



David Hume: Independent Arbitrator

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“David Hume has exceptional drafting skills, is up-to-speed at all times, and never off-guard.”

Legal 500

Experience:

I am a seasoned disputes lawyer, advocate, and arbitrator, with 15+ years' experience at leading international firms. My relevant experience is at **Appendix 1**; my prior affiliations are at **Appendix 2**. Now at the independent bar:

- I sit as sole arbitrator and co-arbitrator, determining disputes subject to both common law and civil law, and under the rules of DIAC and the ICC.
- I act as counsel on select matters and have argued cases on behalf of multinational and State-owned companies in commercial arbitrations under the ICC, LCIA, SCC and DIAC Rules, as well as in large-scale construction and engineering disputes in institutional and ad hoc arbitration, Dispute Board proceedings, and related litigation.
- I am also a Senior Lecturer in Dispute Resolution in Construction at Victoria University, NZ.

Professional Recognition:

- Client feedback: “David Hume is praised for “his outstanding ability to comprehend complex matters, put them into context and develop workable solutions””. ([Global Arbitration Review](#))
- Client feedback: “David Hume is always accessible, available and highly adaptable”, “smart, eloquent and very strong on explaining concepts.” (Legal 500, 2023-2024)
- Global Elite Thought Leader – Under 45, Arbitration ([Lexology 2025-2026](#))
- Future Leader, Arbitration ([Lexology, 2023-2026](#)); Recommended, Construction ([Lexology, 2025](#)); Highly Recommended – Construction (Lexology, 2026)
- Next Generation Partner, Construction – UAE ([Legal 500, 2023-2025](#))
- Leading Practitioner, Arbitration ([Legal 500 Arbitration Powerlist, Middle East, 2023](#))
- Nominee, Construction Next Generation Partner of the Year, ([Legal 500, MENA, 2026](#))

Professional Activities and Publications:

- Co-ordinator, Society of Construction Law (Gulf) – Abu Dhabi (2021-2025)
- Faculty Member, Delos Remote Oral Advocacy Programme – Construction Disputes (2023-2026)
- Member, Organising Committee, 27th Annual IBA Arbitration Day Conference (Abu Dhabi, 2026)
- Member, ICC-UAE Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- Member, London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Users' Council
- A full list of publications and recent speaking engagements is at **Appendix 3**.

Qualifications:

- Admitted to practice in New Zealand (2009), and England & Wales (2014)
- LLB Hons (First Class), Victoria University of Wellington
- BA (Philosophy and French), University College Dublin
- Frédéric Eisemann Award (with Victoria University), Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, 2009

Appendix 1 – Experience

Acting As Arbitrator / Expert

- Distribution Agreement Termination Dispute: Party-nominated arbitrator on a DIAC 3-person tribunal, dealing with claims related to a major regional FMCG distribution agreement. English law applies.
- TV Sponsorship Dispute: Sole arbitrator in ICC proceedings relating to a sponsorship contract in respect of a real estate television show broadcast across the Middle East region. UAE law applied.
- Pharmaceuticals Supply Dispute: Sole arbitrator in DIAC proceedings relating to contracts for the sale and distribution of pharmaceuticals between India and Africa. UAE law applied.
- Cryptocurrency Business Dispute: Sole arbitrator in expedited DIAC proceedings relating to an investment in a cryptocurrency mining business, including dealing with applications for urgent interim freezing orders. DIFC law applies.
- Construction Dispute: Sole arbitrator in ICC proceedings related to construction work on a military air base in the Middle East. English law applies.
- Energy Project Dispute: Acted as expert in assessment of a contractor's claim against its employer for extensions of time and direct and indirect costs related to construction of fire safety facilities related to a large offshore energy development. The law of the Middle Eastern state applied.

Construction

Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism

- State-of-the-Art Research and Teaching Hospital: Representing two international construction contractors, Respondents in an ICC arbitration in London brought by a Middle Eastern State entity. The dispute arose out of the development of a world-class medical facility in the Middle East. The law of the Claimant's State applies. USD 3.7 billion was at stake.
- Major Urban Rail Project: Advising a multinational consortium on claims of more than USD 1 billion related to the construction of an urban metro rail project (underground, overground, and elevated, as well as stations) in a major Middle Eastern city. The laws of the Middle Eastern state apply.
- International Airport Project: Representing an international consortium of contractors as Claimants in ICC arbitration against a Middle Eastern State in which it recovered approximately USD 500 million, including all of its claimed extension of time. The dispute arose out of the design and construction of an airport. The law of the Middle Eastern State applied.
- Major Urban Rail Project: Representing a multinational consortium in an ICC arbitration in which it recovered on claims of more than USD 315 million related to the construction of an urban metro rail project (underground, overground, and elevated, as well as stations) in a major Middle Eastern city. The laws of the Middle Eastern state applied.
- Renewable-powered Desalination Project: Advising a Middle Eastern company, as project owner, in a series of disputes with two sets of international EPC contractors in respect of a major water desalination project with claims and counterclaims in excess of USD 250 million. The law of the Middle Eastern State applied and the contracts provided for ICC arbitration seated in that State.

