



YOUSSEF & PARTNERS
ATTORNEYS

KARIM A. YOUSSEF

**Biography, Work Highlights, Awards & Honors,
and Testimonials**



KARIM A. YOUSSEF

Founder & Managing Partner, Youssef & Partners

Dr. Karim A. Youssef is the founder of Youssef & Partners, a Global Arbitration Review (GAR) 100 law firm, and a regional leader in dispute resolution. Under his chairmanship, the firm rose to inclusion in the GAR 100 Guide in less than two years –a unique achievement. Karim was named a Star Individual in the Chambers 2021 and 2022 Guide –the highest ranking given to practitioners in their fields. He leads the international arbitration and international law practices at the Firm. His practice focuses on commercial arbitration, investment treaty arbitration, complex high-value disputes, and international law, and is world-renowned in these respective fields.

Karim represents key Egyptian and regional clients, including several Fortune 500 companies and some of the World’s most significant global corporations in high-profile local, regional, and purely international disputes. His expertise in high-value complex claims is unmatched among MENA practitioners: Karim regularly features as counsel, arbitrator, or expert in some of the highest-profile and largest commercial and investment treaty claims in the region. He also spends part of his time giving strategic advice to some of the region’s most significant corporations across a wide array of key industries and sectors, and he also heads the firm’s high net-worth individuals’

practice. Karim has received some of the highest distinctions by peers and clients. Among others, he has been described as “a leading light in international arbitration” (Legal 500, 2018) and “*Karim Youssef is recognized in the market as a “top arbitration guy.” He has an impressive, region-spanning practice which sees him represent international companies in investment treaty disputes*

and other arbitration claims against state entities. With expertise in international law, he frequently represents clients in multibillion-dollar arbitrations seated around the world. A client was glad to say that Youssef has “proved to be an effective advocate.” (Chambers Global Guide, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, 2020). He has further been praised as “a master of strategy” who thinks “light years ahead” of other practitioners (Chambers Global, 2022) and described as a “leading counsel in the MENA region” (Who’s Who Legal, 2019.)”

Market sources have described him as “super-smart, very much on top of his game,” with one client adding, “he’ll be our first choice for any future matter” (Chambers Global Guide, 2018). Karim’s distinctions also include earning the 2018 GAR Award for best global speech and being appointed to CRCICA’s Advisory Committee. He also wrote a well-known book on multi-party arbitration and consent issues prefaced by Jan Paulsson.

Karim’s docket of arbitrator and counsel work exceeds 140 international arbitrations across four continents, focusing on the MENA region and GCC countries and major cosmopolitan seats, including Cairo, Dubai, Paris, London, and New York. Karim’s “*“sharp intellect” and “responsiveness as an arbitrator” makes him a favorite on the international arbitration circuit.*” (Who’s Who Legal, 2018). He is held in extremely high regard for his expert handling of investment treaty claims against government entities and is further praised as an “extremely hands-on” adviser who “gives game-changing strategy.” (Chambers Global Guide, 2021). Timeless highlights of his work include representing Cementos La Union SA v. the Arab Republic of Egypt in the first investment treaty arbitration arising from the cement industry; and the CBC Channel in claims against Egyptian satirist Bassem Youssef.

Karim was educated at Yale Law school (LL.M, J.S.D.) and Paris 1 (Sorbonne) and Cairo universities.

Awards, Distinctions, Honors, and Testimonials

The Firm's international arbitration practice and Karim A. Youssef received, over the years, World-class distinctions and honors. Here is a selection of testimonials and honors we received from clients and peers over the years:

- “Cairo-based Karim Youssef is a heavyweight arbitration lawyer with extensive experience acting on multibillion-dollar claims. As counsel he represents an enviable client list, which features numerous well-known international companies. He also regularly sits as arbitrator. He is held in extremely high regard for his expert handling of investment treaty claims against government entities. "He is an exceptional lawyer: knowledgeable, a master of strategy, and he thinks light years ahead. Karim is a true arbitration star and is the go-to for big, complicated cases." "Karim is very sharp, analytical, thorough, and highly intelligent." "He's a very sophisticated, talented lawyer with a deep understanding of international arbitration." – Chambers Global Guide 2022
- *‘Karim A. Youssef is “highly responsive and extremely knowledgeable,” according to clients. He is a “leading expert in international arbitration in Egypt” and “a leader in the field, especially in terms of strategic expertise and innovation of thinking.” – Who’s Who Legal, 2022.*
- *‘Hands down the best arbitration firm in town’ – CEO, British Columbia Canadian International School (Legal 500, 2021)*

