

# Ahmed Elhusseiny

**Year of Call:** 2022

**Direct Access:** Yes

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Ahmed practices in **commercial litigation**, commercial-chancery, and **international arbitration**.

His experience spans **construction**, **company and shareholder disputes**, **insolvency**, shipping and commodities, **civil fraud**, **partnerships**, **banking and financial services**, and **sanctions**.

Ahmed has extensive advocacy and witness-handling experience in multi-day trials and heavy applications. He has particular experience being instructed as sole counsel to deal with urgent interlocutory applications such as freezing orders, search orders, and anti-suit injunctions.

A significant portion of his practice centres on international commercial disputes in arbitration and offshore jurisdictions, with a focus on the Middle East.

Ahmed has worked on several matters in international common law courts including the DIFC, ADGM, AIFC, and in offshore jurisdictions including the BVI and Cayman Islands.

He is also admitted as an arbitrator with DIAC and LAMC. He is particularly well-placed to work on dual-language arbitrations as he writes and speaks Arabic fluently.

Ahmed graduated from King's College London top of his class and won a number of academic awards. He then read for the BCL at Oriel College Oxford and undertook the Bar Course at City Law School as Cassel Scholar of Lincoln's Inn, graduating with a distinction.

Before coming to the Bar, Ahmed was Visiting Lecturer at King's College London and Guest Lecturer at LSE. He also interned with the International Arbitration group at Wilmerhale where he assisted with editing and updating Gary Born's *International Commercial Arbitration*.

Recent and ongoing instructions include:

- **Commercial/arbitration:** Instructed (by DLA Piper) in an application for an anti-suit injunction listed for 1 day in the Commercial Court. Underlying value of claim circa £30 million. Instructed as sole counsel against very experienced senior counsel from specialist shipping Chambers.
- **Commercial:** Instructed as junior counsel in an 11-day trial listed in the Circuit Commercial Court in 2026.

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- **Commercial/arbitration:** Instructed (by DLA Piper) to draft urgent injunctive proceedings to freeze assets pending determination of a foreign-seated arbitration under section 44 of the Arbitration Act 1996.
- **Commercial:** Instructed in an application for (i) a post-judgment worldwide freezing order (ii) enforcement of a foreign judgment, listed for half-a-day in the Commercial Court. Value of claim circa £300 million.
- **Commercial/International:** Instructed on a jurisdiction challenge before ADGM court in underlying multi-party civil fraud / financial services proceedings. Led by Sajid Suleman.
- **Arbitration/partnership:** Instructed as sole counsel in £3 million commercial arbitration arising in a partnership dispute.
- **Arbitration:** Assisting a team of Saudi lawyers at LFSH (a leading local firm, in association with Freshfields) in an arbitration seated in Riyadh: Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office v Private Investor [2023].
- **Arbitration:** Instructed to draft application and represent applicant at the hearing of an application securing the attendance of a third-party witness pursuant to s 43 of the AA 1996 both (i) before the arbitrator and (ii) at the High Court. LCIA arbitration arising out of breach of settlement agreement. Value of claim circa £15 million.
- **Arbitration/Commercial Chancery:** Instructed as sole counsel in an application for interim measures in arbitration, listed for full day before a single arbitrator. Opponent senior junior from leading commercial set.
- **International:** Instructed to draft written submissions and represent Respondent in an upcoming Appeal in the AIFC court. Instructed by Astana Financial Services Authority (the official regulator of the AIFC).
- **Arbitration:** Instructed as junior counsel to represent applicant at upcoming hearing to set aside arbitral award under s 68-69 of the Arbitration Act 1996. Instructed by boutique UAE firm.
- **International/ Commercial:** Instructed to represent appellant at a High Court appeal against registration of a foreign judgment pursuant to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982. Led by Sajid Suleman.
- **Commercial:** Instructed as sole counsel in a three-day, multi-track construction / breach of contract trial.
- **Arbitration:** Advised on setting aside order enforcing arbitration award under s. 101 of the Arbitration Act 1996.

Outside of law, Ahmed enjoys going to the theatre (he was a semi-professional theatre actor), reading (fiction, history and politics), collecting vintage watches, ties and jeans, swimming (badly but enthusiastically), hanging out with friends, and following the trials and tribulations of Manchester United.

