCALE



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I. INTRODUCTION AND SCALE

1. The Dubai International Financial Centre **("DIFC")** Courts are often discussed for their role in financial disputes, arbitral supervision and cross-border enforcement. Their wider commercial docket has received less attention. Yet since their establishment, the scope of the Courts' work has expanded considerably, and the matters now before them range from substantial cross-border claims to comparatively modest disputes dealt with by the Small Claims Tribunal. In truth, the last year of the Courts' docket has solidified that evolution: DIFC Courts truly have come into their own as a court of ordinary commercial jurisprudence.

2. This chapter makes that case in numbers. It measures the breadth of the docket in three ways: by the kinds of disputes that come before the Courts, by the kinds of parties that bring and defend them, and by the scale of the claims, from small claims averaging AED 84,000 to arbitration claims averaging AED 150.2 million. It draws on the Courts' published statistics for 2025 and the first half of 2026, and on 35 matters decided or filed during the review period across banking and finance, corporate disputes, professional services, employment, property, trade, insurance and appeals. The purpose here is not to reproduce the Courts' chronology over the last year, but to show how wide their ordinary commercial work has become, and to ask whether, with the growth in the quantum of filings, the Courts can continue to maintain their precision.

3. **Case volumes and docket composition:** The Courts' published figures for 2025 recorded 1,509 filings, an increase of 43%, with an aggregate claimed value of AED 18.6 billion. Within that institutional

total, the Court of First Instance **("CFI")** and its divisions recorded 173 claims, the Enforcement Division 341, and the Small Claims Tribunal **("SCT")** 995, an increase of 68%.[i]

Table 1: DIFC Courts: Trends (2024–2025)[ii]

Metric	2024	2025	Change (%)
Total value of claims	AED 7.7 billion	AED 18.6 billion	+141.6%
Orders issued	1,942	2,676	+37.8%
Judgments issued	174	181	+4.0%

Table 2: Specific Trends[iii]

Court / Division	2024	2025	Change (%)
Court of First Instance (CFI)	**114**	**173**	**+51.8%**
Civil & Commercial Division (CCD)	82	117	+42.7%
Technology & Construction Division (TCD)	2	1	−50.0%
Arbitration Division (ARB)	28	53	+89.3%
Digital Economy Court Division (DEC)	2	2	0.0%
Enforcement Division (ENF)	350	341	−2.6%
Small Claims Tribunal (SCT)	592	995	+68.1%
Total claims across all divisions	**1,056**	**1,509**	**+42.9%**

4. The increase continued in the first half of 2026, when the Courts recorded 810 filings, 25% more than in the corresponding period of 2025, with a combined value of AED 10.02 billion. These included 110 CFI claims, 479 SCT claims and 220 enforcement filings, more than double the 106 filed in the first half of 2025.[iv]

5. The headline figures are best read for their breadth. The aggregate value reflects enforcement activity as well as substantive litigation: the Enforcement Division alone accounted for claims worth some AED 10.9 billion in 2025, more than half of the total.[v] The number of filings, meanwhile, is driven by the SCT, which received about two in every three claims. Neither distorts the picture. Together they show a court used at every stage of a commercial dispute, from the first small claim to the enforcement of a final judgment, and at every scale. In 2025, the average claim was about AED 84,000 in the SCT, AED 33.9 million in the Civil and Commercial Division and AED 150.2 million in the Arbitration Division; in the first half of 2026, the average CFI claim rose to AED 117.2 million. Table 3 sets out that range.[vi]

Table 3: Published Average Claim Values by Division and Size (2025 and First Half of 2026)[vii]