- *‘Clients describe Karim Youssef as “the number one arbitration lawyer in Egypt.” As counsel he represents an enviable client list, which features numerous well-known international companies. He also regularly sits as arbitrator in multi-billion-dollar cases. He is held in extremely high regard for his expert handling of investment treaty claims against government entities and is further praised as an “extremely hands-on” adviser who “gives game-changing strategy.” – Chambers Global Guide, 2021*
- *‘Dynamic practice highlighted for its exceptional skills in international arbitration. Frequently represents investors in their claims against government entities and is equally well versed in high-value commercial arbitrations. Acts for major regional and international clients hailing from such industry sectors as oil and gas, real estate and construction.’ – Chambers Global Guide, 2021*
- *“Karim Youssef at Youssef & Partners Attorneys is a **leading light** in international arbitration and **excels in investment treaty matters**. He acted for Cementos La Unión and Áridos Jativa in a \$250m ICSID matter against the Egyptian government”. — Legal 500 2018*
 - ***"Karim Youssef ’s “sharp intellect” and “responsiveness as an arbitrator” makes him a favorite on the international arbitration circuit."** — Who’s Who Legal 2018*
- *“Simply put, the **best law firm for international arbitration in Cairo.**” --CEO, Arabian Cement Company (held by Cementos La Union Group).*
- *"Karim Youssef is recognized in the market as a "top arbitration guy." He has **an impressive, region-spanning practice which sees him represent international companies in investment treaty disputes and other arbitration claims against state entities. With expertise in international law, he frequently represents clients in multibillion-dollar arbitrations seated around the world.** A client was glad to say that*

Youssef has "proved to be an effective advocate." — Chambers Global Guide 2020

- “Karim Youssef is a respected figure in the arbitration arena, frequently representing clients from the construction and oil and gas industries. Market sources describe him as “super- smart, **very much at the top of his game.**” One client added: “He’ll be our first choice for any future matter.” — Chambers Global Guide 2018
- The “detail-oriented” Karim Youssef is **praised for the quality of his strategic thinking** and his international outlook; sources describe him as “one of the top practitioners in this field in Egypt”. — Who’s Who Legal 2017
- The “**very meticulous and very creative**” Karim Youssef of Youssef & Partners is **admired by a wide range of sources for his outstanding track record in arbitration.** Commentators highlight his proactive approach and in-depth understanding of the market. One peer said: “He is definitely a leading counsel in the field.”— Chambers Global Guide 2017
 - **Who’s Who Legal – Arbitration, Global Thought Leader, 2022**
 - **Chambers Dispute Resolution Firm of the Year, Egypt, Chambers Middle East Awards 2021**
 - **Who’s Who Legal – Arbitration, Global Thought Leader, 2021 (only 2 individuals in Egypt have been bestowed this honor). See <https://whoswholegal.com/karim-a-youssef>**
 - **Ranked as Star Individual in Chamber’s guide 2021 and 2022 (only 2 individuals in Egypt have been bestowed this honor. Karim is the only individual who founded a recently**

established law firm (post-2011) in Egypt ever to receive this honor).

