



محكمة قطر الدولية
ومركز تسوية المنازعات

QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT
AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT



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OUR VISION

To be recognised as the world's leading forum for the resolution of international civil and commercial disputes.

ABOUT QICDRC

The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) comprises the Qatar International Court (or QFC Civil and Commercial Court) and the QFC Regulatory Tribunal. Both judicial bodies are established pursuant to the relevant provisions of QFC Law No 7 of 2005 as amended. The procedures of both the Court and Regulatory Tribunal are laid down in the QFC Law and the Regulations and Procedural Rules of each judicial body.

INTRODUCTION

2019 was a year of growth and excellence at the QICDRC. We extended our international partnerships to deliver the highest level of administrative quality through the adoption of the International Framework for Court Excellence.

Our journey with the International Consortium for Court Excellence strengthened the Court's processes and leadership, thereby raising public trust and easing access to justice in the country.

We continued to raise our visibility on the world stage through the Court's active participation in various regional and international legal events, including the IBA 2019 in Singapore and the Qatar-Turkey Law and Investment Forum in Istanbul.

In June, we entered into a momentous agreement with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and furthered Qatar's position as a hub for alternative dispute resolution.

Our CSR activities underline the Court's commitment to inclusion and empowerment of all segments of Qatar's diverse society. In March of last year, we collaborated with Hamad Medical Corporation for World Down Syndrome Day to deliver an inclusive range of activities for families. Together with QFC, we marked the annual Garangao celebrations to promote the value of volunteering among the local community, and in October we marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month to raise public awareness.

We continue to uphold our commitment to the rule of law and put tangible measures in place to advance the judicial and commercial development strategy in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.



THE RT HON. THE LORD THOMAS OF CWMGIEDD

PRESIDENT OF THE COURT

“2019 has seen yet another important year for the QICDRC. The Court issued sixteen judgments throughout the course of the year, on a number of important topics, most notably in the field of banking and financial regulation. As always, judgments of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal are available on the QICDRC website and I encourage people to read them and take note. We welcomed four new judges- Fritz Brand, Ali Malek QC, Helen Mountfield QC and Sean Hagan, all of whom bring with them an incredible wealth of knowledge and expertise. In addition, with the cooperation of the Supreme Judicial Council, we have been joined by two Qatari judges- Judge Alreem Alnaimi and Judge Mubarak Al Hajri- who have been shadowing judges of the QICDRC to learn more about the way the Court and Regulatory Tribunal operate. As in previous years, the QICDRC has played a prominent role in numerous domestic and international events, most notably the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association which this year took place in Seoul, South Korea. Similarly, our university outreach has increased once again with a particular highlight being the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Hamad bin Khalifa University towards the end of the year. Finally, as 2020 begins we all face the Covid-19 pandemic. May I express on behalf of the Court our sympathy to those who have been adversely affected, thank the whole of the Court for all they are doing and express the hope that we will soon be able to resume most of our regular activities.”



FAISAL RASHID AL-SAHOUTI

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

“In 2019, Qatar’s legal framework evolved to accommodate the State’s progressive reform and economic diversification efforts. As a major contributor to the onshore Qatari judicial system, the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre proudly works to broaden fair and equal access to justice in accordance with international best practices.

Qatar National Vision 2030 ascribes a common national strive, framed as a blueprint for Qatar’s economic, human, social and environmental development. This includes a modern and responsive judiciary, which rests on efficient legal processes.

Led by a strategic directive to promote public trust in the legal, regulatory and judicial environment, the Qatar International Court has chartered another successful year. In June, we signed a Cooperation of Agreement with the World Bank’s Group International Centre for Settlement Disputes, effectively strengthening the Court’s commitment to the rule of law.

We returned as Gold Sponsor to the IBA Forum in South Korea where we held a seminar on the ‘Rise of International Civil and Commercial Courts in Asia and the Middle East’, which was attended by leading legal professionals from Europe, Asia and the MENA region.

In December, we achieved Associate Membership of the International Consortium for Court Excellence, affirming our commitment to administrative and leadership excellence across the full spectrum of court services.

