



arbitrateAD

مركز أبوظبي الدولي للتحكيم
Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre

BIENNIAL REPORT

INAUGURAL EDITION

2024 - 2026

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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ali Saeed bin Harmal Al Dhaheri

Chairman of the Board

Founder & Chairman of
Abu Dhabi University

As we present arbitrateAD's Inaugural Two-Year Report, we do so with immense pride in the remarkable progress which the Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre has achieved in such a short span of time.

Within two years of its launch, arbitrateAD has emerged as a strong, highly regarded, and forward-looking organisation - one that embodies Abu Dhabi's commitment to building institutions grounded in stability, transparency, and international best practice.

The Centre's rapid development has been driven by a clear strategic vision: to position Abu Dhabi as a global leader in arbitration and to provide a modern, reliable, and internationally respected platform for dispute resolution. Our progress has been shaped by the strength of the ecosystem around us - legal practitioners, arbitrators, businesses, academics, and investors who continue to support and engage with arbitrateAD as it grows. Central to this progress has been the work of our Court of Arbitration and our Case Management Office, whose professionalism and dedication have reinforced the credibility and integrity of the institution.

This reporting period marks a defining chapter in our evolution. arbitrateAD was honoured with the 2025 GAR Award for the Institution that Impressed the Most, a recognition that underscores the Centre's rising global profile and the confidence placed in its leadership and institutional direction. The award reflects the significant steps taken to strengthen our governance framework, including the appointment of a new Board Chair, the establishment of a distinguished Court of Arbitration, and the recruitment of an experienced Registrar. Together, these developments have laid a strong foundation for the Centre's continued growth from Year 1 to Year 2 of operation.

Our mandate extends beyond administering disputes. It is about contributing to Abu Dhabi's long-term economic vision by offering a dispute resolution environment aligned with the demands of global trade - flexible, efficient, and trusted. Neutrality, integrity, and transparency remain central to our identity, guiding our decisions and shaping the way we serve the business community.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to deepening our institutional capabilities and expanding our international engagement. We will continue to invest in innovation, strengthen our partnerships with leading arbitration institutions, and support the development of a vibrant arbitration community in Abu Dhabi. These efforts ensure that arbitrateAD is not only responsive to the needs of today's users but is also prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

I extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow board members, the members of the Court and its President, as well as the Centre's team, our stakeholders, and the broader community that has supported arbitrateAD's journey. Your trust and collaboration have been essential to our progress. Together, we will continue to advance Abu Dhabi's position as a global centre for arbitration and uphold the standards of excellence that define our institution.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Maria Chedid

President of the Court

Partner and Global Chair of the International Arbitration Practice Group, Arnold & Porter

In our first two years of operations at arbitrateAD, we have achieved a solid foundation, meaningful growth and increasing recognition within the regional and international dispute resolution community.

The confidence placed in arbitrateAD by parties from across the region and beyond affirms the Centre's mission and performance. This trust is reflected in a 38% increase in cases from our first to second year of operation, a clear indicator of the market's growing reliance on our services.

Over the course of our first two years, arbitrateAD has administered a broad and diverse range of disputes and acted as Appointing Authority in numerous proceedings, handling over 100 matters in total. These figures underscore our role as a credible, neutral, and effective platform for the resolution of commercial disputes.

The Centre's progress is firmly rooted in our commitment to modern, efficient, and user-oriented Arbitration Rules. In November 2025, we released the Arabic version of our Arbitration Rules, enhancing accessibility and legal certainty for the Arabic-speaking community. In January 2026, we further expanded our framework with the introduction of our Adjudicator Appointment Rules and Mediation Rules, providing users with more comprehensive offerings for dispute resolution and dispute avoidance.

Equally fundamental to our success is our unwavering dedication to the principles that define arbitrateAD: institutional independence, transparency in administration, and the delivery of expert-driven, enforceable outcomes. These principles are not aspirational - they guide every case we administer and every service we provide.