## Areas of Expertise

### International Arbitration

Ahmed practices in arbitration and arbitration-related litigation (e.g. enforcement and set-aside of awards).

He has worked on arbitrations under the auspices of the LCIA, ICC, SCC, LCC, SIAC, SCCA and DIAC rules.

Sector-wise, the matters he has worked on span construction, hospitality, shareholder disputes, aviation, commodities, and energy and infrastructure.

Recent matters include:

-LCC arbitration: instructed to advise (and if advice is positive draft proceedings) in an arbitration under Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce Rules in an arbitration arising out of breach of lease agreement.

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-LCIA arbitration: Instructed to draft application and represent applicant at the hearing of an application securing the attendance of a third-party witness pursuant to s 43 of the AA 1996 both (i) before the arbitrator and (ii) at the High Court.

-SCCA arbitration: Assisting a team of Saudi lawyers at LFSH (a leading local firm, in association with Freshfields) in an arbitration seated in Riyadh. Instructed on behalf of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office.

-Ad hoc arbitration: Instructed as sole counsel in an application for interim measures in arbitration, listed for full day before a single arbitrator. Measures sought include freezing and asset-preservation orders.

-Ad hoc arbitration: instructed in a commercial arbitration arising from a partnership agreement. Value of claim circa £3 million.

-ICC arbitration: advised on setting aside order enforcing arbitration award under s. 101 of the Arbitration Act 1996.

-ICC arbitration: instructed as junior counsel (led by Sajid Suleman) to represent applicant at application to set aside arbitral award under s 68-69 of the Arbitration Act 1996. Instructed by boutique UAE firm.

-LCC arbitration: Instructed (by DLA Piper) to draft urgent injunctive proceedings to freeze assets pending determination of a foreign-seated arbitration under section 44 of the Arbitration Act 1996.

## Commercial Litigation

Commercial Litigation is the mainstay of Ahmed's practice.

Recent experience includes:

-Instructed as junior counsel in a two-week civil fraud / breach of contract trial in the Circuit Commercial Court.

-Instructed (by leading City Firm) in an application for (i) a post-judgment worldwide freezing order (ii) enforcement of a foreign judgment, listed for half-a-day in the Commercial Court. Value of claim circa £300 million.

-Instructed (by DLA Piper) in an application for an anti-suit injunction listed for 1 day in the Commercial Court. Underlying value of claim circa £30 million. Instructed as sole counsel against very experienced senior counsel from specialist shipping Chambers.

-Instructed as sole counsel in a 3-day multi-track breach of contract / construction trial.

-Instructed in proceedings before the Grand Court of Cayman Islands valued at £900m: *Kuwait Ports Authority & Ors.v Port Link GP Ltd* FSD 236 of 2020 (RPJ) (instructed by Ogier & Baker Mckenzie. Instruction currently limited to Arabic-language disclosure and discrete document-review tasks).

-Instructed as sole counsel to advise and draft proceedings in civil fraud claim involving a group of Qatari investors who were the victims of a property-development Ponzi in scheme in England.

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-Instructed as sole counsel in a complex, two-day multi-track claim for enforcement of personal guarantee.

-Instructed to advise and settle proceedings in a circa £250,000 unjust enrichment claim.

## Injunctions

Ahmed has developed niche experience dealing with commercial injunctions. He is often instructed on an urgent basis to draft injunctive proceedings, particularly where asset preservation is a pressing concern.

Representative matters include:

-Instructed as sole counsel in a High Court application for urgent ex parte injunction to restrain breach of exclusive distribution agreement in the UK – heard by Sir Anthony Mann in Interim Applications court [2024]

-Instructed (by DLA Piper) to draft urgent injunctive proceedings to freeze assets pending determination of a foreign-seated arbitration under section 44 of the Arbitration Act 1996.

-Instructed as junior counsel in a High Court application to restrain breach of restrictive covenants.

-Instructed (by DLA Piper) in an application for an anti-suit injunction listed for 1 day in the Commercial Court. Underlying value of claim circa £30 million.

-Instructed as junior counsel in a High Court application for a Norwich Pharmacal Order against leading crypto exchanges. Also instructed to obtain Worldwide freezing orders and proprietary injunctions against persons unknown to preserve stolen crypto assets.