Throughout the past year, Qatar’s legal reforms effectively underlined the national strive to attract and retain global commerce through an increasingly open business environment. Law No. 1 of 2019 on regulating the investment of non-Qatari capital in economic activity represented a major step towards facilitating foreign investment access to the Qatari market. Under Law No. 23 of 2019, expatriate investors and real estate developers can now be granted a five-year renewable residence permit without a local sponsor – a crucial step in the expansion of trade and investment networks for decades to come.



We have made significant strides to reduce time and cost associated with alternative dispute resolution in Qatar.

Access to trustworthy legal services is equally imperative to support this outward orientation towards the global markets. Since its establishment in 2009, the Qatar International Court has served as an independent judicial system, adopting the highest international legal standards in civil and commercial arbitration.

We have made significant strides to reduce time and cost associated with alternative dispute resolution in Qatar. The positive impact on Qatar's judicial development was reflected in the country's improved ranking within the World Bank's new Enforcing Contracts and Quality of Judicial Process Index for 2020.

Our efforts go hand-in-hand with the Court's core values - Justice, Teamwork, Innovation, Integrity and Service Excellence, which also informed the strategic expansion of our team of internationally renowned judges. As we celebrate our 10-year anniversary, we look back to an exceptional year of internal growth, participation in prominent regional and international events, and hosting of delegations and legal seminars. On behalf of the Qatar International Court, we pledge to build on the successes of 2019 and enhance the legal environment through fair and efficient justice."



OVERVIEW

THE COURT AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

As of 1 January 2019, the judiciary of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal comprise 16 judges from 9 different jurisdictions (Qatar, Kuwait, England and Wales, Scotland, Cyprus, India, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand). The judges subscribe to a judicial code of conduct, the cornerstones of which are impartiality, independence, integrity and propriety.

With the agreement of the Supreme Judicial Council in the State of Qatar, the Court and Regulatory Tribunal continue to be supported by Justice Rashid Al Badr who fulfills the role of Enforcement Judge. The successful enforcement of judgments of the Court has been a key milestone in the development of the Court. The fact that the Court has been able to successfully enforce its own judgments sets it apart from other comparable judicial institutions in the Region.



JURISDICTION OF THE COURT AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

The jurisdiction of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal is provided for under Article 8 of the QFC Law.

ARTICLE 8(2)(C)

Article 8(2)(c) of the QFC Law provides that:

- The Regulatory Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction to hear Appeals raised by individuals and corporate bodies against decisions of The QFC Authority, The Regulatory Authority, and other QFC institutions.

ARTICLE 8(3)(C)-(D)

Article 8(3)(c)-(d) of the QFC Law sets out the jurisdiction of the Court:

The First Instance Circuit of the Court shall have the jurisdiction to hear the following disputes:

- Civil and commercial disputes arising from transactions, contracts, arrangements or incidences taking place in or from The QFC between the entities established therein.
- Civil and commercial disputes arising between The QFC authorities or institutions and the entities established therein.
- Civil and commercial disputes arising between entities established in The QFC and contractors therewith and employees thereof, unless the parties agree otherwise.
- Civil and commercial disputes arising from transactions, contracts or arrangements taking place between entities established within The QFC and residents of The State, or entities established in the State but outside The QFC, unless the parties agree otherwise.
- The Appellate Circuit of The Civil and Commercial Court shall have the jurisdiction to hear appeals against decisions of The First Instance Circuit, as well as appeals against decisions of The Regulatory Tribunal. A member shall not sit in The Appeals Circuit to look over an appealed judgment if such member was a member of the circuit that originally issued the judgment.

LAW NO 2 OF 2017

In addition, Law No 2 of 2017 expands the jurisdiction of the Court where the Court has been selected as the “Competent Court” over arbitrations seated in Qatar.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَإِذَا حُكِمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ
مَدِينَةُ عَدْلٍ