- ***Listed in Forbes Middle East as a leader in the Egyptian Market, April 2021 (one of only two Arab Lawyers ever listed, together with Ms. Mona Zulficar, who is listed as a corporate lawyer.) See Link to coverage <https://www.forbesmiddleeast.com/featured/egyptian-leaders-insights-paid-program/cutting-edge-legal>***
- ***Best Global Speech, GAR Awards 2019 (and shortlisted in 2021).***
- ***Who's Who Legal – Arbitration, Global Leaders, 2014–2020***
- ***Chambers Global, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration – Egypt, Band 1, since 2015.***
- ***GAR 100, 2020: “Obtained a US\$490 million win for a Kuwaiti-led consortium against an Egyptian port authority.” -- Youssef & Partners has been selected in the prestigious GAR 100 for the 4th consecutive year (with highest case docket volume among all firms in the MENA region in 2020 at 4,85 billion USD)***
- ***Opening Keynote Speech (“The Quest for Cosmopolitan Arbitration in the MENA Region: Where Do We Stand Now?”), 8th ICC MENA Conference on International Arbitration***

Our track record of victories speaks for itself.



OUR VICTORIES

WE WIN

The firm's track record of victories speaks for itself. Recent and high-profile victories for our team include:

- 2022 Victory Highlight: Karim A. Youssef and the firm's team secured a victory for one of the leading global groups in waste management in a mega dispute involving major commercial claims and counterclaims brought against the Governorate of Alexandria, Egypt, under the contract for the city's waste management. The dispute also arose from the first Public-Private Partnership PPP project ever implemented in Egypt.
- 2021 Victory Highlight: Settlement Involving major agent dispute: The Firm's team represented and

secured an extremely favorable settlement for an exclusive commercial agent in a longlisting dispute with a global supplier. The settlement involved double the amount originally expected as damages.

- **Victories with awarded amounts of more than 500 million USD:** We successfully represented foreign investors (through an Egyptian JV) in the second-largest commercial claim historically against the Egyptian state or a state entity involving claims in excess of USD 2.3 billion, in relation to the termination of a 0-year concession agreement between the Damietta Port Authority and a consortium of some of the world's largest shipping, port logistics, and supply-chain management companies.
- **High-Profile Settlement Involving The State or State Entities:** The firm represented and secured a historical favorable settlement for investors in major commercial claims in the high-profile Steam Boilers case, relating to the judicial unwinding of the Privatization Program of Egypt.

- **Post-Award Court Proceedings:** Secured the enforcement of a USD 80 million foreign arbitral award together with interest in Egyptian courts for one of our international clients.
- **Commercial claims against an Arab Sovereign Fund:** We successfully secured a favorable settlement for our client, one of the World's largest construction conglomerates, against the sovereign fund of an Arab State concerning major cost overruns, delays and disruption damages in relation to the construction of a national iconic project.
- **Complex Commercial Arbitration:** The firm's team represented one of the Middle East's largest investment companies in two related arbitrations arising in connection with the acquisition of shares in a large group of companies, involving 16 parties, and cross-claims amounting in excess of USD 5 million.
- **Complex Commercial Arbitration:** We successfully represented exiting shareholders in a major UNCITRAL proceeding in a dispute arising from a partnership agreement of a closely held company incorporated in the UAE and holding multiple companies off shore. The dispute involved amounts in excess of USD 90 million and a number of orders for the specific performance of share sales.
- **Complex Commercial Arbitration:** The firm's team prevailed in favor of a global UAE developer in major claims arising from construction and master development works conducted in one of the largest real estate projects off the coast of Dubai (the behemoth Dubai World project).
- **High-Profile Commercial Arbitration:** The firm's team secured a major victory for the CBC Channel in eight-digit arbitration claims against former TV satirist Bassem Youssef and his production company, Q-Soft, in a dispute arising from the unlawful termination of a contract for the exclusive broadcasting rights of The Show.
- **Commercial Arbitration:** The firm's team successfully represented a global group of companies in the field of supply of electrical power in arbitration proceedings concerning the construction of a cement

complex with a Middle Eastern government.

- **Criminal Law & Regulatory Measures:** We secured the lifting of unlawful travel ban measures and an asset freeze issued against a high-profile individual and his family in context of a complex cluster of litigations, and administrative proceedings.
- **Criminal Law & Regulatory Measures:** The firm's litigation team was able to secure the setting aside of two criminal judgments involving long-term prison sentences rendered in absentia against an investor. The dismissal ended a long-standing related commercial dispute against the government.
- **High-Profile Post-Award Proceedings:** The firm's enforcement department was successfully involved in the enforcement of a multi-billion USD award rendered against a State entity. The enforcement proceedings occurred in jurisdictions including Egypt.