The operational center of arbitrateAD is the Case Management Office. Its ability to handle complex matters within tight timeframes - often within 24 to 48 hours - while supporting the Court of Arbitration and conducting daily case administration has been instrumental in maintaining the Centre's high standards. To sustain and enhance this level of service, the Case Management Office has been strengthened through the appointment of a highly qualified Registrar and two new Legal Counsel, reflecting both our case growth and our commitment to the professionalism of the Centre's staff.

Collectively, these developments reinforce Abu Dhabi's position as a reliable hub for international dispute resolution - an essential factor in sustaining economic growth and investment in the Emirate. This role is supported by the robust legal infrastructure of the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), which serves as the Centre's default seat of arbitration. In close cooperation with ADGM, the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and an expanding network of international stakeholders, we are contributing to the development of a dynamic and thriving ecosystem for cross-border arbitration.

Looking ahead, our objectives remain both ambitious and achievable. We will continue to strengthen our institutional capacity, invest in legal and technological innovation, and expand our international engagement. Above all, we will remain consistently responsive to the evolving needs of users and practitioners seeking fair, efficient, and effective mechanisms for the resolution of disputes.

To our Board and Court members, staff, arbitrators, users, and partners, I extend my sincere gratitude. Your dedication and engagement have been central to the development of arbitrateAD. Together, we will continue to shape the Centre into a lasting pillar of international commercial dispute resolution and avoidance.

REGISTRAR'S MESSAGE



Maria Mazzawi

Registrar

As arbitrateAD concludes its first two years of operation, I am honoured to reflect on the development of the Case Management Office (CMO) and the operational foundations that support the Centre's growing reputation for excellence. Serving as the inaugural Registrar of arbitrateAD has been a privilege, and it has allowed me to witness firsthand the remarkable commitment of our team, our Court of Arbitration, and our users to building a modern, trusted, and service-driven arbitral institution for Abu Dhabi and the wider region.

As the operational heart of the Centre, the CMO plays a central role in translating arbitrateAD's institutional vision into a seamless and reliable experience for all users. From the outset, our priority has been to establish a Case Management Office that embodies the values at the heart of arbitrateAD: professionalism, efficiency, transparency, and user-centred service. Building this function from the ground up required not only the creation of robust administrative processes, but also the cultivation of a culture defined by responsiveness, precision, and respect for the parties and arbitrators who place their confidence in us.

Over the past two years, the CMO has administered a diverse and steadily increasing caseload, often within demanding timelines. Our ability to process time sensitive applications, support the Court in its decision-making, and guide parties through each procedural stage has been central to the Centre's operational credibility. The CMO's work is not merely administrative - it is integral to ensuring that every case proceeds fairly, efficiently, and in accordance with the highest international standards.

A defining feature of our progress has been the close and seamless collaboration between the CMO and the Court of Arbitration. As a court-led institution, arbitrateAD's strength lies in the clarity, consistency, and independence of its decision-making. The CMO's role is to support this framework by ensuring that the Court's directions are implemented with accuracy and timeliness, and that parties experience a process that is both predictable and transparent. This alignment between the Court's oversight and the CMO's day-to-day administration ensures that operational excellence remains at the core of arbitrateAD's identity.

We have also invested significantly in enhancing the user experience. This includes managing our cases using the Centre's Case Management platform, docketAD, providing clear procedural guidance, adopting modern communication practices, and strengthening our team through the recruitment of experienced legal counsel.

These efforts ensure that users - whether seasoned arbitration practitioners or first-time participants - receive the support they need to navigate their proceedings with confidence.

Looking ahead, the CMO will continue to evolve in step with the Centre's growth. We are committed to deepening our operational capabilities, expanding our technological tools, and refining our internal processes to meet the expectations of an increasingly sophisticated user base. As arbitrateAD's caseload expands and its international footprint grows, the CMO will remain focused on delivering a service that is efficient, reliable, and aligned with global best practices.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Court of Arbitration for its guidance, to our dedicated Case Management Office staff for their tireless work, and to the parties and practitioners who have entrusted their disputes to arbitrateAD. Together, we are building an institution that reflects the ambition of Abu Dhabi and contributes meaningfully to the global arbitration landscape.



