

Mr. Farhan Shafi ACI Arb, LL.M



Qualifications:	England and Wales (2024) Pakistan (2020)
Nationality:	Pakistani
Mobile:	+971 55 2377 945 (UAE) +44 7907 480405 (UK) +92 300 4476892 (Pakistan)
Email:	fs@blankearbitration.com

Mr. Shafi is an Associate of Blanke Arbitration FZ LLE. He is a dual-qualified lawyer with extensive experience acting in commercial and construction arbitrations across Europe, the Middle East and South Asia under the DIAC, ICC and LCIA Rules, as well as ad-hoc proceedings.

Mr. Shafi specialises in disputes arising from the construction sector, particularly those involving claims for defective works and decennial liability, delay and variations. He acts for domestic and international clients, representing all parties in the contractual chain including contractors, developers, engineers, and subcontractors.

He is a Founding Co-Chair of DVYAP and serves on the Executive Committee of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UAE branch) Young Members Group. He maintains a strong interest in the construction, energy, and technology sectors.

Before joining Blanke Arbitration, Mr. Shafi gained experience at leading regional and international law firms in Oman, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. He also served as a research assistant to Professor Renato Nazzini KC at the Centre of Construction Law and Dispute Resolution in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Shafi is an alumnus of the King's College London, the University of London and the prestigious Hague Academy of International Law. He also serves as an Alumni Ambassador and International Alumni Leader for King's College London in the United Arab Emirates.

Assignments representative of Mr. Shafi's work as Counsel include:

- Successfully defended a high-net-worth individual in a shareholder dispute under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE and governed by English law;

- Advising a UAE contractor in a construction dispute worth AED 120 million against a UAE-based employer arising from the completion of works on a mixed-use development governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE;
- Advising a UAE contractor in a construction dispute worth AED 54 million against a UAE-based employer arising from the completion of works on an office complex governed by UAE law under the ICC Rules with seat in UAE;
- Advising a UAE-based employer in a dispute worth over AED 50 million against a main contractor in relation to defects arising out of construction works on a mixed-used skyscraper under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE and governed by UAE law;
- Advising on a multi-million SAR commercial dispute in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the LCIA Rules with seat in London and governed by English law;
- Advising a UAE contractor in a construction dispute worth AED 160 million against a UAE-based developer arising from the completion of works on a mixed-use development governed by UAE law under the DIAC Rules with seat in the UAE;
- Advising a UAE subcontractor in a multi-million AED construction dispute against a UAE-based main contractor arising from the completion of works on a *bespoke* retail project under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE and governed by UAE law;
- Advising a UAE food distribution company against a Norwegian beverages company in a dispute arising out of a distribution agreement under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE and governed by UAE law;
- Advising an Omani developer in a construction dispute in Oman involving parties from three jurisdictions in relation to a multi-billion-dollar tourism development under the ICC Rules with seat in London and governed by English law;
- Advising an Omani entity in an ad-hoc arbitration in relation to an independent water project dispute in Oman seated in Muscat and governed by Omani law;
- Advising an UAE oil and gas entity on a commercial dispute under the LCIA Rules with seat in London and governed by English law;
- Advising a Pakistani engineering consultancy in an ad-hoc arbitration with a state-owned entity in connection with a feasibility report for a major multi-billion-dollar power project in Pakistan seated in Lahore and governed by Pakistani law;
- Advising a UAE subcontractor in a multi-million AED construction dispute against a UAE-based contractor arising from the completion of works on a twin-tower skyscraper under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE and governed by UAE law; and
- Advising a UAE developer in a real estate dispute worth AED 57 million against a UAE real estate development company in relation to purchase of a plot for residential development under the DIAC Rules with seat in UAE and governed by UAE law.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Executive Committee Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UAE Branch) Young Members Group (YMG)
- Co-Chair, DVYAP

- International Bar Association
- The Law Society of England and Wales
- Punjab Bar Council
- Lahore Bar Association
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA)
- Young OGEMID
- Young Arbitration and ADR Forum (YAAF)

EDITORSHIPS

- Member of the newsletter committee, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UAE Branch Quarterly Newsletter.
- Former member of the editorial board, Courting the Law.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| November 2024 | - UAE Branch of the CI Arb YMG, Waldorf Astoria, DIFC – DAW 2024: <i>“Impact of AI on arbitration is a distant pipedream, not an imminent reality”</i> ; moderator |
| March 2022 | - King's College London Postgraduate Law Society, Somerset House, London: <i>“Impact of Technology and Metaverse on International Arbitration”</i> ; moderator |
| February 2022 | - King's College London Postgraduate Law Society, online: <i>“Conversation with Claudia Salomon, President of the ICC Court of Arbitration”</i> ; host |
| September 2018 | - LEARN and UN Women Pakistan – Nishat Hotel, Lahore: <i>Violence Against Women Conference</i> ; panellist |

PUBLICATIONS

Articles/Case Notes/Blogs

- Jhaveri, J., and Shafi, F. 2024. UAE – Arbitration 2023 Year in Review. *Jus Mundi & VYAPs*.
- Shafi, F. 2023. The Rise of Artificial Intelligence: A UAE Commercial Arbitration Perspective. *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators UAE Branch Quarterly Newsletter*.
- Blanke, G., and Shafi, F. 2023. BVI court declines to enforce awards based on comity (AB CD EF v GH Ltd). *LexisNexis UK*.
- Blanke, G., and Shafi, F. 2022. The Hague Court of Appeal decides state-owned enterprises cannot rely upon state immunity in recognition and enforcement proceedings of an Award (Archirodon v General Company for Ports of Iraq). *LexisNexis UK*.

- Blanke, G., and Shafi, F. 2022. Country Survey: United Arab Emirates. Brill. *Yearbook of Islamic and Middle Eastern Law*, #22, p.342.
- Malik, T., Arshad, A. Zingales, A., Shafi, F., Haider, A and Iqbal, S. 2021. Pakistan Power Sector Policy Review. [online] *Courting The Law*.
- Shafi, F., and Suleman, S. 2021. Developing Arbitration in Pakistan – From Ad Hoc to Institutional Arbitration. *Investment & Commercial Arbitration Review*.
- Zingales, A., and Shafi, F., 2021. Oman Mergers & Acquisitions 2021. *LexisNexis Middle East GCC - Middle East Corporate Counsel Advisor*.
- Arshad, A., and Shafi, F., 2021. Freezones Duqm 2021. *LexisNexis Middle East Freezones Practical Guidance*.
- Arshad, A., and Shafi, F. 2020. The Restructuring of Oman's State Apparatus. *MENA Business Law Review*, #04/2020, p.61.
- Arshad, A. and Shafi, F., 2020. COVID-19: Analysis of Punjab's Labour Law Regime. *Courting The Law*.
- Shafi, F., 2020. The Nexus Between Legal Literacy, Access to Justice and Human Rights. *University College Lahore Human Rights Review*, 7

Book reviews

- Law, Practice and Procedure of Arbitration in India, 23(1) *Arbitration* (2023) (together with G. Blanke);

Other

- Malik, T., Arshad, A. Zingales, A., Shafi, F., Haider, A and Iqbal, S. 2021. Pakistan Power Sector Policy Review. [online] *Courting The Law*.
- Chughtai, K., Malik, T., Arshad, A., Maroof, M., Ali, S., Ghani, U., Adil, J., Shafi, F., Khan, H. and Fiaz, M., 2020. National Health Security: Constitutional And Legal Framework [Response To COVID-19]. [online] *Courting The Law*,