Our Work

9,81 billion USD - Value of our current claims docket.

140 - Cases in which our team has acted.

94% - Our success rate **5** - Current investment treaty cases in which the Firm is acting.



Work highlights

Our arbitration and litigation teams, headed by Karim A. Youssef, handle matters ranging from routinely complex to frequently groundbreaking. Our docket of arbitration and litigation cases reflects that:

- **Investment Treaty Arbitration:** We represent global group Cementos La Union (the second largest cement producer in Egypt through its stake in the Arabian Cement Company) in World Bank treaty claims in relation to cement licenses and the cement market in Egypt. (*Cementos La Union S.A. and Aridos Jativa S.L.U. v. Arab Republic of Egypt*, ICSID Case No. ARB/13/29).

- **Investment Treaty Arbitration:** The firm is sole counsel for investors in the first investment treaty claim brought against Lebanon because of the Lebanese Economic meltdown and the debt crisis. The case is the first Eurobond investment treaty arbitration in the history of the Middle East.

- **Investment Treaty Arbitration:** We represent one of the world's largest consortia of shipping and port logistics companies led by supply chain management giant KGL in investment treaty claims against the Government of Egypt (under notice of dispute).

- **Investment Treaty Arbitration:** Karim A. Youssef and the firm's team represented a global leader in license plate production against the Egyptian government in the famous "License plate" dispute. (*Erich Utsch Aktiengesellschaft, Helmut Jungbluth and Utsch M.O.V.E.R.S. International GmbH v. Arab Republic of Egypt*, ICSID Case No. ARB/13/37.)
- **High-Profile International Commercial Arbitration:** Karim A. Youssef and the firm's team represent the family of a high-net-worth individual in a complex, high-profile commercial arbitration involving claims in excess of USD 250 million.

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- **High-Profile International Commercial Arbitration:** Karim A. Youssef & the firm’s team currently represent one of the leading global groups in waste management (V E O L I A) in a dispute involving major commercial claims and counterclaims brought against the Governorate of Alexandria. The dispute also arises from the first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project ever to be implemented in Egypt.

- **Investment Treaty Arbitration:** The firm was involved in investment treaty claims under the Rules of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce against a French-speaking African State.

- **Claims In the Billion-Dollar Club:** We are counsel for major investors in the seaport, construction, and supply chain management business in claims against a state entity in relation to the termination of a 40-year concession concerning the BOT of seaport container terminals in a Middle Eastern state, with a value exceeding USD 2.2 billion.

- **Commercial Claims in Excess of USD 300 million:** The firm was involved in major commercial claims concerning the sale and delivery of oil with a value exceeding USD 350 million and involving an Middle Eastern oil behemoth and a Middle Eastern sovereign fund.

- **High-Profile Commercial Claims Involving The State or State Entities:** We are counsel to investors in major commercial claims in what has come to be known as the “Steam Boilers” case. The dispute relates to the judicial unwinding of the Privatization Program of Egypt, which was implemented in the mid-1990s and other Mubarak-era transactions in the aftermath of the 2011 revolution.

- **Major Oil & Gas Commercial Arbitration:** We represent a major oil and gas corporation in nine-digit arbitration claims related to payments and damages arising from three major oil concessions located in the Middle East.

- **High-Profile Representation:** The firm advises a major Middle Eastern airline in relation to a cluster of

enforcement and annulment proceedings before Egypt and UK courts.

- **Post-Award Court Proceedings:** Secured the enforcement of a 40 million USD foreign arbitral award together with interest in Egyptian courts for one of our international clients.

- **High-Profile Post-Award Proceedings:** The firm's enforcement department successfully resisted annulment proceedings of a major award rendered against the Egyptian Postal Service, and prevailed in multiple court proceedings initiated with the intent to obstruct enforcement.