-Instructed in various injunctions to restrain presentation and advertisement of winding-up petitions in the ICC.

## International and Offshore: DIFC/ADGM/AIFC

A large portion of Ahmed's practice is before international common law courts, including the DIFC, ADGM, and AIFC.

Highlights of recent instructions include:

-Instructed on a jurisdiction challenge before ADGM court in underlying multi-party civil fraud / financial services proceedings. Led by **Sajid Suleman**.

-Instructed as junior counsel in proceedings before the ADGM in a claim for civil fraud / mis-selling of scheme of investment in NFTs.

-Instructed to draft Skeleton Argument and Grounds of Appeal for appeal in the DIFC Court of Appeal.

-Instructed to draft written submissions and represent Respondent in an upcoming Appeal in the AIFC court. Instructed by Astana Financial Services Authority (the official regulator of the AIFC).

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## Cryptoassets

Ahmed has a growing practice in crypto-related disputes.

Examples of recent instructions includes:

- Instructed as junior counsel in a High Court application for a Norwich Pharmacal Order against leading crypto exchanges. Also instructed to obtain Worldwide freezing orders and proprietary injunctions against persons unknown to preserve stolen crypto assets.
- Instructed as junior counsel in proceedings before the ADGM in a claim for civil fraud / mis-selling of scheme of investment in NFTs.
- Assisted senior counsel (as a devil) in advising on prospects of success in the Court of Appeal of *Howells v Newport City Council* [2025] EWHC 22 (Ch) – high profile claim for declaration and damages arising out of the disposal of a hard drive in landfill containing the private wallet key to crypto assets currently valued at £500 million.
- Instructed to provide opinion on whether proposed crypto-based financial product complied with FSMA 2000.

## Financial Services

Ahmed undertakes a range of advisory and contentious financial services work. Examples of recent instructions include:

- Instructed to consider the characteristics of a proposed new token within the Agridex ecosystem and advise on whether this token falls within of the regulatory perimeter of FMSA.
- Advising a large property investment firm on the "Financial Promotions Restrictions" pursuant to Section 21 of the UK's Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA).
- Instructed to provide opinion on whether proposed crypto-based financial product complied with FSMA 2000 and FCA regulations on provision of information prior to a proposed initial public offering.
- Successfully represented an appellant in a judicial review of a decision of the UK Financial Ombudsman arising out of a complaint against an investment firm for breach of financial regulations.
- Advising and acting for a bank on claim allegeding breach of Quincecare duty of care.
- Acting for companies against a large UK retail bank to obtain injunctions restraining the closure of company bank accounts.

## Insolvency and Company & Shareholder Disputes

Ahmed undertakes a wide range of work in the Insolvency and Companies Court. He has a particular interest in shareholder disputes and experience of working on several s994 petitions, particularly those arising from the context of family-owned businesses.

Highlights of recent work include the following:

- Instructed to advise on merits and draft proceedings for an unfair prejudice (section 994) petition in the High Court.

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- Assisted in advising a minority shareholder in respect of a £multi-million section 994 Unfair Prejudice Petition in the Business and Property Courts against the majority shareholders in a Group of companies in a family-owned quasi-partnership/joint venture, and which involved allegations of forged trust deeds and breaches of fiduciary duty (as a pupil).
- Instructed to represent Respondent in an application before Chief ICC Judge Briggs to determine whether Bankruptcy Court has jurisdiction to go beyond a High Court judgment. Instructed as sole counsel against experienced senior junior from specialist insolvency set.
- Instructed in various injunctions to restrain presentation and advertisement of winding-up petitions in the ICC.
- Instructed to draft application and represent Applicant in application for remuneration of officeholder.
- Instructed to present application for administration order.
- Instructed in various winding-up and bankruptcy petitions.
- Instructed to draft application and represent applicant at application to reuse insolvent company name under section s 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

## Construction

Ahmed has experience working on specialist construction litigation, arbitration, and adjudications.