- Energy Transmission Projects: Representing a European energy company in disputes worth more than USD 60 million arising out of three projects for the design, supply and installation of energy substations in high profile urban development projects in Dubai, including a DIAC arbitration in respect of one of the projects. The contracts were governed by the Laws of Dubai and the Federal Laws of the UAE.
- Tourism Resort Project: Representing a Saudi Arabian state-owned developer in relation to claims and counterclaims worth in excess of USD 60 million in respect of the development of a major tourism project. Saudi law applied, with disputes to be referred to the SCCA.
- International Airport Project: Advising an international contractor in relation to claims for delay and suspension related to the expansion of an international airport in the Middle East.

Energy & Mining

- Nuclear Power Project: Representing an Asian contractor as claimant in an LCIA arbitration in relation to the testing and commissioning of a major nuclear power plant, with claims of more than USD 1 billion. English law applied.
- Major Thermal Generation Projects: Representing a heavy equipment supplier and contractor in relation to an ICC arbitration and multiple DABs in respect of claims related to delay, disruption, defects and other matters arising out of two energy construction projects in Africa, involving claims and counterclaims of over USD 2 billion. South African law applied.
- Mining Project: Representing two African subsidiaries of an international mining and exploration company, Respondent in an ICC arbitration in London initiated by a South African contractor, with claims and counterclaims in excess of USD 150 million. The dispute arose from an EPCM contract in relation to a mine expansion project in Sub-Saharan Africa. English law applied.
- Concentrated Solar Power Project: Representing a European energy infrastructure company in an ICC arbitration in London brought against a North American subcontractor with claims of more than USD 40 million. The dispute arose out of a project for the construction of a major CSP solar field in the Middle East. Issues included defective equipment and critical delays in the overall project. English law applied.
- Refinery Development Project: Representing a major Middle Eastern energy company in defending two ICC arbitrations in relation to the construction of a multi-billion dollar refinery development, with claims and counterclaims of in excess of USD 1.3 billion. The law of the Middle Eastern state applied.
- Refinery Development Project: Representing an international consortium of contractors in DAB proceedings related to ground conditions and design changes in respect of a major refinery expansion in the Middle East. The law of the Middle Eastern state applied.
- Gas-Fired Power Plant: Representing a European contractor, Claimant in an ICC arbitration in London brought against a Middle Eastern owner with claims in excess of USD 50 million. The dispute arose from a contract for the conversion of a simple cycle power plant to combined cycle technology. English law applied.
- Major Conventional Energy Extraction Project: Advising a large energy multinational in a complex construction dispute worth over USD 1 billion with a contractor in connection with a megaproject for

an oil and gas facility in Central Asia. The dispute included issues of delay and defects. English law applied.

- Energy Storage Facility: Advising a Middle Eastern State-owned company on its response to COVID-19 related claims worth in excess of USD 300 million from a major international EPC contractor arising from a crude storage facility in the Middle East. The law of the Middle Eastern state applied.
- Gas Processing Facility: Advising a Middle Eastern State-owned company on EPC Contractor claims worth in excess of USD 150 million from a major international EPC contractor arising from the construction of a gas processing facility in the Middle East. The law of the Middle Eastern state applied.

Public International Law

- Defending Ukraine's Largest Investment Treaty Case: Representing the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine as Respondent in an SCC arbitration brought by VEB.RF, the Russian State development agency, seeking some USD 3.5 billion in damages. The dispute related to sanctions and other measures allegedly targeting Russian banks in Ukraine after 2014. The claims were brought under the Ukraine-Russia bilateral investment treaty.
- Major Energy Project: Advising a major international energy company on the availability of BIT protections in relation to its multi-billion dollar investment in Central Asia.
- NZ BIT Obligations: Advising a major multinational FMCG company on the availability of investment protections under NZ treaties in relation to regulatory measures.