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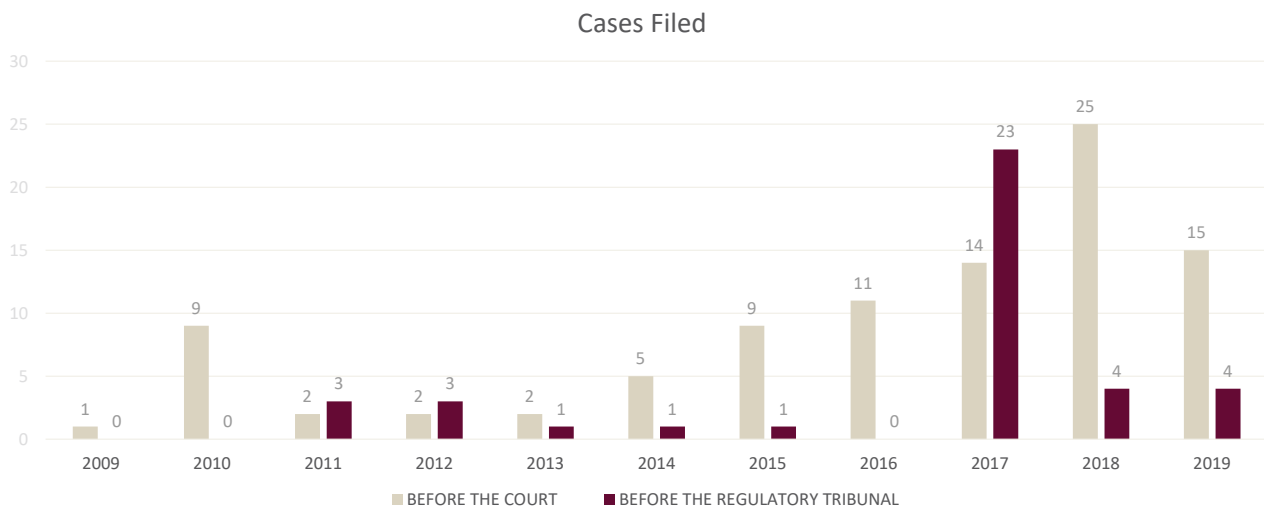
CASE STATISTICS

CASES BEFORE THE COURT

Fifteen cases were filed before the Court in 2019. They concerned a number of topics including (i) banking, (ii) breach of contract, (iii) contempt of court, (iv) debt recovery, (v) employment, (vi) insurance, (vii), regulatory actions, and (viii) trusts.

CASES BEFORE THE QFC REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

Four cases were filed before the Regulatory Tribunal in 2018. Two were appeals against determinations of the Employment Standards Office and two were appeals against Decision Notices issued by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority. The Regulatory Tribunal issued three Decisions throughout this period.



PRACTICE DIRECTIONS

PRACTICE DIRECTION 1 OF 2019

Practice Direction 1 of 2019 concerns matters relating to the filing of witness statements and the attendance of witnesses before the Court. The thrust of the Practice Direction is that where a witness statement is filed in accordance with the Regulations and Procedural Rules of the Court and is not challenged by an opposing party, the Court will usually direct that the witness is not required to attend Court and the evidence contained within the witness statement will usually be accepted as true.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 2 OF 2019

Practice Direction 2 of 2019 concerns summary judgment. In accordance with Article 22.6 of the Regulations and Procedural Rules of the Court, the Court may grant summary judgment on a claim or defence or on any issue where it considers that justice so requires. The Practice Direction sets out the procedure to be followed in relation to summary judgment applications as well as a more detailed explanation of the test the Court will apply when considering such applications.

CASES BEFORE THE QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT

25 CASES

Fifteen cases were filed before the Court in 2019. They concerned a number of topics including (i) banking, (ii) breach of contract, (iii) contempt of court, (iv) debt recovery, (v) employment, (vi) insurance, (vii), regulatory actions, and (viii) trusts. The Court issued sixteen judgments throughout the course of the year, all of which are available on the QICDRC website.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

In a judgment reported at [2019] QIC (F) 8, the First Instance Circuit of the Court declared that a bank, licensed in the QFC, was in contempt of court by failing to comply with various orders of the Court. The Court observed that “It is remarkable that an institution such as the Bank, with its wide-spread international business, should have chosen deliberately to disobey orders of a duly constituted court. It is appropriate that the Court makes, as it now does, a formal finding that the Bank is in contempt of court.”

