

Arif Hyder Ali, FCI Arb

Independent International Arbitrator

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PROFILE

Arif Hyder Ali, FCI Arb, is an independent international arbitrator sitting as presiding, sole, and party-appointed arbitrator in international commercial, construction, investor-State, and State-State disputes.

His practice is grounded in more than 35 years in international arbitration as lead counsel and arbitrator in over 100 complex commercial and treaty cases, and as adviser to sovereign governments and corporate clients on matters of public international law, including treaty obligations, State responsibility, human rights, sanctions, law reform, and maritime and territorial boundaries. Proceedings in which he has acted range in value from tens of millions to multiple billions of dollars. He works across common-law and civil-law systems, public international law, European Union law, and Shari'a commercial law.

His primary specialization is in the energy and extractives industries — oil and gas, LNG, power generation and transmission, energy-sector infrastructure, and mining and minerals. He has also handled significant engagements in construction, technology and intellectual property, telecommunications, hospitality, banking and finance, and life sciences, often in settings where linguistic, cultural, or geopolitical factors have shaped how the dispute arose and how it is understood and managed.

Arif has arbitrated and served as counsel under all major arbitral regimes, including the AAA/ICDR, ICC, ICSID, LCIA, SIAC, DIAC, SCC, WIPO, and UNCITRAL rules. His approach combines active case management with respect for party autonomy, emphasizing early identification of determinative issues, disciplined handling of documentary, testimonial, and expert evidence, the use of decision trees to focus deliberations, and commits to issuing awards promptly after final submissions.

Arif's professional background includes senior positions with two Geneva-based international organizations (United Nations Compensation Commission, WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre), and private practice with leading global law firms, including as chair of the international arbitration and public international law groups of three AmLaw 100 firms.

Testimonials from Fellow Tribunal Members

"An enormously talented lawyer and a star of the international arbitration community. Serving on tribunals alongside him, I can attest to his diligence, common sense, and collegiality."

"The consummate professional: well-prepared, knowledgeable, diligent, with a keen ability to listen — to witnesses, counsel, and colleagues — and possessing the utmost integrity. He is also a delight to work with on tribunals."

"All who have had the good fortune to serve on a tribunal with Arif have benefited from his brilliance in analysing legal issues and his generosity in working with tribunal colleagues."

"The arbitrator marketplace is in need of more professionals like Arif — multicultural, multilingual, and adept at handling disputes across multiple jurisdictions. His ability to seamlessly transition from presiding over a Latin American dispute in Spanish to navigating an English or New York law arbitration in Singapore is unparalleled."

"He has a unique appeal to parties from the Global South and is the go-to arbitrator for those seeking both expertise and cultural sensitivity."

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

IE University, Madrid

Visiting Professor of Law 2025 – present
Economic Development and Investor-State Disputes

University of Dundee

Honorary Lecturer 2004 – 2009
Dispute Resolution in the Oil, Gas, and Energy Industries

Georgetown University Law Center

Adjunct Professor of Law 2003 – 2007
International Commercial Arbitration

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law

Juris Doctor 1990

Columbia College, Columbia University

B.A., Political Science 1986
Summa Cum Laude · Phi Beta Kappa

RECOGNITIONS

- Chambers & Partners (USA, Global, Latin America)
- Lexology / Who's Who Legal (Arbitration, Public International, Energy – Oil & Gas)
- The Legal 500
- Lawdragon 500: Leading Global Litigators
- Financial Times Most Innovative Legal Practitioner
- Law360 MVP — International Arbitration
- Order of Bahrain (II)
- BTI Client Service All-Star

BOOKS

- *International Investment Law Protections in Global Banking and Finance — Empirical Study*. British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 2025.
- *International Investment Protection for Global Banking and Finance: Legal Principles and Arbitral Practice*. Wolters Kluwer, 2021.
- *The International Arbitration Rulebook: A Guide to Arbitral Regimes*. Wolters Kluwer, 2019.
- *Inversiones Españolas en el Extranjero: Mecanismos de Protección*. Thomson Reuters Aranzadi, 2017.

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York · District of Columbia
England and Wales (Registered Foreign Lawyer)

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish (working)
French and Portuguese (professional reading, conversant)
Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali (conversant)

NATIONALITY

United States of America