International Commercial Disputes

- State-of-the-Art Aviation Parts Manufacturing: Representing a Middle Eastern company manufacturing state-of-the-art composite aviation components, in eight LCIA arbitrations in London against a European aircraft components supplier with claims and counterclaims in excess of USD 35 million. English law applied.
- Air Services Contracts: Representing a Middle Eastern airport services company as Claimant in three LCIA arbitrations in Jeddah and Riyadh against a Middle Eastern aviation services partnership and a Middle Eastern airline concerning unpaid contractual entitlements worth in excess of USD 20 million. The law of the Middle Eastern state applied.
- Insurance Policy Coverage / Termination: Representing a Middle Eastern energy company as Claimant in an ICC arbitration in Abu Dhabi against a Middle Eastern insurance company. The dispute arose from the termination of an insurance policy and involved claims and counterclaims worth in excess of USD 250 million.
- Defence Equipment Joint Venture Dispute: Advising a European defence manufacturer on issues of Saudi law relating to their defence of claims in a Geneva-seated ICC arbitration arising out of a Saudi joint venture agreement, with claims in excess of USD 200 million.
- Defence Services Agency Dispute: Representing the agent of a European defense and construction services group, coordinating the client's litigation/arbitration strategy (both in local courts and in Europe) to protect its interests in a lucrative exclusive agency arrangement.

- Private Equity Shareholder Dispute: Representing a Middle Eastern private equity fund in a dispute involving more than USD 80 million in claims against its shareholders related to its exit from an investment in a Middle Eastern infrastructure business.
- Industrial Gas Supply Contracts Dispute: Advising a major international industrial gas supplier in relation to its dispute with a major international offtaker over its supply and pricing obligations, with more than USD 10 million in dispute.
- Shareholder Dispute: Representing the majority owner of a Middle Eastern design consultancy in a dispute with a former shareholder and director, including breaches of directors' duties, and non-compete and non-solicitation provisions,
- Vehicle Distributorship Dispute: Advising the regional distributor of a major Asian car manufacturer on the manufacturer's failure to honour its supply commitments.
- Professional Football Player Dispute: Advising a Middle Eastern football club on player regulations, sports arbitration, and related enforcement matters involving its termination of a foreign player's contract.

General Litigation

- Farm Partnership Dispute: *Kaiwarua-Ealing Limited v Pullington Investments Pty Limited* [2012] NZHC 2226, junior counsel in relation to termination of a partnership worth approximately NZD 60 million.
- Judicial Review of Government Procurement Decision: *Healthcare of New Zealand Limited v Capital and Coast District Health Board* HC Wellington CIV-2011-485-1998 [2011] NZHC 1395, junior counsel in judicial review of Health Board decision-making processes.
- Arbitration-related Litigation: Supervising English High Court proceedings challenging arbitral awards under ss. 67 and 68 of the English Arbitration Act 1996.
- Property Relationship Litigation: Appearing as intervener for the Law Society (led by Andrew Butler KC) before the Supreme Court in *Rimmer v Wilton* dealing with the scope of s 21 contracting-out agreements under the Property (Relationships) Act 1976.
- General Commercial Litigation: Supervising litigation proceedings including: *Perpetual Trust Ltd v Bank of New Zealand Ltd & Anor* (sole counsel for a major New Zealand bank, defending third party claim over client funds); *Fletcher Steel Ltd v PW Roofing Ltd* (sole counsel for New Zealand's largest construction company, in a defended High Court liquidation proceeding); *K D Carlin v Saunders Robinson & Ors* (junior counsel in professional negligence and fiduciary breach proceedings against a US national's former business and legal advisors); *Easy Factors International Ltd v B & S Excavating Ltd & Anor* (junior counsel for a major New Zealand bank, defending a third party claim alleging negligence and breach of contract in the transfer of funds).

Pro Bono

- Peace Treaty Drafting: Advising an international NGO on relevant state practice and implementation and enforcement mechanisms in relation to potential peace agreements related to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

- Stolen Asset Recovery: Advising a North African State on its ability to identify and recover the proceeds of natural resources stolen by armed insurgents.
- Immigration Rights: Advising on refugee and migrant resettlement and leave to remain applications, via IRAP.
- Personal Protection Orders: Advising clients on obtaining non-molestation orders in the English courts.

