



Dr Patrick Dahm

Arbitrator

Nationality: German

Languages: German (native), English (full professional proficiency)

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Dr Patrick Dahm is an independent arbitrator particularly well-placed for disputes where civil law and common law intersect, whether in maritime and shipping, technology, or Islamic finance matters. A dual-qualified legal professional admitted as a *Rechtsanwalt* in Germany and registered as a foreign practitioner in Singapore, including full registration with the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC), he combines deep legal expertise with fluency in both legal systems. He regularly acts as arbitrator and mediator in complex international disputes. He is available for appointments as emergency arbitrator and for expedited proceedings.

Beyond his legal practice, Patrick is regularly invited by the German Embassy in Singapore to accompany senior political delegations from Germany, offering high-level, sensitive and nuanced legal, political and cultural support during meetings with Singaporean and ASEAN government representatives. His recent engagements include delegations from the Ministries of Justice and Economics and State Parliaments from various German federal states, as well as the President of the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) during the 2023 ASEAN Regional Conference on Sanctions Implementation.

Patrick is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR). He is a Certified Islamic Arbitrator (IICRA) and sits on the panels of over twenty international arbitration centres including SIAC, VIAC, JCAA, AIAC, SHAC, and SCIA. A prolific writer and legal thinker, he has published extensively on arbitration, legal technology, and cross-border law, in outlets such as the Kluwer Arbitration Blog, German Arbitration Journal, Global Trade and Customs Journal, and Singapore Law Gazette. His multidisciplinary profile makes him a respected figure in both legal and diplomatic circles across Europe and Asia.

Sector Expertise

- Corporate & commercial
- Shipping & maritime, transport
- Technology & telecommunications
- Islamic banking and finance

Corporate & Commercial

Since 2006, experience in negotiating and drafting cross-border shareholder, joint venture, partnership, consortium and research and development agreements in the oil, real estate and medical device sectors, and in litigating and arbitrating disputes arising therefrom.

Shipping & Maritime, Transport

Acted as arbitrator in dry shipping, bill of lading disputes.

Since 2020, advising clients on dry shipping and transport issues (for example, multimodal bills of lading, Hague Rules, Hague-Visby Rules, Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road – CMR).

Acted as an expert on Singapore law on carriage of goods by sea in German court proceedings.

Technology & Telecommunications

Acted as mediator and arbitrator in cryptocurrency disputes. Since 2017, advising clients on the commercial and regulatory aspects of ventures involving cryptocurrency and tokenised assets.

Islamic Banking and Finance

Certified Islamic Arbitrator, certified by the International Islamic Centre for Reconciliation and Arbitration (IICRA), Dubai, upon completion of the Centre's Certified Islamic Arbitrator and Expert (CIAE) programme and examination (2026).

Acted as arbitrator in an Islamic finance dispute concerning the *sharia*-compliance of *ijarah* agreements.

Selected Arbitrator Experience

- Acted as first arbitrator of a three-member tribunal in an AIAC arbitration involving Malaysian and Singaporean parties disputing a corporate guarantee for payment and performance of other obligations in connection with the supply of smartphones in Malaysia.
- Acted as sole arbitrator in an ASEAC arbitration involving German and Chinese parties disputing the sale and purchase of rooftop solar panels and their freedom from material defects.
- Acted as sole arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration involving Malaysian parties in dispute over their obligations to maintain industrial machinery financed through and *sharia*-compliant *ijarah* agreements (Islamic financing).
- Acted as arbitrator of a three-member tribunal in an arbitration under the SCMA Rules between a UK bank and a German buyer of containerised food products that had been misdirected to the wrong destination due to a mix-up of countries. The parties were disputing their respective obligations, and those of the seller, carrier and insurer involved, under a letter of credit and a multimodal bill of lading governed by the Hague-Visby Rules.
- Acted as chairman of a three-member tribunal in an arbitration under the Swiss Rules between parties from Central Europe and South America in dispute over their obligations as seller and purchaser of raw materials under a contract governed by the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG).
- Acted as sole arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration between a German manufacturer and a South Korean joint venture concerning their respective obligations under a sales and purchase agreement for lined tubes intended for the respondent's construction project in West Asia.
- Acted as party-appointed mediator and arbitrator in concurrent mediation-arbitration proceedings in a cryptocurrency dispute between parties from Germany and Indonesia. The dispute was settled during the mediation process.

