

Dr. Gordon Blanke MCI Arb, LL.M



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Dr. Blanke is Founding Partner of Blanke Arbitration LLC, Dubai/London/Paris. Before establishing his own firm, Dr. Blanke was a Partner of International Commercial and Investment Arbitration with DWF (Middle East) LLP in the DIFC, Dubai. Prior to joining DWF, he was Counsel and Sector Leader of International Arbitration in Baker & McKenzie.Habib Al Mulla’s Dubai and Abu Dhabi offices. Dr. Blanke has extensive and wide-ranging experience in all types of international commercial and investment arbitration in both common- and civil law jurisdictions, having acted as advising counsel and arbitrator under most leading institutional arbitration rules (including the ICC, LCIA, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA, ADCCAC, GCC, SCC and JAMS arbitration rules) and ad hoc (including the GAFTA and LMAA Rules) in arbitrations seated in the US, Europe, the Middle East and Asia in relation to a variety of industry sectors, including aviation, private equity, banking and finance, construction/real estate, commodities, hospitality, travel/leisure, cosmetics, IT, telecoms, oil and gas, maritime/shipping etc. Dr. Blanke has also been appointed to the CIETAC, ADCCAC and CRCICA Panel of Arbitrators. In the 2014 and 2015 editions of The Legal 500, Dr. Blanke has been recommended for international arbitration in the UAE and is praised as “very professional” in The Legal 500 2016. He is also recommended, including for construction arbitration, in The Legal 500 EMEA 2019. Dr. Blanke is listed as a leading arbitration specialist in Who’s Who Legal 2016 and Who’s Who Arbitration – Future Leaders 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Dr. Blanke also has relevant antitrust law experience. He served a training period with the late Merger Task Force of the Directorate-General of Competition of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, and trained with former Advocate-General Jacobs and Judges Jaeger and Azisi of the European Court of First Instance and the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg as well as the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris, France.

Dr. Blanke is English-qualified and holds an LL.B (Hons) from the LSE, London; a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Inns of Court School of Law, London; a Postgraduate Diploma in EU Competition Law from King's College, London, and an LL.M in European Litigation from the University of Luxembourg and the University Robert Schuman, Strasbourg. He also holds an MPhil in Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Austria, and attended the ENA, Strasbourg, France, as an élève étranger. Dr. Blanke has been awarded a doctorate by the Law Faculty of the University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

Dr. Blanke a regular speaker on international arbitration at conferences and seminars worldwide, including in Europe, the US and the Middle East. He has held teaching positions in international arbitration at the University of Southampton, England, and is an approved tutor of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London/Dubai. He also teaches courses on arbitration at the Dubai Legal Affairs Department (DLAD) and the International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI), Nigeria. Dr. Blanke is fluent in English, French, German and Spanish and speaks intermediate Italian and Japanese.

Dr. Blanke is an Honorary Citizen of Utsunomia, Tokyo.

Assignments representative of Dr. Blanke's work as Counsel include:

- Advising on a multi-billion AED worth international partnership dispute between a Canadian and a Saudi national under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a US contractor in relation to a multi-million AED payment dispute for services rendered in the construction of a Dubai-based racecourse under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE-based bulk investor in a dispute worth AED 300 million against a UAE-based property developer under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE-based master developer in a dispute against a UAE project developer worth one billion AED under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE-based employer in a dispute worth over AED 25 million against a main contractor in relation to construction works on an office building based in Business Bay under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE investor in relation to a multi-million AED dispute with an international investment bank in relation to a failed investment portfolio under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE investment advisor in a multi-million US\$ dispute against a Saudi investor under an investment services agreement governed by UAE law in an ad hoc arbitration with seat in Dubai;
- Advising multiple Swiss and Italian investors on a property dispute against a UAE-based property developer in relation to a multi-million AED real estate development under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising Japan's largest IT services provider in a dispute against an Abu Dhabi-based entity in relation to the installation of a forensic information host system for the Abu Dhabi police under the ICC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;