REGULATORY

In a judgment reported at [2019] QIC (A) 3, the Appellate Division of the Court concluded, among other things, that, in the context of a regulatory investigation, the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority could investigate activities undertaken by an authorised firm outside the QFC if those activities relate to regulated activities undertaken by an authorised firm in or from the QFC. The Court also observed that, as a matter of general principle, a branch of a bank which operates in the QFC has no separate legal identity; the bank is the regulated entity for regulated activities carried out by the bank through its branch in the QFC.

BANKING & FINANCE

1. In a judgment reported at [2019] QIC (F) 4, the First Instance Circuit of the Court gave judgment in favour of a bank, as against a borrower and guarantor, in the sum of QAR 19,463,394.21 in respect of breach of a credit facilities agreement. Having regard to domestic and international case-law on the subject, the Court also upheld a conclusive evidence clause.
2. In a judgment reported at [2019] QIC (F) 6, the First Instance Circuit of the Court found that valid demands had been made on an advance payment guarantee and performance bond in the respective sums of €10,549,440 and €4,070,000.

EXPERT EVIDENCE

In a judgment reported at [2019] QIC (A) 4, the Appellate Division, when refusing permission to appeal, reminded litigants that the general approach of the First Instance Circuit of the Court is to determine issues of fact without the assistance of experts. Only where it was “appropriate or necessary” would the Court depart from this general approach.

COSTS

In a judgment reported at [2019] QIC (C) 1, the Registrar, in the context of a costs assessment, concluded that, as a matter of general principle, in-house legal costs are recoverable provided that they have been reasonably incurred and are reasonable in amount.

CASES BEFORE THE QFC REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

4 CASES

Four cases were filed before the Regulatory Tribunal in 2019. Two successfully settled without the need for judicial involvement. The other two cases involved appeals raised by a QFC registered company against significant financial penalties imposed upon it by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority ('QFCRA') and the Qatar Financial Centre Authority ('QFCA'). The QFCRA had imposed financial penalties of QAR 25,000,000 and QAR 5,000,000 upon the company for (i) holding itself out as engaging in asset management business when it did not have the necessary authorisation, (ii) failing to put in place and follow appropriate anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism procedures and (iii) providing information to the QFCRA which was false, misleading or deceptive. The penalty imposed by the QFCA related to the company's failure to handle client monies in accordance with the applicable rules. The Regulatory Tribunal upheld the findings of the QFCRA and the QFCA and the penalties imposed. The Decision of the Regulatory Tribunal is available on the QICDRC website.

Decisions of the Regulatory Tribunal are available online at <https://www.qicdrc.com.qa/tribunal/judgments>

JUDICIARY

As of 1 January 2019, the judiciary of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal comprise the following:



**LORD THOMAS
OF CWMGIEDD,**
PRESIDENT



RASHID AL BADR
ENFORCEMENT JUDGE



**DR HASSAN AL
SAYED**



SIR WILLIAM BLAIR



GEORGE ARESTIS



**DR RASHID AL
ANEZI**



**SIR BRUCE
ROBERTSON**



FRANCES KIRKHAM



**CHELVA RAJAH
SC**



**LORD ARTHUR
HAMILTON**



FRITZ BRAND



ALI MALEK QC



**HELEN
MOUNTFIELD
QC**

REGULATORY TRIBUNAL



**SIR WILLIAM
BLAIR**
CHAIRMAN



**EDWIN
GLASGOW QC**



LAURENCE LI



**GOPAL
SUBRAMANIAM**



SEAN HAGAN

REGISTRY



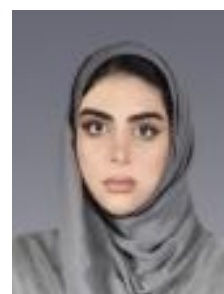
**CHRISTOPHER
GROUT**
REGISTRAR



**ABDULLATEF
AHMED AL-
MOHANNADI**
DEPUTY
REGISTRAR



**HAMAD AL-
MUSFIR**
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE



**DUHA AL-
MULLA**
CASE
PROGRESSION
MANAGER
ASSOCIATE



ZEINAB LAKISS
ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD

LORD THOMAS OF CWMGIEDD
PRESIDENT OF THE COURT

FRANCES KIRKHAM
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JUDGES

FAISAL AL SAHOUTI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SIR WILLIAM BLAIR
CHAIRMAN OF THE REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

DR HASSAN AL SAYED

CHRISTOPHER GROUT
REGISTRAR



OVERVIEW

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

QICDRC continues to establish itself as the preferred choice for parties seeking alternative dispute resolution. The Court enables the use of its facilities for arbitration and mediation sessions to parties that elect QICDRC as the “Competent Court” as outlined in Law No. 2 of 2017.