- Represented Asian and European parties in numerous court and arbitration proceedings under various procedural and substantive laws (both common law and civil law, including CISG) and arbitration rules (SIAC, SCMA, Swiss Rules, DIS, UNCITRAL). The disputes concerned matters such as trade and distribution, employment relations, IT, research and development, and commercial partnerships or joint ventures.

Academic & Professional Qualifications

Qualifications

- Doctor of Law
- Second state exam in law in Germany (qualification for judicial office)
- First state exam in law in Germany (LLM equivalent)
- *Rechtsanwalt*: admitted to practise German and EU law
- Foreign practitioner: registered and authorised to practise Singapore law (in permitted areas pursuant to section 36B Legal Profession Act 1966)
- Registered foreign lawyer, Singapore International Commercial Court: admitted to act in relevant proceedings and appeals (full registration pursuant to section 36P Legal Profession Act 1966)
- Certified Islamic Arbitrator: certified by the International Islamic Centre for Reconciliation and Arbitration (IICRA), Dubai
- Accredited Mediator: accredited by the Singapore Mediation Centre (SMC)

Professional Experience

- Arbitrator & Mediator, dahm adr, Singapore (2019–present)
- Counsel, JLA Law Corporation, Singapore (2019–present)
Arbitration and mediation; cross-border commercial agreements
- Foreign Practitioner, Consultant, Samuel Seow Law Corporation, Singapore (2017–2019)
- Foreign Practitioner and Partner, RHTLaw Taylor Wessing LLP, Singapore (2015–2017)
- Foreign Lawyer/Foreign Practitioner and Partner, Rodyk & Davidson LLP, Singapore (2012–2015)
- Foreign Lawyer, Thümmel, Schütze & Partners LLP, Singapore (2008–2011)
- Associate, Jung & Schleicher Rechtsanwälte, Berlin, Germany (2006–2008)
- Practice trainee (*Rechtsreferendar*) (2003–2005)
- Consular Clerk, Legal and Consular Department, German Embassy Singapore (2002–2003)

Professional Associations & Recognitions

Memberships

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Fellow)
- Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (Fellow)
- Asian-European Arbitration Association
- ICC Singapore Arbitration Group
- German Maritime Arbitration Association
- German Institution of Arbitration (Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit, DIS)
- DIS Industry Group 'Distribution & Supply Chains'
- Hamburg Arbitration Circle

- Singapore Academy of Law
- The Law Society of Singapore
- Bar Association of Berlin (Rechtsanwaltskammer Berlin)

Panels

- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC, Reserve Panel)
- Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC, arbitrator and mediator)
- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board International (KCAB International)
- Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC)
- Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA)
- Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)
- Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC)
- Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)
- Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR, Presidential Panel)

Further institutions include CAA International Arbitration Centre, Taipei (CAAI); South China International Arbitration Center (Hong Kong) (SCIAHK); Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC); BVI International Arbitration Centre (BVI IAC); Arbitration and Mediation Center of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MARC); Delos Dispute Resolution, France; Geneva International Dispute Resolution Institute (GIDI); Court of Arbitration for Art (CAfA), The Netherlands; among others.

Publications, Articles & Thought Leadership

Frequently speaks at conferences and seminars on arbitration, shipping, and distribution law.

Selected Publications

- The Cost of Prevention – Expense Recovery in Maritime Logistics Under German Law, Correctly Applied, in: *Transportrecht (TranspR)* 2026, pp. 296–302
[<https://tinyurl.com/3yc37mu4>]
- Book review: *Arbitration in Japan*, by Lars Markert and John Ribeiro (eds.), in: *Zeitschrift für Schiedsverfahren – German Arbitration Journal (SchiedsVZ)* 2026, p. 133–134
[<https://tinyurl.com/373j4xxf>]
- Book review: *EU Sustainability Legislation and International Supply Chains: Enforcement and Impact on Chinese and US Companies*, by Adolf Peter, in: *Asian International Arbitration Journal* Volume 22, Issue 1 (2026), pp. 85–90 [https://tinyurl.com/5n97wv5x]
- Reimbursement of Damage Prevention Costs in Maritime Logistics in the Event of an Anticipated Breach of Duty According to (Correctly Applied) German Law; The Proceedings of the 23rd International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators (ICMA XXIII)
[<https://tinyurl.com/cnrn4z72>]
- Should a Dispute Be Brought to the Singapore International Commercial Court or to Arbitration?; in: *Zeitschrift für Zivilprozess International (ZZP Int)* (29) 2024, pp. 258–312
[<https://tinyurl.com/49332k79>]
- [Book chapter] *Das Vertriebsrecht von Singapur (The Distribution Law of Singapore)*, in: Martinek/Semler/Flohr, *Handbuch Vertriebsrecht*, 5th edition 2025
[<https://tinyurl.com/mhxjba69>]
- [Doctoral dissertation] *SICC oder Schiedsgericht? Ein Vergleich des Verfahrens vor dem Singapore International Commercial Court mit den Vor- und Nachteilen internationaler Schiedsverfahren (SICC or Arbitration? A Comparison of Proceedings in the Singapore International*