Arbitration Appointment Highlights

Karim has sat as a party-appointed, chairman or sole arbitrator in more than 36 arbitrations, and has chaired tribunals with some of the most prominent arbitrators worldwide. Appointment highlights include:

- Acting a co-Arbitrator in an investment treaty claim under the SCC Rules involving an African state and claims in excess of 100 million USD
- Acting as the Chairman in an International Islamic Center for Reconciliation & Arbitration (IICRA) dispute arising under a series of agreements between a major bank institution, a Middle Eastern behemoth oil producer, and a Moroccan company specialized in refining petroleum products, involving claims in excess of 300 million USD
- Acting as Sole Arbitrator in an ICC dispute arising under an agreement between a major Middle Eastern Free Zone located in the Middle East and a group of Indian Shareholders
- Acting as co-arbitrator in a Cairo Regional Center for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) dispute related to a Sale and Purchase Agreement between one of the largest hotel management companies in Egypt and one of the most important global hotel developers worldwide

- Acting as Chairman in a major CRCICA dispute between a Cairo-based oil field contractor and a major oil and gas company (claims in excess of USD 50 million)
- Acted as co-Arbitrator in a DIAC dispute related to a breach of contract in a Real Estate Project, between one of the largest industrial contracting and manufacturing companies of trailers in the Middle East and a Real Estate Development Services Company in Dubai
- Acted as co-Arbitrator in a DIAC dispute related to a breach of the SPA, between a Dubai based Investment Company and a subsidiary of one of the largest Real Estate Development Services Company in Dubai
- Acted as co-Arbitrator in a DIAC dispute between a Holding Company based in Dubai and one of the largest companies specialized in general maintenance of real estate projects
- Acted as member of the Tribunal in one of the UAE's highest profile arbitrations concerning the Dubai World project between multiple investors and purchasers and the owner company. The dispute involved unique and novel issues of land reclamation at sea, and uniquely complex contractual issues
- Acted as Chairman or member of the Tribunal in more than 8 UAE-based arbitrations relating to real estate developments or real estate projects, including some of the largest ones in Dubai

Publications Highlights

- **‘The Impact of the Arab Spring on International Commercial and Treaty Arbitration in Egypt and the MENA Region’**, *Arbitration: The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management* (Vol. 83, Issue 1), 2017
- **‘Consent Ltd.: A Brief History of Egypt’s Ministerial Approval Requirement for Arbitration of State Contracts and Why It Should Be Abolished’**, *BCDR International Arbitration Review*, 3.1, September 2016
- **‘The Quest for Cosmopolitan Law and Arbitration in the Arab World – Where Do We Stand Now?’**, *Festschrift Ahmed Sadek El-Kosheri: From the Arab World to the Globalization of International Law and Arbitration*, Kluwer, 2015
- **Consent in Context: Fulfilling the Promise of International Arbitration, Multi-contract and Non-contract arbitration**, West, 2009-2012 (Preface by Jan Paulsson)
- **‘Universal Arbitration Between Freedom and Constraint: The Challenges of Assessment and Control of Jurisdiction in Multiparty Multi-Contract Arbitration’**, *Arbitration: The Next Fifty Years*, ICCA Congress Series, 2011
- **‘The Group of Companies Doctrine under Egyptian Law’**, *International Arbitration Court Decisions*, eds. Stephen Bond & Frédéric Bachand, 2011

- **‘The limits of consent: the right or obligation to arbitrate of non-signatories in groups of companies’**, Multiparty Arbitration, ICC Institute of World Business Law, 2010
- **‘The Death of Inarbitrability’**, in Arbitrability: International and Comparative Perspectives, Kluwer Law International, 2009
- **‘The Independence of International Arbitrators: An Arbitrator’s Perspective’**, ICC International Court of Arbitration Bulletin, 2007, Special Supplement 2008; with Professor Ahmed S El-Kosheri
- **‘The Assignment of Transmission of the Arbitration Clause: An overview of the Major Trends in Comparative Law, With Special Reference to Arbitration Clauses in bills of Lading’**, Journal of Arab Arbitration, 2007
- **‘The Reception of the Groups of Companies Doctrine in Egyptian Law? A Case Commentary’**, 3 Stockholm International Arbitration Review 103, 2007