

EMIRATES LEGAL FZE

LITIGATION & DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Boutique Depth. Barrister-Led Advocacy.

DIFC Courts · ADGM Courts · AIFC Court · DIAC · LCIA · ICC · GAFTA · Cross-Border Enforcement
August 2026 · www.emirateslegal.ae

30+ years in practice — enrolled September 1995	43 arbitrations · 38 awards secured · balance settled	~99% success rate in contested litigation
US\$ 93m judgment and worldwide freezing order set aside for our clients	GBP 4.6m trial judgment won for our client, with interest and costs (2025)	22 judgments and orders in our published DIFC compendium

THE PRACTICE

Emirates Legal is a disputes firm before it is anything else. Since 2009 the firm has fought and won for claimants and defendants across the DIFC Courts, the arbitral institutions of the region and the enforcement courts beyond it — and it has done so as a boutique: every matter run by senior counsel, every strategy set by the advocate who will stand up in court, nothing delegated into the middle of a pyramid.

The record is not asserted; it is published. The firm maintains a compendium of the judgments and substantive orders obtained in its matters — 22 documents spanning May 2016 to January 2026 in the DIFC Courts alone, with a master compendium of 56 documents extending to the Dubai Courts and the Joint Judicial Tribunal — and this profile is drawn from those texts. Few firms of any size in this market put their outcomes on the table. We do.

Two threads of that record changed the law itself. The firm's conduit enforcement of a DIAC award in *Chenshan Liu v Dubai Waterfront* (2016) was followed within weeks by Decree No. 19 of 2016 constituting the Joint Judicial Tribunal; and its victory for the Goel guarantors against Credit Suisse — the Tribunal ruling of January 2024 and the DIFC order of July 2024 setting aside a USD 93 million judgment and discharging a worldwide freezing order — established the retrospective effect of Tribunal decisions and fed the reform of the conflicts regime under Decree No. 29 of 2024 and Dubai Law No. 2 of 2025, the new DIFC Courts Law. When clients retain Emirates Legal, they retain the firm whose cases defined the ground the next case will be fought on.

WHAT SETS THE PRACTICE APART

- **Barrister-led advocacy.** The firm is built on the barrister model: senior advocates with full rights of audience before the DIFC Courts, instructing and appearing alongside King's Counsel where the matter warrants it — as in *Forbes v Kidd*, where a two-KC team instructed by the firm

won GBP 4.6 million at trial. Written advocacy, cross-examination and oral submissions are the firm's core craft, not outsourced functions.

- **Law-shaping litigation.** The firm's judgments are read by the profession to understand what the law now is — on conduit enforcement, on conflicts of jurisdiction, on the transitional reach of the DIFC Employment Law, on the Article 14(B) jurisdictional gateway of the 2025 Courts Law.
- **Full-cycle capability.** Urgent interim relief, jurisdiction battles, trial, appeal — and then enforcement, which is where most firms stop and we continue: conduit recognition, freezing orders, asset disclosure, and execution before foreign courts including the High Court of Bombay.
- **Senior attention, boutique economics.** Clients deal with the counsel who runs the case. Fee structures are fixed or staged with agreed scopes, and the leverage model of the large firms — many hands, few of them senior — is precisely what the firm was founded to avoid.
- **Disputes intelligence behind every transaction.** The same team advises the firm's corporate clients, so contracts are drafted by lawyers who have litigated every clause they write — and structures are built to withstand the attack we know is possible because we have made it.

FORUMS AND RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE

- **DIFC Courts** — registered practitioners with full rights of audience (Part I and Part II); Court of First Instance, Court of Appeal and Small Claims Tribunal; trials, appeals, arbitration-related applications and enforcement.
- **ADGM Courts and AIFC Court** — registered before both centres, giving clients common-law disputes coverage across the Gulf and Central Asia.
- **Arbitration** — counsel in 43 references under the DIAC, DIFC-LCIA/LCIA, ICC and GAFTA rules, seated in the UAE and abroad; construction, real estate, commercial and investment disputes.
- **Dubai Courts and the Joint Judicial Tribunal** — onshore proceedings conducted with established partner advocates under our strategy and supervision, including the Tribunal proceedings that produced the firm's landmark jurisdictional victories.
- **Cross-border enforcement** — recognition and execution of judgments and awards beyond the UAE, including DIFC Courts decrees executed through the Commercial Division of the High Court of Bombay.

PRACTICE AREAS AND REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Every matter below is drawn from a published judgment or order reproduced in the firm's Compendium of Judgments. Outcomes are stated as the courts recorded them.

Banking, Finance and Guarantee Disputes

Credit Suisse (Switzerland) Ltd v Goel & Others · DIFC CFI-066-2020, CFI-083-2020, CA-002-2021; JJT Cassation No. 10/2021; final order 9 July 2024

For four personal guarantors of trade-finance facilities facing a worldwide freezing order and immediate judgment exceeding USD 93 million. The firm carried the jurisdictional fight through first instance, the Court of Appeal, the onshore courts and the Joint Judicial Tribunal — which held the DIFC Courts had no jurisdiction. Every order in three actions was set aside, the judgment fell away, the freezing order was discharged and the clients' assets released: one of the most complete reversals in the DIFC Courts' history, and the case that established the retrospective effect of Tribunal rulings.

Arbitration and Award Enforcement

Chenshan Liu v Dubai Waterfront LLC · DIFC ARB-004/2016; orders of 10 May 2016 and 6 September 2016

For the award creditor under a DIAC award. The firm pioneered the conduit route — recognition of an onshore award by the DIFC Courts for onward execution — obtaining recognition from Justice Sir Richard Field and then defeating the debtor's stay application under the newly issued Decree 19 before Deputy Chief Justice Sir David Steel, with costs. The litigation was followed within weeks by the Decree constituting the Joint Judicial Tribunal.