Highlight of recent construction and construction-related instructions include:

- Instructed as sole counsel in a 3-day multi-track breach of contract / construction trial relating to defective and delayed building of commercial-scale stables.
- Instructed to advise and draft proceedings for breach of contract in a construction claim arising from faulty renovations of commercial office space in central London.
- Instructed to advise and draft proceedings for breach of contract in a construction claim arising from defective repair of water-suppression system in prime office space in central London.
- ICC arbitration: instructed as junior counsel (led by **Sajid Suleman**) to represent applicant at application to set aside arbitral award under s 68-69 of the Arbitration Act 1996. Instructed by boutique UAE firm. Underlying arbitral award arising in the context of a valuable construction project in Saudi Arabia.

## Civil Fraud & Asset Tracing

Ahmed has experience working on a range of complex business crime and civil fraud disputes. He has particular experience advising business owners who are facing "corporate raids" from private equity firms to prevent loss of rights and dissipation of assets.

He also has experience advising shareholders who have been the victims of civil fraud by former business partners.

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Ahmed is particularly adept at formulating strategy to recover assets, and working closely with investigators to identify and recover misappropriated assets.

Highlights of recent experience includes:

- Instructed as sole counsel to advise and draft proceedings in civil fraud claim involving a group of Qatari investors who were the victims of a property-development Ponzi in scheme in England.
- Advising and drafting proceedings in a High Court claim against former shareholder for misappropriating company assets.
- Instructed as junior counsel in a two-week civil fraud / breach of contract trial in the Circuit Commercial Court.
- Instructed to advise on whether property-investment scheme sold as part of an exclusive training course was designed to defraud mortgage lenders.
- Instructed as junior counsel in proceedings before the ADGM in a claim for civil fraud / mis-selling of scheme of investment in NFTs.

## Sanctions

Ahmed has worked and advised on a number of sanctions and sanctions-related matters as follows:

- As a pupil, assisted **Josh Ray** and **Sophie O'Sullivan** in the first s.38 SAMLA challenge to a UK sanctions designation in the Administrative Court: *Synesis v Secretary of State for FCDA [2023] EWHC 541 (Admin)*
- Drafted expert opinion (as devil to a KC) tendered in foreign proceedings advising on whether certain proposed transactions fall foul of UK sanctions legislation.
- Assisting Josh Ray with representing one of the largest banks in Southeast Asia with respect to international sanctions on Myanmar and the country's designation on the FATF blacklist for money laundering.
- Drafting various application to OFSI.
- Drafted various opinions on strategy / prospects of success of challenging sanctions designations (as a pupil).
- Drafted various advisory opinions assisting businesses achieve compliance with sanctions regime.

Most of Ahmed's experience of working on sanctions is derived from his time working at CANDEY.

## Commercial Employment

Ahmed has experience working on a number of commercial employment matters. His expertise in this area predominately relates to restrictive covenant and restraint of trade work.

Highlights of recent experience include:

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-Instructed to draft High Court injunctive proceedings to restrain breach of restrictive covenants.

-Instructed to draft particulars of claim in proceedings seeking to recover general and special damages consequent on breach of restrictive covenants.

-As a pupil: assisting two KCs in defending High Court injunctive proceedings seeking enforcement of restrictive covenants. Application listed for a day in the Chancery Division.

## Judicial Review/Public Law

Ahmed has experience acting in public and administrative law proceedings, with a particular focus on judicial reviews arising from a commercial background.

Recent experience includes:

- Advising and drafting grounds of judicial review against a decision of the Financial Ombudsmen Service denying the complaint of a client who was victim of an advanced fraudulent financial product scheme.
- Advising and drafting grounds of judicial review against various designation decisions of the Valuation Office Agency in respect of commercial property.

During pupillage, Ahmed assisted with various reported authorities in the Administrative Court, particularly in cases arising from a tax or sanctions background.

## Appointments & Memberships

- Called to DIFC
- Called to AIFC
- Member of the Junior Chancery Bar Committee

## Languages

- Arabic (fluent)

## Awards

- Graduated with top first in his year.
- Law School Judges and Silks Award for Best Performance on the LLB
- Oxford University Press Prize
- Sweet & Maxwell Book Prize for best LLB Performance

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- Sir Zafarullah Khan Prize
- Ericson Essay Prize
- Cassel Scholar of Lincoln's Inn

## Privacy Policy

Read Ahmed's Privacy Policy [here](#).

Read Ahmed's Data Retention Policy [here](#).

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