Dispute Resolution

A practical overview of **resolving disputes in the UAE**: onshore courts, financial free zone courts, arbitration, and enforcement.

CORE AREAS

ONSHORE COURTS

UAE onshore courts hear civil, commercial, real estate, and employment disputes through the Courts of First Instance, Appeal, and Cassation. Proceedings are generally in Arabic and governed by the UAE Civil Procedure Law.

DIFC COURTS

The DIFC Courts operate in English and follow a common law framework. They hear disputes in connection with 1) DIFC-registered companies, 2) and other matters where parties have agreed to opt into DIFC jurisdiction.

ADGM COURTS

The ADGM Courts operate in English and apply a common law-based system within Abu Dhabi Global Market. They hear civil and commercial disputes through the Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal.

ARBITRATION

Arbitration is commonly used for commercial, construction, real estate, and cross-border disputes. UAE arbitration is governed by Federal Law No. 6 of 2018, with institutions such as DIAC, ADGM Arbitration Centre, and ICC commonly used.

KEY CONCEPTS

ENFORCEMENT

The UAE is a party to the New York Convention, which supports the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards. Foreign judgments and orders may also be enforced through UAE courts, subject to legal conditions.

INTERIM MEASURES

UAE courts may grant urgent measures such as attachment orders, injunctions, and evidence preservation. Emergency arbitration may also be available under certain institutional rules before the full tribunal is formed.

Unsure how to resolve a legal dispute?

Our team can help you understand your options and guide you through mediation, litigation, and other processes.

BOOK A CONSULTATION ↗

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