Division	Claims (2025)	Total value (2025)	Published Average claim (2025)	Claims (H1 2026)	Published Average claim (H1 2026)
Court of First Instance and its divisions	**173**	AED 7.6 billion	AED 68.2 million	110	AED 117.2 million
Civil & Commercial Division	117	AED 2.6 billion	AED 33.9 million	72	AED 112.6 million
Arbitration Division	53	AED 4.95 billion	AED 150.2 million	37	-
Enforcement Division	341	AED 10.9 billion	AED 840.3 million	220	-
Small Claims Tribunal	995	AED 83.1 million	AED 84,000	479	AED 94,000
All divisions	**1,509**	**AED 18.6 billion**	-	**810**	-

6. The Courts' opt-in jurisdiction shows who is choosing them. In 2025, 31% of CFI claims were brought under opt-in jurisdiction; in the first half of 2026, it was 42%.[viii] Across all divisions, 243 of the 810 cases filed in that half-year, nearly one in three, came to the Courts by the parties' own agreement, 201 of them in the SCT. In the CFI, 47% of opt-in claims involved at least one party based outside the UAE, from 13 overseas jurisdictions including Saudi Arabia, Oman, India, Germany, Switzerland, the United States and Australia, and some had no UAE party at all. Eight of the 11 opt-in arbitration matters concerned arbitrations seated abroad, in Singapore, Hong Kong, London, Paris and Stockholm, and the single opt-in claim in the Digital Economy Court involved parties from the United Kingdom, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, El Salvador and Vietnam.[ix] The Courts' Growth Strategy 2026–2030, launched in December 2025, sets out 26 initiatives under six priorities to extend that reach.[x]

7. The cases bear out what the figures suggest. This chapter draws on 35 matters decided or filed during the review period. These matters do not represent the entirety of the caseload of the Courts of the last year, but they do fundamentally represent the width of the docket. Table 4 sorts them by field, and Table 5 by the parties to them. They range from banking and corporate control to employment, leases, freight and war-risks reinsurance. Individuals appear as parties in 22 of them, companies outside financial services in 17, law firms and other advisers in 9, and banks and other financial firms in 7. Just over half (18) have produced a decision discussed in this chapter; the rest are pending claims, described here as pleaded, on which the Courts have made no findings. These figures establish the breadth of demand; the sections that follow show what businesses and individuals are asking the Courts to resolve.

Table 4: Matters Referenced in this Chapter, by Field[xi]

Area of Dispute	Total Matters	Decision Discussed	Pleadings Only	Issues Covered
Banking and financial services	6	1	5	Onboarding, advice, execution of instructions, close-out, fees, lending
Companies, shareholders and insolvency	7	2	5	Pre-action disclosure, share sales, acquisitions, trade names, restoration, winding-up
Professional and advisory services	9	6	3	Fee caps, success fees, legal fees, advisers' duties, visa consultancy
Employment	2	2	0	Victimisation, costs of production applications
Property and leases	3	2	1	Occupation under a sale agreement, rent after floods, unpaid rent
Trade and supply	4	1	3	Freight and warehousing, design fees, supplied goods, a chemical cargo
Insurance and reinsurance	1	1	0	War-risks reinsurance
Other civil and commercial claims	3	3	0	Fraudulent misrepresentation, relief from sanctions, an unproved small claim
Total	**35**	**18**	**17**	

Table 5: Matters Referenced in this Chapter, by Party[xii]

Parties	Matters	Examples
Individuals: investors, shareholders, buyers, employees, tenants and clients	22	*Begum v HSBC; Lau v Qashio Holding; Oluremi v Omolara; Green Community Holdings v White*
Companies outside financial services	17	*Al Fardan Group v Stake Holding; Collection Club Restaurant v MAG Development Services; CTS Middle East v Pivot Integrated Energy*
Law firms and other advisers	9	*Clyde & Co v Union Properties; Krystal Financial Consultants v Nextgen Robopark Investment; Pembroke v Paloma*
Banks and other financial firms	7	*EFG v MARJ Holding; Hedgepoint Global Markets v Bell Weather International; BGC Brokers v Tillman*
Insurers and reinsurers	1	*Al Buhaira National Insurance Company v Arab War Risks Insurance Syndicate*
Public bodies	1	*Drydocks World v Registrar of Companies DIFC*