Appendix 2 – Prior Affiliations

Independent Arbitrator and Advocate (January 2026 – Present)

Ongoing independent arbitrator and advocacy roles: www.davidhumelaw.com

Senior Lecturer, Victoria University, NZ (January 2026 – Present)

Faculty for Masters of Construction Law; Course Co-Ordinator and Lecturer for Dispute Resolution in Construction; Guest Lecturer for Law and Construction courses.

Peerpoint Consultant (January – May 2026)

Independent consultant for A&O Shearman via Peerpoint on select dispute-related mandates

A&O Shearman (May 2024 to December 2025)

Equity Partner – International Arbitration

Shearman & Sterling LLP (August 2013 to April 2024)

Partner (previously Associate and Counsel) – International Arbitration

- Dubai Office Managing Partner (2023-2024)
- Money Laundering Reporting Officer (2023-2024)

Russell McVeagh (November 2008 to July 2013)

Senior Solicitor (previously Graduate and Solicitor)– Litigation

Legal Seconded at ANZ Bank (March to June 2012) – Risk Management, Operational Risk teams.

Minter Ellison Rudd Watts (2007/2008)

Summer Clerk– Tax and Employment seats.

Victoria University, NZ (2007-2008)

Tutor and Research Assistant – Advocacy, Criminal Law, Case Law, and New Zealand Legal System.

Appendix 3 – Publications and Speaking Engagements

Publications

- “Book Review: UAE Arbitration Law: A Practical Case Law Digest”, [2026] Asian DR 71-142.
- “Contractors beware: strict compliance with notice requirements following *Maeda v Bauer*” (with E. Taylor and R. Raheja), Singapore, 2021, IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum
- “Remote Hearings: Effectively Navigating the New Frontier” (with A. Bevan, A. Nordang and Y. Diabaté), Dubai, The UAE Arbitration Yearbook 2020
- “New Zealand Chapter, Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how”, London, 2016-2020, Global Arbitration Review
- “When is a trustee ‘dishonest’?” (with Dr A. Butler), Wellington, 2012, New Zealand Law Journal

Speaking Engagements (selected, since 2022)

- Speaker, “[Claim Quantification in construction disputes](#)”, SCL-India 2nd International Conference on Construction Law and Arbitration, Mumbai, June 2025
- Speaker, “Giga Disputes: Will You Sink or Swim?”, Construction Week Dispute Resolution Conference, Dubai, May 2025
- Speaker, “Energy Disputes: Facing the Transition”, GAR Live – Abu Dhabi, ADGM, January 2025
- Speaker, International Arbitration Day: MENA Panel Session, London International Disputes Week, London, June 2024
- Speaker, “Successfully Delivering Mega-Projects under the new Civil Transactions Law”, Riyadh International Disputes Week, Riyadh, March 2024
- Speaker, “Bonds and Guarantees on Construction Projects”, Society of Construction Law (Gulf), ADGM and Dubai, February 2024
- Speaker, “Variations in Construction contracts”, SCL - India International Conference, New Delhi, December 2023
- Speaker, “Arbitration v Mediation — Different Regions Different Options on Dispute Avoidance”, Saudi Arabia and Middle East International Arbitration Summit, Riyadh, November 2023
- Speaker, “Arbitration Across Generations”, Dubai Arbitration Week, DIFC, November 2023
- Moderator, “Ask the Experts”, Society of Construction Law (Gulf) and CIArb YMG, Abu Dhabi, October 2023
- Speaker, “UAE Roadshow for the 2023 SCCA Rules”, ADGM, June 2023
- Speaker, “Practical considerations around the parties’ intent under civil law contracts”, Colloquium on Good Faith and Contract Interpretation in MENA and Beyond, ADGM, May 2023

- Speaker, “The importance of the applicable law: how far do lawyers from civil law and common law backgrounds view the same construction law issues differently”, 8th Biennial IBA Conference on Construction Projects from Conception to Completion, Berlin, March 2023
- Moderator, “Applicable laws, jurisdictions, and enforceable awards”, GAR Live – Abu Dhabi, ADGM, January 2023
- Speaker, “Energy transition disputes”, GAR Live – Dubai, DIFC, November 2022
- Moderator, “Managing Risk in the Energy Transition”, Dubai Arbitration Week, DIFC, November 2022
- Speaker, “A tour d’horizon on the latest trends in international arbitration MENA,” 10th ICC MENA Conference on International Arbitration, Dubai, May 2022
- Speaker, “The effect of Covid-19 on construction projects – claims, strategies, and tactics,” GAR Live – Abu Dhabi, ADGM, February 2022