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- Advising on a multi-million AED private equity dispute between a placement agent and a UAE investor in relation to the entitlement to a success fee for a consumed IPO under the ADCCAC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising on a multi-million AED construction dispute between a UAE-based developer and a UAE employer under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising on a multi-million AED construction dispute between a UAE-based sub-contractor specialised in geotechnical and foundation engineering and an Indian owner under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising on a multi-million AED construction dispute between a German contractor and a UAE sub-contractor under the ADCCAC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising on a construction dispute worth AED 500 million between a Kuwaiti employer and a Chinese contractor under the ADCCAC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a Swiss contractor in a multi-million AED construction dispute against a UAE employer under the ICC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising on a multi-million AED construction dispute between an Italian/French contractor and a US sub-contractor in relation to dispute arising from works provided within the framework of the Dubai Airport expansion project under the ICC Rules with seat in Paris and governed by UAE and French law;
 - Advising a UAE-based Indian building materials supplier in a multi-million AED payment dispute with a UAE quarry under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising an Austrian cement and mining technology company in a payment dispute with a UAE employer in relation to the construction of a cement plant in Ras Al Khaimah in an arbitration under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a UAE-based contractor in a payment dispute with a local sub-contractor for MEP works under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a UAE-based subsidiary of a UK contractor in a \$US 90 million dispute with a UAE-based subcontractor in relation to the construction of an oilfield in Abu Dhabi under the ICC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a UAE-based company specialised in civil contracting for commercial and residential building projects in a multi-million \$US construction dispute against the UAE-based foreign branch of a Korean company specialised in the delivery of EPC projects in the areas of exploration and production of oil and gas in relation to the construction of facilities for onshore oil operation under the ICC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a US transport specialist in a dispute against a Bulgarian lessee of trailers in relation to failure to perform under a set of lease agreements for trailers under the ICC Rules with seat in Stuttgart and governed by English law;
 - Advising a UAE-based client in a dispute against a Chinese telecommunications giant in an international commercial arbitration under the SCC Rules with seat in Stockholm and governed by Swedish law;
 - Advising a majority State-owned gas company in a dispute worth US\$ 180 million against a private power company under the ICC Rules with seat in Singapore and governed by English law;

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- Advising a leading US dairy machine manufacturer in a dispute with a Dutch purchaser of dairy machinery under the ICC Rules with seat in Paris and governed by Dutch law;
 - Advising Japan's largest IT services provider in a dispute against an Dubai-based distributor in relation to the breach of a distribution agreement under the ICC Rules with seat in Munich and governed by German law;
 - Advising a UAE-based wood manufacturing company in a dispute worth EUR 20 mio against a German machinery and plant manufacturer arising out of the performance of an agreement for the supply and installation of a wood-cutting factory under the LCIA Rules with seat in London and governed by English law;
 - Advising a leading oil and gas services company in a dispute against a UAE-based oil and gas group in relation to the construction of a bio-fuel facility in Fujairah under the LCIA Rules with seat in London and governed by English law;
 - Advising an Indian distributor in relation to a dispute arising from an exclusive distribution agreement in relation to the distribution of German sports cars in India under the LCIA Rules with seat in Bahrain and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a US travel goods manufacturer in a multi-million \$US claim against an English franchisee under the LCIA Rules with seat in London and governed by English law;
 - Advising a London-based investment fund in relation to a multi-million \$US dispute with a US placement agent under the JAMS Arbitration Rules with seat in Connecticut, USA, and governed by US law;
 - Advising a Kazakh shipowner in relation to a multi-million US\$ payment dispute with a UAE-based charterer under a charter party governed by English law under the LMAA Rules with seat in London;
 - Advising an Iranian geotechnology company in a multi-million AED charter party dispute against a UAE-based charterer in an ad hoc arbitration with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a DIFC-based financier in relation to a dispute arising from a murabaha agreement in an arbitration under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by English law;
 - Advising a DIFC-based contractor in a construction dispute against a UAE-based petroleum company in an arbitration under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by English law;
 - Advising on a construction dispute between a UAE-based sub-contractor specialised in piling and shoring works and a UAE-based contractor under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a UAE-based developer in a payment dispute against a DIFC-based management company in an arbitration under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in the DIFC and governed by DIFC law;
 - Advising a UAE-based contractor in a payment dispute against a Chinese developer in an arbitration under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in the DIFC and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a UAE flight support services company in a dispute worth in excess of \$4 million arising from a aircraft management services agreement with a Saudi charter services company and a Panamanian aircraft support company under the DIFC-LCIA Rules seated in the DIFC and governed by English law;
 - Advising a UAE laundry services provider in relation to a breach of warranty claim arising out of a share sale and purchase agreement under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
 - Advising a UAE-based contractor in a construction dispute against an Australian designer architect in an

arbitration under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;

- Advising a UAE-based contracting company in a construction dispute against a Dubai-based MEP contractor in an arbitration under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE-based contracting company in a construction dispute against a UAE-based multidisciplinary engineering company specialised in fire prevention in an ad hoc arbitration with seat in Dubai and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE-based steel subcontractor in a construction dispute arising out of the Abu Dhabi-based Louvre Project in an arbitration under the DIAC Rules with seat in Abu Dhabi and governed by UAE law;
- Various enforcement actions of foreign arbitral awards before the DIFC Courts (including under the New York Convention); and
- Advising the UAE Ministry of the Economy on discrete issues of antitrust law of relevance in the UAE, including the draft UAE Competition Law before its adoption in 2013.