II. FINANCIAL SERVICES DISPUTES

8. Financial-services litigation before the DIFC Courts now extends well beyond claims for investment mis-selling. The claims filed in 2026 show how many distinct obligations within a single financial relationship can give rise to a claim. In *Begum v HSBC Bank Middle East*, the claimants allege failings in onboarding, source-of-funds analysis and communications, and seek USD 78.75 million for funds said to have been frozen for over ten years.[xiii] *Kukar v Julius Baer Middle East* concerns advice on foreign-exchange accumulator and target-redemption structures (USD 2.72 million),[xiv] *Kumar v HDFC Bank DIFC Branch* – an alleged failure to act on instructions to unwind leveraged bond positions (USD 1.10 million),[xv] *Hedgepoint Global Markets v Bell Weather International* – margin calls and close-out across a DIFC arranger and an overseas executing affiliate (USD 12.19 million),[xvi] and *Frieri Gallo v Index & Cie* – the closing of managed assets and the deduction of management fees (USD 746,927).[xvii] Each remains pending, and the Court has made no findings on them.

9. Claims brought by banks form the other side of the relationship, as *EFG v MARJ Holding* shows. In Singularity's discussion of the case in the 2025 edition of this book, the bank's worldwide freezing order had been set aside for material non-disclosure. In its judgment of 27 July 2026, the Court granted immediate judgment on the bank's claims against the borrower and the corporate guarantor. The application did not extend to the individual defendant or to the separate claims in deceit.[xviii] Onboarding, advice, execution, close-out, fees and lending: within a single year, the Courts have been asked to adjudicate each stage of a financial relationship, in claims ranging from under USD 1 million to almost USD 80 million, brought by individual investors and banks alike.

III. COMPANIES ACROSS THEIR COMMERCIAL LIFE

10. The DIFC Courts' commercial docket in 2026 reflects disputes arising across the life of a company, from incorporation and structuring to ownership, transactions, governance, restoration and insolvency, and that docket is likely to continue growing. The revised Prescribed Company Regulations 2026 have removed the former eligibility restrictions on special purpose vehicles, so that any applicant may now incorporate or continue a Prescribed Company,[xix] subject, unless exempt, to appointing a corporate service provider registered with the Dubai Financial Services Authority.[xx] Easier incorporation is likely to bring even more DIFC entities, and their disputes over ownership, control and insolvency, before the Courts.

11. The seven corporate matters of the review period already span that life. At the outset of a dispute, in *Lau v Qashio Holding,* a shareholder who alleged that his holding had been diluted from approximately 15% to approximately 0.17% obtained a limited production order under rules 28.47–28.50 of the Rules of the DIFC Courts **("RDC"),** the Court making clear that those rules cannot themselves confer jurisdiction.[xxi] On transactions, the Courts are hearing a claim for an AED 14 million unpaid balance under a share purchase agreement in *Almutawa v Al Zarouni*[xxii] and a dispute over the acquisition of a vehicle business in *Mahtani v Baig,*[xxiii] while in *Laci v Dalesh,* a default judgment concerning an AED 3.7 million transaction was set aside on issues of payment, share transfer, authority and completion.[xxiv]

12. On commercial identity, *Al Fardan Group v Stake Holding* concerns alleged trade-name infringement, misrepresentation and unfair competition.[xxv] At the end of a company's life, a restoration is sought in *Drydocks World v Registrar of Companies DIFC* so that a share transfer can be completed,[xxvi] and in *ORF Holding,* a court-ordered winding-up is sought on inability to pay and a shareholder resolution.[xxvii]

IV. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES LITIGATION

13. Professional-services claims before the DIFC Courts in 2026 concerned capped legal fees, contingent commissions under financing mandates, unpaid invoices and alleged failures to perform advisory duties, and they were brought by and against law firms, consultants and their clients alike. Even where the relief sought was payment of an invoice, the Courts had to determine what the engagement authorised, when remuneration became due and whether an alleged professional failing supplied a defence or an independent claim.

