



Matthew R. M. Walker

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Matthew Walker is a partner at the firm and focuses his practice on construction law and dispute resolution. He has acted as advocate and counsel in ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, ad hoc and QICCA arbitrations in Qatar, the UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Hong Kong, India and the UK, as co-counsel in cases before the Qatar Court of First Instance, and has litigated in the Commercial Court, Technology & Construction Court and the Court of Appeal in England. He has sat in several QICCA arbitrations as arbitrator, including as President of the Tribunal, as a sole arbitrator and on a panel of five arbitrators. He was involved in a series of multimillion pound adjudications, arbitrations and mediations relating to a telecommunications system on an underground rail network, and an international adjudication related to a gas facility in Tanzania. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building, and has been accredited as a Mediator by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Matthew also provides non-contentious construction advice, particularly in the rail sector. He has undertaken secondments to Qatar Rail, London Underground and the Crossrail Project for Carillion plc. He has provided tendering advice and contract review for the multi-billion dollar civil engineering contracts for the new Doha Metro being built by Qatar Rail. He has advised a client in the energy sector on contract drafting and risk management for the provision of hydro-electric equipment to overseas clients. He has carried out the construction drafting on an implementation agreement for a £326 million rail project in London, agreements for lease on a flagship commercial development in East London, and construction contracts (including FIDIC, NEC, JCT, ACE, RIBA and bespoke forms) on construction projects of varying size and complexity.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* as a Recommended Lawyer for Insurance litigation: for policyholders, Construction: contentious, Construction: non-contentious, and International arbitration in London, 2024
- Recognised by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer for Dispute resolution in Qatar, 2024
- Sole winner of Lexology's Client Choice Award (voted for by clients) for 2024 for Arbitration & ADR in Qatar.
- Listed by *Who's Who Legal* as Recommended for Arbitration, 2024

- Listed by *Who's Who Legal* as a Global Elite Thought Leader for Construction, 2021-2023
- Recommended as one of the leading construction lawyers working in Qatar by *Who's Who Legal*, every year from 2015-2024
- Recognized by *Chambers Global* as a Spotlight lawyer for Dispute Resolution: International (Expertise Based Abroad-UK) in Qatar, 2023-2024
- Recognized by *Chambers Global* guide for Dispute Resolution (International) in Qatar, 2016-2019

Client testimonials include the following, all taken from *The Legal 500* 2023 editions:

- *"Matthew Walker is the standout partner for commercial disputes in the Middle East. His understanding of the culture, politics and legal systems of the Gulf is second to none."*
- *"Matthew Walker - very knowledgeable in relation to Middle Eastern laws, and particularly good at listening to clients and understanding what they need."*
- *"[He] is a very experienced construction lawyer, extremely sharp and with a keen eye for detail. His case management skills are impressive."*
- *"Matthew Walker is brilliant – a superb lawyer, terrific leader of a team, and a highly effective communicator who is wonderful with clients."*
- *"Matthew Walker is the leading international commercial and construction disputes lawyer in Qatar. Clients love his business acumen and his commitment to getting the best possible result."*
- *"Mathew Walker has extensive experience in the Middle East and acts as litigator and arbitrator. He has proven to be exceptional, very cultivated, calm and in command of his cases. A highly recommended lawyer for dispute resolution cases; you simply cannot go wrong by working with him and his firm. He is one of the best."*
- *"Matt Walker is a standout arbitration lawyer. He is commercially minded but detailed in his approach. Matt has an impressive grasp of complex delay and quantum issues but gives his experts space to work."*

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) - admitted as Fellow, 2008
- Chartered Institute of Building (FCIOB) - admitted as Fellow, 2017
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) - confirmed as accredited Mediator, 2018
- Honorary Secretary, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Qatar & QFC branch), 2018 - present\
- Member of ADR Committee for the Qatar International Court, advising on changes to QFC Law and creation of new arbitration centre, 2015
- Technology and Construction Solicitors Association