A benchmark agreement with the global authority on dispute settlement, the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), further enhances Qatar’s profile as a hub for effective arbitration and alternative dispute resolution.

The Court’s active take on stakeholder engagement and knowledge-exchange with regional and international partners promotes its growing jurisdiction, whilst serving the community at the highest arbitral level.

COURT EXCELLENCE

Following the implementation of tangible improvements to the quality of the Court's administrative services, QICDRC achieved Associate Membership of the International Consortium for Court Excellence (ICCE) in December 2019. The Court's adoption of the International Framework for Court Excellence (IFCE) signifies its commitment to seven areas of court excellence: court leadership and management, court planning and policies, court resources, court proceedings and processes, client needs and satisfaction, affordable and accessible court services and public trust and confidence. The QICDRC may become eligible for Implementing Membership status in the future, pending continuous enforcement of the IFCE within its administrative operations, strategic planning and leadership development practices.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNINGS

In 2019, QICDRC leveraged strategic partnerships on a local and global scale, partook in active stakeholder engagement and knowledge-exchange, and established a network within the global legal community that underlines the court's position as a leading entity in the international court system.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON SETTLEMENT OF INVESTMENT DISPUTES



Strengthening Qatar's position as a hub for alternative dispute resolution, QICDRC entered into a momentous agreement with the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in June.

As the world's leading institution devoted to international investment dispute settlement, ICSID has administered the majority of all international investment cases since its establishment by the Executive Directors of the World Bank back in 1966.

The cooperation agreement, which was signed by CEO of QICDRC, Faisal Rashid Al-Sahouti, and Secretary-General of ICSID, Meg Kinnear, is an extension of the Centre's original promise to promote international investment in a safe and effective way.

In practical terms, both parties can conduct arbitration proceedings at the seat of the other organization whilst benefitting from priority access to each other's facilities and services.

QICDRC continues to advocate for the rule of law by forging international partnerships with key institutions that support Qatar's judicial and commercial development strategy.

HBKU COLLEGE OF LAW



In November, QICDRC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) College of Law. As part of the Court's extended partnership with local academic institutions the three-year agreement will establish a 'QICDRC-HBKU College of Law Lecture Series', on topics related to international dispute resolution, substantive principles of commercial and business law, and QICDRC-specific legal applications.

In addition to joint conferences, colloquia, and workshops, the partnership also offers Court judges and senior personnel the opportunity to deliver guest lectures at the HBKU College of Law as well as attend courses on an auditing basis. Collaborative knowledge-exchange between home-grown organisations in Qatar will contribute to the active mentorship of the next generation of legal professionals.

A photograph of the Qatar Financial Centre building, a modern skyscraper with a curved glass facade, set against a clear blue sky. The building's name, "qatar FINANCIAL CENTRE", is visible on its upper section. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

DELEGATION VISITS

In an increasingly interconnected world, qicdrc aims to enhance ties with industry professionals and legal entities across the world in an effort to engage in knowledge-exchange and sustainable development. 2019 has been a year of interactive collaboration and exchange as we welcomed international court delegations and legal experts at the court to introduce them to our innovative dispute resolution model.



HE THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY VISITS QICDRC

QICDRC welcomed HE the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, on occasion of his visit to the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) in February.

The visit centred on a comprehensive roundtable discussion with the leadership team of the individual QFC entities. Faisal Rashid Al-Sahouti, CEO of QICDRC, briefed the Minister on the Court's ongoing initiatives and projects within the broader scope of the Centre's strategic endeavour to promote Qatar as an attractive business hub for international investment.

QICDRC lends strategic support to QFC's overarching mission by advancing the country's economic development and diversification efforts in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.



PARAGUAYAN CHIEF JUSTICE HOPES TO ESTABLISH A JUDICIAL MODEL SIMILAR TO QICDRC

QICDRC is recognised as a well-established international court and dispute resolution platform that serves as a model to emergent arbitration facilities across the globe.