14. In *Clyde & Co v Union Properties,* the Court of Appeal construed an average monthly cap of USD 45,000 as applying across the whole engagement, including on termination, and rejected the recovery of further fees carried forward beyond it.[xxviii] In *Krystal Financial Consultants v Nextgen Robopark Investment,* it held that a client's objection within the agreed period prevented the deemed acceptance of funding terms, so that no success fee became payable.[xxix] In *Stephenson Harwood v Mark A B Capital Investment,* the Court held that general allegations of breaches of professional standards were insufficient to resist a claim for fees. Permission to appeal was refused after a law firm obtained immediate judgment for unpaid fees in *Watson Farley & Williams v Bin Otaiba Investment Group,* and after a client succeeded against a law firm in *Morgenstern v Al Mehrzi.*[xxx] At the other end of the scale, in *Pembroke v Paloma,* the SCT ordered a consultancy to refund fees paid for assistance with a UK visa application.[xxxi]

15. Further claims remain pending: *Masri v Bhatia* concerns alleged breaches of contractual and professional duties by advisers,[xxxii] *Pen & Paper Worldwide v Korobkov* – fixed and contingent advisory fees of USD 395,000, and *Hamdan Al Shamsi Lawyers v Nabili* – unpaid legal

fees and a success commission.[xxxiii] From a visa consultancy's fees to a capped bill for litigation before the ADGM Courts, nine matters show the Courts serving as the ordinary forum for disputes over professional work.

V. EMPLOYMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

16. Few areas of DIFC litigation have witnessed more significant developments during the review period than employment, both in the protection of statutory rights and in the measures introduced to improve access to justice. In *Oluremi v Omolara,* the Court addressed both an employee's pay entitlements and her employer's retaliation for bringing proceedings protected under Article 60 of the DIFC Employment Law. On a rehearing of her appeal from the SCT, the Court found in March 2026 that both steps amounted to unlawful victimisation, and awarded AED 88,633, including AED 62,000, equivalent to three months' pay, as compensation.[xxxiv]

17. In *BGC Brokers v Tillman,* the employer's substantial success on a production application did not secure recovery of its costs: the Court directed each party to bear its own.[xxxv] The decision illustrates the practical effect of Practice Direction No. 1 of 2025 **("PD 1/2025"),** which generally requires parties to bear their own costs in CFI employment proceedings and permits flexibility in filing fees.[xxxvi] Employers and employees should therefore assess procedural applications against the expense they may have to absorb even if successful.

VI. PROPERTY, TRADE AND INSURANCE DISPUTES

18. The DIFC Courts' commercial docket also extends to property, trade and insurance disputes, and these show its range most plainly. *Green Community Holdings v White* illustrates why a purchaser's right

to occupy must be traced to the agreement granting it. Termination for non-payment ended that right and the purported lease offered no protection because it was found to be a sham. The agreement's exclusive jurisdiction clause also determined where the dispute would be heard.[xxxvii] In *Collection Club Restaurant v MAG Development Services,* the Court of Appeal held that a tenant could not rely on force majeure under Article 82 of the DIFC Contract Law to withhold rent after the floods of April 2024, because rent paid for exclusive possession is a "mere obligation to pay".[xxxviii]

19. Trade claims are about as ordinary as commercial litigation can get. The docket includes pending claims for freight and warehousing charges, design fees, supplied goods and unpaid rent.[xxxix] In *CTS Middle East v Pivot Integrated Energy,* a claim for the price of a cargo of N-Methylaniline had been settled on instalment terms, which the buyer breached, and the Court entered judgment for the outstanding AED 4,191,800.49 and interest.[xl] At the other end of the scale, *Al Buhaira National Insurance Company v Arab War Risks Insurance Syndicate* concerned the war-risks insurance and reinsurance of a vessel. The Court of Appeal held that the reinsurance contract was governed by English law and included the Placement Note, but set aside a declaration that the reinsurer was bound by an implied term to pay defence costs.[xli] It is indeed evidence of the docket's diversity that a residential purchase, a restaurant lease, a chemical cargo and a vessel said to have disappeared all came before the same Court in the same year.