- Society of Construction Law (Gulf)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panellist, "Strategies for Success in Navigating Delay and Quantum Issues in International Construction Arbitration in a Changing World," London International Disputes Week, 18 May 2023
- Speaker, "Time-bar Provisions in Construction Arbitration", International Arbitration School (IARBS), 15 March 2023
- "Virtual Hearings - Lessons Learnt," Society of Construction Law (Gulf), 10 March 2021

EDUCATION

- Pg Dip, University of Reading, 2000
- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law, 1997
- LL.B., King's College, London, 1996

ADMISSIONS

- Barrister, England and Wales (non-practising)
- QICCA Roster of Arbitrators in Doha
- SCCA Roster of Arbitrators in Riyadh
- Solicitor, England and Wales (with Higher Rights of Audience in Civil and Criminal Courts)

LANGUAGES

- French
- Portuguese
- English

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 8 February 2024, Roundtable: Procurement Strategies and Dispute Avoidance for the GCC Projects
- 1 February 2024, January 2024 Accolades
- May 2023, Strategies for Success in Navigating Delay and Quantum Issues in International Construction Arbitration in a Changing World
- 31 January 2022, Discombobulated Contractual Communications? Let Us Be Clear!

- 1 June 2021, Construction and Projects in Qatar: Overview
- 23 March 2021, The QFC Court Confirms Its Status as an Opt-In Jurisdiction for Arbitration Cases

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Arbitration in Qatar - an introduction, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- Enforcement of arbitral awards in Qatar, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- Interim remedies in support of arbitration in Qatar, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- Challenging arbitral jurisdiction and stay of court litigation in favour of arbitration in Qatar, *LexisPSL*, August 2023
- GAR Know How Commercial Arbitration, *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration Review*, May 2023
- GAR Know How Commercial Arbitration, *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration Review*, May 2021
- Local Arbitration Laws and Institutions, *Lexis Middle East Law*, 23 April 2021
- The Guide to Challenging and Enforcing Arbitration Awards - *Qatar chapter, Global Arbitration Review*, 2019
- ADR in Qatar - A New Law, A New Regional Seat of Choice, and a New Era, *Lexis Middle East Law*, 6 February 2018

NEWS & EVENTS

- 15 February 2024, *Chambers Global 2024 Guide* Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 15 March 2023, Time-Bar Provisions in Construction Arbitration, Hosted by International Arbitration School by Marmara University
- 16 February 2023, K&L Gates Recognized in 2023 *Chambers Global Guide*
- 14 October 2022, K&L Gates Recognized as Banking & Finance, Corporate Teams of the Year at Qatar Business Law Forum Awards
- 17 February 2022, K&L Gates Recognized in 2022 *Chambers Global Guide*
- 31 January 2022, A Year in Review: The Legislative and Judicial Developments in 2021, Hosted by Qatar Lawyers Association
- 26 November 2021, K&L Gates Honored With Qatar Business Law Forum Award
- 24 February 2021, K&L Gates Recognized in 2021 *Chambers Global Guide*

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Construction and Infrastructure

- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- International Arbitration
- Rail and Roads

INDUSTRIES

- Energy

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Contentious Advice

- Acting for a high-profile state-related Qatari organization on an arbitration relating to its termination of a project delivery agreement, including claims, and counterclaims arising out of the late delivery of the project.
- Acting for one of 18 defendants against whom claims have been brought in the High Court in London in which it has been suggested that provision of performance security on a project in Comoros was a vehicle for funding terrorism in Syria.
- *Al Tamimi v QFBA and Employment Standards Office of the Qatar Financial Centre*: acting for the ESO as advocate and counsel before the appellate division of the QFC Courts, successfully having all appeals against the ESO dismissed.
- Acting for a major international consulting engineer in an ICC arbitration relating to variations and unpaid fees for architectural design detailing services on one of the major civil works contracts on one of the Doha Metro railway line projects.
- Advising a Qatari bank on the pursuit of litigation in Turkey relating to the construction of a high-profile waterfront residential development in Istanbul.
- Acting for an Italian JV on an ICC arbitration relating to claims for delay, disruption and variations to the MEP subcontract works on one of the stadiums for the FIFA 2022 World Cup.
- Acting for a high-profile Qatari private developer on an ICC arbitration relating to its termination of their development management consultant on one of the largest privately backed real estate developments in Doha, Qatar.
- Acting for a quasi-non-governmental Qatari organization, advising on dispute avoidance, including a facilitated dispute resolution negotiation, concerning the termination of a contract for supply of specialist IT and audio equipment.
- Acting for a QFC consultancy on helping it to reduce by 95% the claims for costs made against it after it withdrew from litigation.