The wider arbitration record spans 43 references — investment, construction and real estate disputes under DIAC and DIFC-LCIA/LCIA rules, acting for developers, contractors, investors and high-net-worth individuals — with 38 awards secured and the balance settled on favourable terms.

Commercial and Contract Litigation

Michael George Forbes v Robert Kidd · DIFC CFI-081-2023; trial July 2025; judgment 7 August 2025

For the claimant on an unsigned success-fee engagement relating to a GBP 20 million Scottish litigation settlement. Instructing David Parratt KC and William Frain-Bell KC, the firm won GBP 4,599,352.22 with interest and costs after a seven-day trial before Justice Sir Jeremy Cooke — now a leading authority on contract formation by conduct under UAE law and the territorial limits of the legal-services licensing regime.

Al Eatesam (Secutronic) v SEED MENA Businessmen Services LLC · DIFC CFI-034-2021; judgment 28 November 2022

For the defendant, a Private Office group company, at trial before Justice Lord Angus Glennie. The claim was dismissed in full and the counterclaim succeeded with 12% interest and costs — argued by Syed Mujtaba Hussain.

Access Group DWC LLC & ProEx Partners Ltd v BLS International FZE · DIFC CFI-091-2023; trial September 2025; judgment 12 November 2025

For the defendant against wrongful-termination and non-compete damages claims over five visa-processing subcontracts. After a two-week trial, every substantive claim failed, and the client recovered EUR 491,176 in outstanding debts with interest.

Jurisdiction and the New Courts Law

Innovative Production Group FZE v Innovation Factory Royal Investment Group LLC · DIFC CFI-054-2025; order 15 October 2025

For the claimant rights-holder of the Lanka Premier League. The defendant's jurisdiction challenge was dismissed with immediately assessed costs — among the first decisions construing the Article 14(B) opt-in gateway of Dubai Law No. 2 of 2025, the new DIFC Courts Law.

Employment Disputes

Abdelsalam v Expresso Telecom Group Ltd · DIFC CFI-015-2019; CA-011-2021

For the employer. Immediate judgment dismissing the claim as time-barred — the first judicial analysis of the 2019 Employment Law's transitional provisions — followed by the Court of Appeal ruling (Chief Justice Zaki Azmi, Justice Robert French, Justice Wayne Martin) that now governs the transitional operation of DIFC employment legislation, argued for the respondent by Syed Mujtaba Hussain.

Institutional, Governance and Strike-Out Practice

Agarwal v ICAI (Dubai Chapter) NPIO & Jain · DIFC CFI-016/2024; order 17 October 2024

For both defendants. A claim seeking to nullify two years of the institution's elections was struck out in its entirety with costs — now the anchor authority on the limits of judicial review of private-body decisions in the DIFC.

Construction and Real Estate Disputes

Al Sahel Contracting Co. LLC v E.Construct FZ-LLC · DIFC CFI-046-2022; order 18 January 2023

For the claimant contractor. Payment out of AED 1.8 million in admitted sums secured before trial, with Justice Wayne Martin rejecting every condition the defendant sought to attach — admitted money moving to the client while the contested balance proceeded.

The construction and real estate disputes practice extends through the firm's arbitration record: DIAC references for and against the UAE's most prominent developers, delay and defects claims, and the ratification and enforcement of construction awards through the courts.

Cross-Border Enforcement and Asset Recovery

Lakhani v Srivastava & Anr · High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Commercial Execution Application No. 47/2022; order 7 January 2026

For the judgment creditor under DIFC Courts decrees. Execution pursued through the Bombay High Court's commercial machinery to a court-recorded settlement backed by undertakings, an asset status quo obligation, and automatic revival of the full decretal amount with 9% interest on default — the playbook for collecting DIFC judgments against India-based debtors.

The enforcement practice further includes seven-figure default judgments with asset restraint (Transcom DMCC v KPR Agrochem, USD 2.48 million; Spafax v IMG Theme Park, USD 1.38 million against a defendant served out of the jurisdiction), worldwide freezing order practice on both sides of the order, and conduit recognition of arbitral awards.

SENIOR COUNSEL

The practice is led by Syed Mujtaba Hussain, founder and Managing Partner. Enrolled in 1995, he has appeared before the Supreme Court of India, served the United Nations Compensation Commission in Geneva, and holds master's degrees from the University of Essex and the University of California, Berkeley. He has been a registered practitioner with full rights of audience before the DIFC Courts since 2016 and has appeared as counsel in the Court of First Instance and the Court of Appeal, including against benches comprising former chief justices of three jurisdictions. His personal practice statement, with a judgment-by-judgment addendum, accompanies this profile.

Around him the firm fields a senior, deliberately compact disputes team, reinforced matter-by-matter through its barrister network in London and its established relationships with onshore UAE advocates — so that every case carries boutique attention with top-tier firepower.

ENGAGEMENT

The firm acts on fixed and staged fee structures with clearly defined scopes and, where appropriate, agreed caps; conditional arrangements are considered where the applicable rules permit. Every engagement is governed by DIFC law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the DIFC Courts.

Reference. The judgments and orders cited in this profile are reproduced in full in the firm's *Compendium of Judgments — DIFC Courts* (22 documents, 304 pages, 10 May 2016 – 7 January 2026), available to clients on request together with the master compendium extending to the Dubai Courts and Joint Judicial Tribunal, and the Practice Statement of Syed Mujtaba Hussain.

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This profile describes service capability and past outcomes as recorded in published judgments; it is not legal advice, and past results do not guarantee future outcomes.