Commercial Court with the Advantages and Disadvantages of International Arbitration Proceedings) [<https://tinyurl.com/53fbzk3a>]

- Arbitrators: Balancing Active Engagement and Party Autonomy [<https://tinyurl.com/mr42d8ns>]
- On the Diminishing Importance of Humanity in Arbitration [<https://tinyurl.com/37rtysj4>]
- Inquisitorial Processes, or: Can Singapore Courts or Arbitral Tribunals Engage in the Amicable Settlement of Disputes?, in: Kluwer Arbitration Blog [<https://tinyurl.com/4edan8x7>]
- On the Powers of Courts and Arbitral Tribunals in the Amicable Settlement of Disputes by the Parties: A Look at Singapore and Selected Other Countries; in: Zeitschrift für Schiedsverfahren – German Arbitration Journal (SchiedsVZ) 2023, pp. 270–275 [<https://tinyurl.com/mwbjm3wh>]
- Das neue Recht elektronischer Transaktionen in Singapur: Wegbereiter für elektronische Konnossemente?; in: Transportrecht (TranspR) 2021, pp. 313–321 [<https://tinyurl.com/5n6fvxnw>]
- The New Electronic Transactions Law in Singapore: Paving the Way for Electronic Bills of Lading? [<https://tinyurl.com/5t45smpp>]
- Enforceability of Foreign Emergency Awards in Singapore [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-vi>]
- On Arbitration, Football and Vacuum-Cleaning Robots [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-mU>]
- Gilded with Law [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-fo>]
- Initial Coin Offering: an Inaccurate Term and an Imperfect Regulator [<https://tinyurl.com/mrxzwf9b>]
- No, I Won't Help You Whitewash Your Token Sale Scam [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-de>]
- The Efficient Breach of Smart Contracts [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-ck>]
- The Arts and the Law in Singapore [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-bE>]
- The Art of Walking a Fine and Golden Line [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-7N>]
- Smartifying Blockchains, Legally [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-63>]
- Blockchain: the Roll of Deeds of the Internet [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-5i>]
- How Do We Resolve Disputes? What's with Those Algorithms? [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-4s>]
- Singapurischer Internationaler Handelsgerichtshof eröffnet (Singapore International Commercial Court Launched) [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-hH>]
- 'Language' Difficulties between Civil Law and Common Law [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-hk>]
- The Midnight Clause in International Arbitration [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-ia>]
- A Grain of Civil Law – Some (Not So) New Chords for the International Arbitration Jazz; in: Singapore Law Gazette, October 2014, pp. 19–31 (with Respondek and O'Shea) [<https://wp.me/p8fCIC-k8>]
- Wettbewerbsrecht in Singapur (Competition Law in Singapore); in: SGC Bizguide 2012 (with Singham)
- Immobilienmarkt Singapur – Schwerpunkt gewerbliche Immobilien (The Real Estate Market in Singapore – Focusing on Commercial Real Estate); in: SGC Bizguide 2012
- Overkill, Or: Free Trade Agreements in Asia; in: Global Trade and Customs Journal, Volume 7, Issue 7/8 (2012), pp. 341–346 [<https://tinyurl.com/yhppnxdy>]
- The Civil Law Interpretation of Declarations of Intent by Contracting Parties; in: Rodyk Reporter – Litigation Brief, March 2012 [<https://tinyurl.com/yc4fk8yd>]
- Kredit und Kreditsicherung in Singapur (Credit and Credit Security in Singapore); in: SGC Bizguide 2008
- Der staatliche Aufwendungsersatzanspruch nach der erfolgreichen Befreiung entführter Deutscher im Ausland (The State's Claim for Refund of Expenses After the Successful Release of Kidnapped Germans Abroad); in: Neue Zeitschrift für Verwaltungsrecht 2005, pp. 172–174 [<https://tinyurl.com/2kxdek34>]

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