- Acting for the Saudi subsidiary of a major international consulting engineer on an ad hoc arbitration for a claim of SAR90 million relating to non-payment of fees for architectural and structural design services on a major hospital project in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- Acting for a Saudi developer on defence of claims and litigation arising out of the construction of an iconic hotel project in Jeddah, KSA.
- Acting for an MEP subcontractor on an ICC arbitration for claims for variations, delay and disruption relating to the construction of an iconic public building in Education City, Doha, Qatar, including the successful settlement of their claims.
- Acting for a MEP subcontractor relating to claims arising out of the development of a hospital in Hong Kong in an ad hoc arbitration, including replacing previous counsel and drafting their reply and defence to counterclaim within a compressed timeframe.
- Acting for a main contractor in the defence of two ICC arbitrations brought by subcontractors relating to the construction of a large beach resort project in Bu Samra, Qatar, including dismissal of one claim (with costs) and the successful settlement of the second claim.
- Advising the curtain-walling subsidiary of a major international contractor on defence of claims from the main contractor, and the pursuit of insurance claims against insurers, relating to the construction of balconies on a landmark residential apartment in London, United Kingdom.
- Advising a private client in the pursuit of claims, and successful recovery of payment from insurers, relating to defects covered under a structural latent defects policy in respect of her private dwelling house in The Portman Estate, London.
- Advising the South African subsidiary of a global IT and airport systems contractor on the termination of its supply and services agreement for the baggage and security systems being installed at a major new African airport terminal and hub.
- Acting for a Qatari bank defending itself in litigation before the QICDRC relating to the sale of insurance-backed savings products, including the dismissal of all claims following a successfully negotiated settlement of disputes.
- Acting for a subcontractor bringing a claim in ICC arbitration relating to delay, disruption and unpaid variations relating to the construction of roads in Lusail, Qatar, including the successful resolution of its claims through negotiation.
- Acting for the Qatari shareholders of a major regional construction contractor in the pursuit of claims in litigation, and the simultaneous pursuit of criminal proceedings against the former country manager of the contractor's Qatari subsidiary, relating to fraud and false accounting carried out within the local branch, leading to the successful conviction of the country manager.
- Advising a major international design practice on claims and counterclaims arising out of a landmark hotels project, being litigated in the Qatar courts.

