Biography

Tom is a Partner and the firm’s Head of Arbitration based in the Dubai office. He is experienced in international commercial arbitration, international investment disputes, state-to-state arbitration, and foreign sovereign immunity issues. His experience covers a wide range of industries, sectors, and types of disputes, including oil-and-gas, construction, hospitality, telecommunications, automobile manufacturing, distribution agreements, shareholder disputes, and joint-venture disputes.

From 2001 to 2009, Tom was a member of the legal team representing the Ethiopian Government before the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission, an international arbitral tribunal that adjudicated claims for loss, damage and injury arising during an international armed conflict. In this context, he worked as a resident attorney in Addis Ababa for three years.

Tom is ranked for dispute resolution in Chambers United Arab Emirates (2021), which notes that “Tom’s knowledge and expertise is extremely impressive” and that “he has the ability to advise and write with an uncommon degree of precision and clarity.” In the Legal 500 United Arab Emirates (2020), Tom is described as having “cross-examination skills [that] are excellent. He listens hard, is polite to witnesses and yet wields an iron fist beneath his velvet glove.” He is also listed in Who’s Who Legal Future Leaders - Arbitration.

Tom has sat as an arbitrator and is on the panel of arbitrators of several arbitral institutions around the world. He is also a member of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Arbitration Committee of the Lagos Court of Arbitration (LCA).

Tom frequently writes and speaks on topics involving international law and dispute resolution. Prior to relocating to Dubai, he was a professorial lecturer in law at the George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC.

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Recent experience

- Sitting as the sole arbitrator in a SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore involving a dispute over a contract for installation works for the construction of a desalination facility in Oman.
- Representing the Dubai-based subsidiary of a global electronics conglomerate in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration seated in the DIFC involving a dispute with its distributor in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire under
UAE law.

- Representing a **hotel management company** in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration involving a dispute with a hotel owner in East Africa over the termination of a hotel management agreement.
- Representing a **Singapore-based hospitality group** in a DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre case seated in the DIFC involving a shareholder dispute over a hotel in East Africa.
- Representing a **global sports channel** in a DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre case seated in the DIFC involving a dispute over the distribution of its products in Saudi Arabia.
- Representing a **Kuwaiti investor** in a Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) arbitration involving a shareholder dispute with a UAE-based investment company.
- Representing an **African state** in International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) arbitration seated in Geneva involving a dispute in the amount of nearly US$1.5 billion over the termination of five petroleum production sharing agreements.
- Representing an **African state** in an ad hoc investor-state arbitration arising from a taxation dispute in the oil-and-gas industry.

**Languages**

- English

**Education**

2000 – *Juris Doctor*, Harvard Law School

1997 – *Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude)*, University of Notre Dame

**Admission**

2019 – Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) Courts (Rights of Audience)

2017 – Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts (Part I Practitioner)

2017 – Dubai Legal Affairs Department (Legal Consultant)

2007 – U.S. Supreme Court

2006 – U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

2006 – U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

2002 – Bar of the District of Columbia

2001 – Bar of Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Practices**

- Arbitration

- Construction & Infrastructure
• Mediation

**Sectors**

• Hotels & Leisure