VII. APPEALS

20. The breadth of the docket is matched on appeal. In 2026 alone, the Court of Appeal determined a law firm's fee cap in *Clyde & Co,* a consultant's success fee in *Krystal,* a restaurant's rent after the floods in

Collection Club, the governing law of a war-risks reinsurance in *Al Buhaira*, relief from sanctions for a late witness statement in *Abramenko v Chuprin*, and an appeal considering fraudulent misrepresentation in *Al Mheiri v Cameron*, where it ordered a retrial.[xlii] Appeals from the SCT, from an employee's victimisation claim in *Oluremi* to a consultancy's visa fees in *Pembroke* and an unproved claim in *Perry v Paisleigh*, show that even the smallest claims have a route to appellate review.[xliii]

21. A broader docket does not mean a second opportunity to litigate every dispute. An unsuccessful party must first obtain permission to appeal, which will be refused unless the appeal has a real prospect of success or there is some other compelling reason for it to be heard.[xliv] In 2026, permission was refused in *Watson Farley & Williams*, *Morgenstern*, *Perry and Pembroke*, and the purchasers in *Green Community* could neither raise new points on appeal nor rely on further evidence that could have been obtained with reasonable diligence.[xlv] Where permission is granted, a five-member Court of Appeal held in *Krystal* that there is no general requirement to show that the decision under appeal was "plainly wrong". Restraint applies to findings based on oral testimony or voluminous and complex documentary evidence, to discretionary decisions, to assessments weighing competing factors, and to case management, but where the appellate court is at no material disadvantage, it must decide the question for itself.[xlvi] A docket this broad thus has an appellate check calibrated to the decision under review.

VIII. CONCLUSION: PRECISION AND THE CHALLENGE OF SCALE

22. The 2025 and 2026 docket confirms that the DIFC Courts are no longer defined principally by specialist financial litigation or enforcement. By number, their work is led by small claims; by value, by enforcement and arbitration; and between them lies an ordinary commercial docket that, in 2025, grew by more than half in the CFI alone. The 35 matters surveyed here run from banking and corporate control to employment, leases, freight and reinsurance, and from individual employees and purchasers to banks, insurers, law firms and the Registrar of Companies. In the first half of 2026, nearly one in three filings came by the parties' own choice, many from outside the UAE.

23. That breadth makes the DIFC Courts a forum for ordinary commercial disputes and raises a question faced by any growing court: whether the quality and consistency of adjudication can keep pace with demand. In 2025, filings rose by 43% and orders by 38%, while judgments issued rose by 4%. These figures alone do not establish delay or pressure on capacity: proceedings may conclude without a judgment, and the figures do not measure time to disposal. The decisions considered in this chapter suggest that growth has not displaced careful and proportionate adjudication. The challenge now is to sustain that quality as demand continues to increase.

References:

[i] DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts sets out five-year Growth Strategy as it shares 2025 service statistics" (11 February 2026)

[ii] DIFC Courts, Fast Facts (2024) and Fast Facts (2025)

[iii] DIFC Courts, Courts Statistics 2024 and 2025; DIFC Courts, service statistics releases (17 February 2025 and 11 February 2026)

[iv] DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts reports AED 10 billion in claims; highest first-half caseload in DIFC Courts history" (13 July 2026)

[v] DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts sets out five-year Growth Strategy as it shares 2025 service statistics" (11 February 2026); DIFC Courts, Statistics 2025, Enforcement Division