In February, QICDRC opened its doors to President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay, Dr. Jose Raul Torres Kirmser, and his accompanying delegation, who visited the State of Qatar to discuss new avenues of joint cooperation in the judicial field.

The visitors learned about QICDRC's arbitration facilities and advanced courtroom technologies, which are used to streamline court hearings and arbitration sessions to enhance the judicial process.

Following its mandate to develop the international legal community, QICDRC lent support to the Paraguayan delegation in their plans to establish a similar specialised court in Paraguay. Today, QICDRC serves as a model for civil and commercial arbitration through its independent, reputable judges and the adoption of the highest international legal standards. The Court thereby helps attract direct foreign investment to Qatar and positions the country as a trustworthy destination for international commerce.

On occasion of the visit, QICDRC extended an invitation to the Paraguayan Supreme Court of Justice to join the prestigious Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts, of which Qatar is one of the founding members.



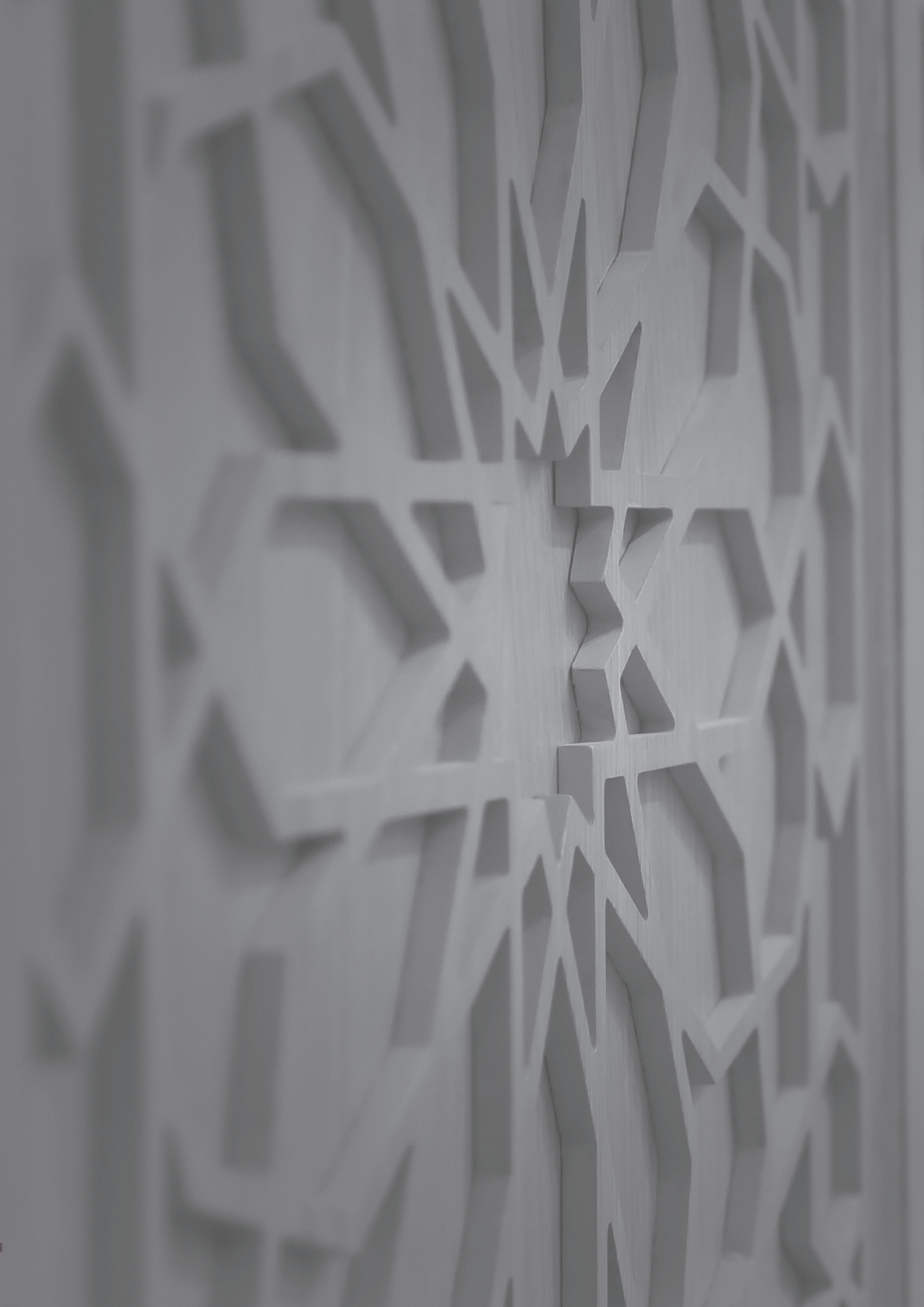
OMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY DELEGATION LEARNS ABOUT QICDRC'S UNIQUE DISPUTE RESOLUTION MODEL