To date, Dr. Blanke has sat as Chairman, Sole Arbitrator and Co-arbitrator in over 50 ICC, SCC, DIFC-LCIA, DIAC, ADCCAC, AjCCCA and ad hoc arbitrations, including international commercial, construction, real estate, corporate and other disputes of varying sizes, governed by English, Swedish and UAE law. Appointments representative of Dr. Blanke's work as Arbitrator include:

- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a construction dispute governed by Qatari law worth over QAR 50 mio with respect to the construction of an infrastructure project in Doha under the ICC Rules and seated in Doha, Qatar;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a construction dispute governed by UAE law worth over AED 100 mio with respect to the installation of an irrigation and stormwater drainage system as part of the construction of a road tunnel in Abu Dhabi under the ICC Rules and seated in Abu Dhabi;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a construction dispute worth around AED 300 mio between a Dubai-based building contractor and a UAE property developer governed by UAE law with respect to a Dubai-based residential project under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a dispute arising from a master transport services agreement involving logistics companies from the USA, Lithuania and Afghanistan governed by English law under the ICC Rules with seat in Dubai;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a construction dispute between a subcontractor and a contractor governed by UAE law with respect to a construction project in Dubai under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a dispute worth around AED 20 mio between an Indian national and a Panama-incorporated foundation for underprivileged children with respect to the alleged breach of a deed of settlement involving the sale of shares governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a dispute worth around \$US 10 mio between a Canadian company and a British national arising from a share purchase agreement with respect to an international network

design and installation services company governed by UAE law under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in the DIFC;

- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a construction dispute governed by UAE law worth over AED 20 mio with respect to the completion of preliminary works in the construction of a real estate development in Abu Dhabi under the ADCCAC Arbitration Regulations and seated in Abu Dhabi;
- Appointment as Co-arbitrator in a dispute worth around AED 980 mio arising from a set of sale and purchase agreements governed by UAE law for development of a project in Falcon City of Wonders, Dubai, under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a dispute worth over AED 100 mio arising from the purported wrongful termination of a set of project development agreements for the development by Kuwaiti-owned sole establishments of industrial plots in Dubai Industrial City governed by UAE under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in relation to a dispute arising from an off-plan sale and purchase agreement in relation to office space in an office development in Business Bay, Dubai, governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a dispute between a UAE national and a Canadian investor arising from the application of an indemnity clause contained in a side agreement in the real estate sector governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a construction dispute between a subcontractor and a contractor governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a construction dispute between a sub-contractor and a contractor governed by UAE law with respect to a Dubai-based construction project under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a construction dispute between a sub-contractor and a contractor governed by UAE law with respect to the construction of a hotel in Abu Dhabi under the ADCCAC Arbitration Regulations and seated in Abu Dhabi;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a dispute between two Austrian nationals with respect to claims arising out of an agreement to jointly purchase Dubai-based real estate governed by UAE and DIFC law under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a dispute between a free zone company specialised in gems trading and a UAE-based investment and development company arising from an agreement for a commercial lease in Mall of Arabia, Dubai, governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
- Appointment as Sole Arbitrator in a dispute worth around SAR 18.5 mio between a Lebanese education management organisation and a Saudi real estate investment company arising out of the purported wrongful termination of a contract to establish and operate a school in Jeddah, KSA, governed by DIFC Law under the DIFC-LCIA Rules with seat in the DIFC;
- Appointment as Chair in a construction dispute between a sub-contractor and a contractor governed by UAE law with respect to a construction project in Dubai under the ICC Rules and seated in Dubai;

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- Appointment as Chair in a construction dispute worth around AED 20 mio between a sub-contractor and a contractor governed by UAE law with respect to a Dubai-based construction project under the ICC Rules and seated in Dubai;
 - Appointment as Chair in a dispute arising from a deed of release agreement between a sub-contractor and a contractor governed by UAE law with respect to a construction project in Dubai under the DIAC Rules and seated in Dubai;
 - Appointment as Chair in a dispute arising from a consultancy agreement for design and supervision services with respect to the construction of a residential development in Dubai Marina governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules with seat in Dubai;
 - Appointment as Chair in a dispute arising from an agreement between a Fujairah-incorporated business technology consultancy and a strategic management consultancy services company registered in the DMCC, Dubai, for the provision of business and commercial consultancy services governed by UAE law under the ADCCAC Arbitration Regulations with seat in Abu Dhabi;
 - Appointment as Chair in a dispute between a UAE-based infrastructure contractor and an oil company governed by UAE law with respect to the construction of oil storage facilities in Fujairah under the ICC Rules and seated in Dubai; and
 - Appointment as Chair in a dispute between a Swedish software company and a Saudi strategic business solutions company arising from a master reseller agreement for the promotion and sale of software to customers in KSA and related training and consulting agreements governed by Swedish law under the SCC Rules and seated in Lund, Sweden.