[vi] DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts sets out five-year Growth Strategy as it shares 2025 service statistics" (11 February 2026); DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts reports AED 10 billion in claims; highest first-half caseload in DIFC Courts history" (13 July 2026)

[vii] DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts sets out five-year Growth Strategy as it shares 2025 service statistics" (11 February 2026); DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts reports AED 10 billion in claims: the highest first-half caseload in DIFC Courts history" (13 July 2026). Figures and averages are reproduced as published. The sources do not explain how the averages are calculated, and they do not consistently equal total claim value divided by claim count. The Civil & Commercial and Arbitration Division figures are included within the CFI subtotal; other CFI divisions are not separately shown. The first-half 2026 Civil & Commercial figures are those reported for the CFI's main division. The published first-half divisional counts sum to 809, against a reported overall total of 810. "—" indicates a figure not reproduced in the table.

[viii] DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts sets out five-year Growth Strategy as it shares 2025 service statistics" (11 February 2026); DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts reports AED 10 billion in claims; highest first-half caseload in DIFC Courts history" (13 July 2026)

[ix] DIFC Courts, "Parties from UAE and 22 overseas jurisdictions across five continents opted in to DIFC Courts in first half of 2026" (18 August 2026); "DIFC Courts draw parties from 22 overseas jurisdictions in first half of 2026", Gulf News (18 August 2026)

[x] The full DIFC Courts Growth Strategy 2026–2030 is not publicly available. The summary here is based on DIFC Courts, "DIFC Courts launches new five-year Growth Strategy" (11 December 2025)

[xi] Compiled from the matters cited in this chapter. "Decided" means that a judgment or order in the matter is discussed in this chapter; "pending", that a claim was filed during the review period and no decision on it is discussed. Pending claims are described as pleaded, and the Courts have made no findings on them

[xii] Compiled from the matters cited in this chapter. A matter appears in more than one row where its parties are of different types. The employer in *Oluremi v Omolara* and the respondent in *Perry v Paisleigh* are not classified

[xiii] *Nazma Begum and others v HSBC Bank Middle East Limited,* CFI 016/2026; Xhulio Ismalaj and Lars Mucklejohn, "HSBC faces $79m lawsuit over client's decade-long assets freeze", Financial News (8 April 2026)

[xiv] *Kukar v Julius Baer Middle East,* CFI 030/2026

[xv] *Sanjay Kumar v HDFC Bank DIFC Branch,* CFI 033/2026

[xvi] *Hedgepoint Global Markets and another v Bell Weather International,* CFI 049/2026 (filed 4 May 2026); "Hedgepoint Global Markets in $12.2 million legal battle with Bell Weather", Takyon.Law (21 July 2026)

[xvii] *Arturo Rafael Frieri Gallo v Index & Cie,* CFI 050/2026 (filed 5 May 2026)

[xviii] *EFG (Middle East) Ltd and EFG Bank Ltd v MARJ Holding Ltd, ARJ Holding Ltd and Mohammad Ahmad Ramadhan Juma,* [2025] DIFC CFI 029 (27 July 2026), paragraphs 1–7, 20–25 and 28–39

[xix] DIFC, "New DIFC Regulations Further Strengthen DIFC's Structuring Advantage for SPVs" (3 August 2026)

[xx] Prescribed Company Regulations (Consolidated Version No. 5, in force 24 July 2026), Regulations 3.1.1, 5.1.1, 5.2.4, 5.3.1, 6.1.1 and 6.1.2

[xxi] *Jonathan Lau v Qashio Holding Company Limited and Armin Moradi Tosarvandani,* [2026] DIFC CFI 058 (22 July 2026), paragraphs 12–33, 69 and 75–107