QICDRC welcomed 2019 with a broadened approach to stakeholder engagement. In January, Court officials received a delegation from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss civil and commercial arbitration in Qatar.

Headed by the Vice Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rashid Amer Mohammed Al-Mesailhi, delegates learned about QICDRC's efforts in attracting foreign direct investment by promoting alternative methods of dispute resolution. Effectively, this positions Qatar as an international hub for commercial arbitration.

Following a discussion on the regional laws on civil and commercial arbitration, Faisal Al-Sahouti, CEO of the QICDRC, introduced the visitors to Qatar's economic diversification plans. He highlighted the Court's role in offering an independent regulatory and judicial system as part of Qatar's strategic expansion into a unique financial hub that offers incentives to international businesses and financial services.

During a tour of the QICDRC arbitration facilities, the delegates received exclusive insights into the functionality of the Court, including its advanced online case management system, eCourt.



EVENTS





ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION 2019

A QICDRC delegation participated in the International Bar Association Annual Conference Seoul (IBA 2019) from 22-27 September in South Korea. Joining over 5,000 attendees from across the global legal network, Court officials engaged in important discussions on current trends, opportunities and challenges in the legal field.

As a three-time IBA Gold Sponsor, QICDRC also hosted a seminar on 'The Rise of the Commercial Courts in Asia and the Middle East' as part of the conference. The seminar featured a welcome note from the CEO and high-level panel discussions with representatives from various jurisdictions, including Qatar, Singapore and Kazakhstan. Discussions focused on the unique role of international commercial courts as well as QICDRC's strategic position as a meeting point between East and West.







Turkey Qatar Forum Law and Investment



Gulf Times **الرأيّة**

QATAR
CHAMBER

www.lawandinvestmentforum.com

QATAR-TURKEY LAW FORUM

In November, a QICDRC delegation participated in the Qatar-Turkey Law and Investment Forum in Istanbul. Organised by Al Sulaiti Law Firm and supported by the Qatar Chamber and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, the Forum underscored the countries' strong economic ties. Speaking at the Forum, Qatar Chamber Board Member Dr Mohamed Jawhar al-Mohamed, elaborated on the favourable bilateral business environment that currently sees over 450 Turkish companies operating in the Qatari market with Qatari partners, while there are around 130 Qatari companies operating in Turkey. QICDRC is an integral partner to the commercial process, offering foreign businesses an attractive destination for investment and safe operations in Qatar.

المنتدى القطري التركي القانون والاستثمار



البنك القطري
Qatar Finance



CATAR CHAMBER



2/6



DR. ZAINAL
ABEDIN SHARRAH

LEVENT LEZGIN
KILIC



Commercial Law Highlights

Seminar

مناقشات قانون المرافعات تجارية الجديدة

ندوة



SPECIALISED SEMINAR OFFERS INSIGHTS ON LATEST AMENDMENTS TO QATAR'S CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL PROCEDURES LAW

Renowned local legal experts and industry professionals gathered at QICDRC in March to attend the “Civil and Commercial Procedures Highlights” seminar.

Held in partnership with four of Qatar’s most reputable legal firms in the field of civil and commercial disputes, the seminar examined the recent amendments to the Civil and Commercial Procedures Law, and the resulting impacts on the judicial process. As part of a strategic directive to apply accelerated reforms in the legislative sector, HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani issued the amendments (Law No 3 of 2019) earlier this year.