- Acting for a Qatari contractor in an ICC arbitration against another Qatari contractor, relating to disputes arising out of the failure of an unincorporated consortium to win a tender to construct a power and HVAC substation for a stadium being built for the FIFA 2022 World Cup. This included a three-day hearing in which Matthew carried out all oral advocacy, including cross-examination of factual and expert witnesses.
- Advising a Spanish consulting engineer on claims relating to a major infrastructure project being built in Qatar in readiness for the FIFA 2022 World Cup.
- Advising a major GCC-based contractor relating to delay and variation claims concerning the construction of a major new shopping mall in Doha, Qatar.
- Advising a major US-based consultancy on dispute avoidance strategy arising out of its involvement in the New Doha International Airport project.
- Advising a Qatari subcontractor on a QICCA arbitration and closing out of a negotiated settlement of multimillion-dollar claims for payment on a gas processing project in Ras Laffan, Qatar.
- Acting on an ICC arbitration for a global media network in a shareholders' dispute with its Turkish shareholder and director.
- Acting on an ad hoc UNCITRAL arbitration acting for a major GCC contractor in its claim for wrongful termination and unpaid delay and disruption claims arising out of the construction of a major shopping mall in Dubai, UAE.
- Acting for the contractor in an ICC arbitration relating to the wrongful termination of the construction contractor for a world-class sporting facility in Dubai, UAE.
- Acting in a series of disputes in adjudication, arbitration and mediation between a major public infrastructure and public transport authority and a consortium composed of major global contractors and telecoms engineers, relating to a high-profile PFI contract for the renewal of the telecoms system on a major underground railway.
- Acting on an ICC arbitration for a major German engineering company relating to the setting-up of a concrete plant on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia.
- Acting on an ICC arbitration between an electricity producer, an Indian state engineering company and a major US engineering corporation, advising (amongst other things) as to the correct measure of damages under an EPC contract concerning steam-driven turbines and the level of their power output.
- Acting as key adviser in an ad hoc international adjudication between a major Indian engineer and the Government of Tanzania.
- Acting as counsel, including presenting all oral submissions (including at a one-day hearing involving submissions and cross-examination) and producing all written submissions, in two adjudications for a major London-based property developer.
- Acting counsel, drafting mediation submissions and conducting oral advocacy at a mediation between a FTSE-100 company and a former shareholder.

- Acting on the above TCC case, the first reported judgment on the duties of a quantity surveyor in 40 years. Acted for the quantity surveyor on a major residential house project in Surrey, United Kingdom, and secured a judgment that ultimately resulted in all claims being dropped against the client together with a contribution towards its costs.
- Acting for a Qatari architect, assisting with payment claims and defending threatened counterclaims in arbitration, as well as advising on potential mediation in the United States, arising out of a major project in Al Rayyān Municipality.

Non-Contentious Advice

- Advising the state-related entity for establishing new economic zones on redrafting their entire suite of standard-form construction contracts.
- Advising on the construction elements of the first PPP agreement under the new PPP Law in Dubai, relating to the construction and concession for a new car parking facility for Dubai Courts.
- Acting as sole in-country external counsel for the Spanish energy giant, including drafting the contract for the fit out of their new offices in the QSTP.
- Advising the Indian-headquartered designer and builder of hydro-electric power facilities on its global terms for EPC Contracting.
- Sole external counsel seconded to Qatar Rail to assist with the tender analysis and contractual review on the ground-breaking new railway to be constructed in Qatar in time for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- Advising the Qatari-registered branch of the leading global contractor on Qatar Law issues relating to large public works tenders in Doha and at Ras Laffan.
- Advising the Qatari real estate developer on numerous scheme agreements relating to a major mixed-use development in Doha, Qatar.
- Advising the leading global contractor in respect of a number of issues arising out of its NEC3 contract with Crossrail for a number of substantial construction packages at Paddington Station.
- Carrying out all construction-related drafting, as part of a cross-firm team, in a funding and implementation agreement on behalf of TfL relating to the new extension to services on the North London Line, one of the London 2012-related infrastructure projects.
- Carrying out all drafting and negotiation and acting as lead client contact for TfL on the NEC3 form for multi-million-pound infrastructure contracts on the East London Line link to the North London Line.
- Assisting with construction-related drafting, including acting as sole legal reviewer with the project team of all technical documentation, on behalf of TfL relating to the main works contract for the East London Line extension.
- Providing all construction and dispute resolution drafting and advice relating to LUL's Periodic Review of its PPP contracts with Tube Lines.

- Advising on the construction aspects of the fitting-out of its store at Westfield Stratford, London, the landmark retail development in the Olympic Park, London.
- Drafting trade contracts and a secondment agreement and reviewing other construction documentation concerning a five-star boutique hotel project in Knightsbridge, London.
- Advising a leading international architect and drafting sub-consultancy documents relating to a major international infrastructure project in Doha.