[xxii] *Ahmed Seddiq Almutawa v H.E. Dr Abdulrahim Al Zarouni,* CFI 020/2026

[xxiii] *Mahtani and others v Baig and others,* CFI 001/2026

[xxiv] *Mauro Laci v Soyab Dalesh and Hassan Albeer,* CFI 064/2026

[xxv] *Al Fardan Group v Stake Holding,* CFI 052/2026

[xxvi] *Drydocks World v Registrar of Companies DIFC,* CFI 015/2026

[xxvii] *ORF Holding Ltd,* CFI 060/2026

[xxviii] *Clyde & Co LLP v Union Properties PJSC and UPP Capital Investment LLC,* [2026] DIFC CA 005 (9 June 2026) ***("Clyde & Co"),*** paragraphs 65, 67(7)–(8) and 68

[xxix] *Krystal Financial Consultants LLC v Nextgen Robopark Investment LLC,* [2025] DIFC CA 007 (16 June 2026, reissued 24 June 2026) ***("Krystal"),*** paragraphs 5–18 and 63–77

[xxx] *Watson Farley & Williams (Middle East) LLP v Bin Otaiba Investment Group,* CFI 086/2025 (14 August 2026) ***("Watson Farley & Williams"),*** paragraph 1; *Stephan Carl Morgenstern v Saif Sultan Al Mehrzi Lawyer & Legal Consultants,* CFI 036/2025 (8 September 2026) ***("Morgenstern"),*** paragraph 1

[xxxi] *Pembroke v Paloma,* [2025] DIFC SCT 946 (19 August 2026) ***("Pembroke"),*** paragraphs 2–6 and 29–37

[xxxii] *Salah Masri and others v Harjeet Bhatia Paramjeet Singh and others,* CFI 044/2026

[xxxiii] *Pen & Paper Worldwide DMCC v Dmitry Korobkov,* CFI 039/2026; *Hamdan Al Shamsi Lawyer & Legal Consultants v Shahram Nabili,* CFI 070/2026

[xxxiv] DIFC Employment Law, Articles 60 and 61(5) and (7); *Oluremi v Omolara,* [2025] DIFC CFI 107 (3 March 2026) ***("Oluremi"),*** paragraphs 1–6 and 16–39, and Order, paragraphs 2–3

[xxxv] *BGC Brokers LP v Adam Tillman,* CFI 038/2025 (21 August 2026), paragraphs 2, 4–5, 13–17, 20–25, 31–33 and 43

[xxxvi] DIFC Courts, Practice Direction No. 1 of 2025, Access to Justice in Employment Disputes (1 October 2025), paragraphs 1.1, 1.2, 2.1–2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1–4.3 and 5.1

[xxxvii] *Green Community Holdings Limited v Mitchell White and Grace Alexandra White,* CFI 013/2026 (11 June 2026) ***("Green Community"),*** paragraphs 2–6 and 9–10

[xxxviii] *The Collection Club Restaurant Limited, Laurent Buisine and Hugo Valat v MAG Development Services Limited,* CA 006/2026 (24 April 2026) ***("Collection Club"),*** paragraphs 10–14 and 41–50; DIFC Contract Law, DIFC Law No. 6 of 2004, Article 82

[xxxix] *Modern Freight Company v Middle East Retail Company,* CFI 041/2026; *Killa Architectural Design v Royd Real Estate Development,* CFI 002/2026; *SELFX Innovations Inc v Musk Garments Trading,* CFI 063/2026; *Musabbeh Al Fattan v La Voile Rouge Restaurant & Bar,* CFI 074/2026

[xl] *CTS Middle East FZCO v Pivot Integrated Energy FZC,* [2026] DIFC CFI 024 (14 October 2026), Schedule of Reasons, paragraphs 1 and 9, and Order, paragraphs 1–3

[xli] *Al Buhaira National Insurance Company v Arab War Risks Insurance Syndicate,* [2026] DIFC CA 003 (10 August 2026) ***("Al Buhaira"),*** paragraphs 3–4, 66–72, 104–112, 120 and 133–135