The seminar was attended by over 200 delegates, representing more than 50 government institutions including the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Judiciary Council and Qatar Public Prosecution. In a series of high-level panel discussions, the speakers analysed Qatar’s rapidly evolving legal framework to accommodate the State’s economic diversification efforts. The recent amendments align Qatar’s judiciary system with its national economic aspirations and encourage foreign direct investment through a more streamlined legal process.

QICDRC continues to inspire important dialogue through specialised education programmes for the local legal community as it contributes to the development of Qatar’s legislative sector in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.



SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE FUTURE OF ARBITRATION IN THE MENA REGION

The 5th Annual International Arbitration & Regulatory Global Summit took place in Qatar in April under the sponsorship of QICDR.

The Summit, which is organised by Wolters Kluwer, a leading online resource for international arbitration research, dissected the role efficient arbitration plays in attracting international commerce and trade to the Middle East.

Today, QICDR is leading national development efforts in the legal field through alternative dispute resolution methods that help develop a favourable investment environment in Qatar and the region.

Attracting the renowned arbitration event to Qatar helped establish networking ties with other experts in the global legal community. QICDR's growth strategy aims to position Qatar as a regional hub for arbitration through a distinguished legal model that can help shape the future of international trade.

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

The QICDRC continues its initiatives in support of academic institutions, through the consolidation of its relations with local and international universities. Where the court organised a number of visits for university students and faculty members of law faculties to the court, enabling them to have the opportunity to sit with the judges and directly ask their inquiries and questions. These visits include a visit to the courtroom, and an opportunity to learn about the modern technologies used in it. The court has offered training programs for law students, as these programs contribute to practically refining students' legal skills.

QATAR UNIVERSITY (QU)

The QICDRC continues to fund a chair at Qatar University in order to support research into Alternative Dispute Resolution. The objectives of the chair include:

- Supporting ADR research;
- Promoting the use of ADR to resolve disputes in Qatar;
- Identifying impediments to the effectiveness of ADR;
- Encouraging the College of Law at QU to offer courses that focus on ADR;
- Encouraging post-graduate research in the field of ADR; and
- Developing training and continual professional development courses relating to ADR.



HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY (HBKU)

In October 2019, the QICDRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hamad Bin Khalifa University in relation to future collaboration with HBKU's College of Law. The MoU sets out a number of initiatives including a joint lecture series, guest lectures by judges and court staff, attendance at courses and further activities as agreed from time to time.

UNIVERSITY OF TREVISO

In July 2019, the Registrar attended the University of Treviso in Italy to lecture students who were participating in a Summer School Programme which introduced students to contemporary legal issues in Europe and the Middle East. The Registrar's lectures focused on aspects of transnational litigation, with an emphasis on court-based skills such as drafting pleadings and advocacy

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

At QICDRC we participate and foster social responsibility programmes that reflect our commitment to the fair and equal participation and inclusion of all segments of society. Our initiatives aim to empower individuals and communities within Qatar's multicultural work environment to promote an inclusive society that provides equal opportunities for all.



QICDRC MARKS WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

QICDRC collaborated with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March at Al Bidda Park where families joined together in an all-day event of inclusive activities that celebrate individual differences and raise awareness amongst the local community.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from families whose children partook in effective and meaningful activities with the aim to empower them and support their place within society.



QICDRC CELEBRATES GARANGAO

Together with the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) and its entities, QICDRC staff and their families came together for the annual Garangao community event during the Holy Month of Ramadan in Qatar's biggest open-air square at Msheireb Downtown Doha. The festivities for young and old highlighted important aspects of Qatari heritage, inclusion of people with disabilities, and strengthening of social ties as a diverse community that remains committed to socially-conscious values and initiatives.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month across the globe and at QICDRC. Our team took part in an informative public awareness session on the importance of early detection, which was delivered by Qatar Cancer Society (QCS) and Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA). As part of our commitment to social development, we recognise and support meaningful initiatives that support the wellbeing and continued progress of our communities.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَإِذَا حُكِمَ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَكْفُرُوا بِالْعَدْلِ
سُورَةُ بَقَرَةَ



محكمة قطر الدولية
ومركز تسوية المنازعات
QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT
AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE

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