[xlii] *Clyde & Co; Krystal; Collection Club; Al Buhaira; Roman Abramenko and Vadim Misevich v Igor Chuprin,* [2026] DIFC CA 009 (8 June 2026), paragraphs 23–25 and 61–62; *Khaled Salem Musabeh Humad Al Mheiri v John Cameron,* [2025] DIFC CA 008 (1 September 2026), Schedule of Reasons, paragraphs 147–149 and 206–209, and Order, paragraphs 1–4

[xliii] *Oluremi; Pembroke; Perry v Paisleigh,* [2025] DIFC SCT 466 (6 August 2026) ***("Perry"),*** paragraphs 2–4 and 9–14

[xliv] *Green Community Holdings Limited v Mitchell White and Grace Alexandra White,* CFI 013/2026 (9 October 2026), paragraph 5

[xlv] *Watson Farley & Williams,* paragraph 1; *Morgenstern,* paragraph 1; *Perry,* paragraphs 2–4 and 9–14; *Pembroke,* paragraphs 2–6 and 29–37; *Green Community,* paragraphs 1–3 and 9; RDC 44.114(2)

[xlvi] *Krystal,* paragraphs 3, 50–54 and 60–61

ABOUT US

Singularity is an Asia and Africa focused international disputes boutique, established in August 2017. Since then, we have handled over US$ 10 billion in cross-border disputes in various sectors, including energy and resources, construction and infrastructure, shipping and maritime, sports and entertainment, international trade and business, and private equity and finance. These disputes have arisen out of business relations and projects in various parts of the world including the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Canada, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Italy, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, Russia, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore and Somalia.

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(d) Legal 500 (Asia Pacific) - Recognised for Dispute Resolution practise in Arbitration (2025)
(e) Chambers & Partners (Asia Pacific) – Singularity for dispute resolution practice (2025)
(f) AsiaLaw – Recognised for Dispute Resolution, Construction, Banking & Financial Services and Technology & Telecommunications practise areas (2024)

(g) LegalMedia 360 (India) – Recognised for Dispute Resolution practice (Arbitration) (2024)
(h) Ranked as "Most Active in the Enforcement & Annulment of Commercial Arbitration Awards" - Jus Connect's 2023 Rankings

OUR MIDDLE EAST PRACTICE

Singularity Legal is licensed to practice as legal consultants in the UAE, including as solicitors before the courts at Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), and Bahrain International Commercial Court (BICC).

Our partner, Prateek Bagaria, has also been registered as a Part II lawyer with full rights of audience before the DIFC Courts and heads the firm's Middle East practice.

On the firm's entry into the UAE, he said:
"DIFC is an upcoming business and trade hub and has been a priority center for Indian financial institutions, funds, family businesses, multinational corporations, and trading houses, among others, operating in the Asia-Africa corridor. Moreover, in light of the new India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), business dealings in the DIFC are slated to grow exponentially. We are thrilled to expand our practice to the Middle East, where our clients increasingly require our assistance with their disputes. This expansion will also give the clients more immediate access to the firm's specialists and wider network in the MENA region."

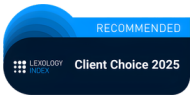
Singularity now has the end-to-end ability to service clients across the UAE, including DIFC and ADGM Courts, covering disputes relating to:

(a) construction and infrastructure projects
(b) shipping and maritime
(c) bank guarantees and insurance
(d) debt recovery, enforcement, and insolvency
(e) intellectual property
(f) digital assets
(g) pro bono representation

In view of our remarkable achievements in the Middle East, we have also been ranked as one of the "most active law firms in the enforcement and annulment of commercial awards in the United Arab Emirates".











ABOUT EXPERT TALK

The Expert Talk initiative seeks to provide quality continued digital education to professionals, through freely accessible webinars, and a digital library of blogs, alerts, insights and talks, on dispute resolution and litigation finance.

DISCLAIMER

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