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ORGANIZATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Ali Saeed bin Harmal Al Dhaheri
Chairman
Founder and Chairman of Abu Dhabi University



Mr. Gary Born
Vice Chairman
Partner and Chair of the International Arbitration Practice Group,
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr



Mr. Khaled AlFahim
Board Member
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Arady



H.E. Salem Al Darei
Board Member
Chief Executive Officer of the Abu
Dhabi Global Market



Ms. Kirstin O'Connell
Board Member
Partner at the International
Arbitration Group, A&O Shearman

COURT OF ARBITRATION



Maria Chedid

President of the Court

Partner and Global Chair of the International Arbitration Practice Group, Arnold & Porter



Funke Adekoya

Funke Adekoya & Company



Ali Al Aidarous

Al Aidarous



Judge Awn Al-Khasawneh

Doughty Street Chambers



Dr. Hassan Arab

Al Tamimi & Co.



Utku Cosar

Arbitration Chambers



Lord Peter Goldsmith

Fountain Court Chambers



Lara Hammoud

Arbitra International



Eri Hertiawan

Assegaf Hamzah & Partners



Blossom Hing SC

Drew & Napier



Kathleen Paisley

Independent Arbitrator



Michael Schneider

Lalive



Sami Tannous

Freshfields



Dawn Yamane Hewett

Quinn Emanuel



BC Yoon

Kim & Chang

CASE MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Maria Mazzawi
Registrar



Peter Barna
Legal Counsel



Ramzi Haddad
Legal Counsel



Verina Kamal
Deputy Legal Counsel



Khulood Al Maskari
Case Administrator



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ABOUT THE CENTRE

2024: THE INAUGURAL YEAR



The Centre's inaugural year was defined by dynamic engagement, global outreach, and thought leadership in international arbitration. From hosting high-profile events to fostering strategic partnerships, arbitrateAD played a central role in shaping the arbitration landscape in Abu Dhabi and beyond.

arbitrateAD quickly gained traction on the regional and global stage, participating in major arbitration events and setting a strong precedent for its role as a leading arbitration centre in the Middle East and further afield. With a focus on innovation, inclusivity, and global collaboration, the Centre remains committed to enhancing Abu Dhabi's position as a premier hub for dispute resolution.

Since its establishment on 1 February 2024, arbitrateAD has been steadfast in its commitment to providing a neutral and impartial forum for dispute resolution. Our foundational principles are encapsulated in our vision, mission, and core values, which guide our operations and strategic direction.



ABOUT THE CENTRE



CORE VALUES

Independence:

We maintain an unwavering commitment to independence, free from external influence, allowing us to provide fair and unbiased resolution to all disputes.

Transparency:

We believe in open communication and transparency, providing clear and understandable procedures, rules, and outcomes to all parties involved.

Expertise:

We embrace a global outlook, leveraging our extensive network and cross-border expertise to deliver credible, informed and effective dispute resolution solutions in accordance with international best practices.

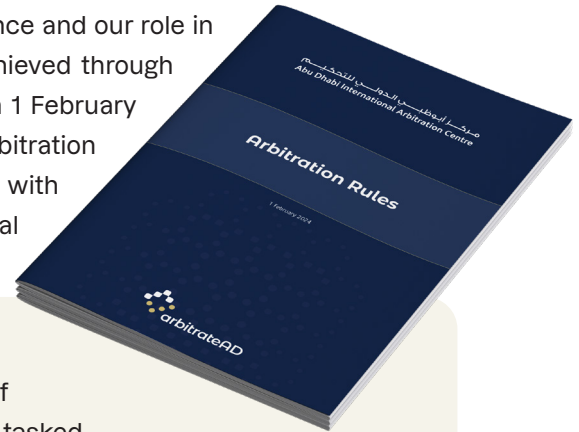
Efficiency:

We employ efficiency-driven processes, cutting-edge technology and streamlined procedures to ensure timely and effective resolution of disputes.

ABOUT THE CENTRE

OUR ROLE

Our commitment to these values underpins our dedication to excellence and our role in fostering a reliable and effective arbitration environment. This is achieved through the **arbitrateAD Arbitration Rules (“Arbitration Rules”)**, effective from 1 February 2024, which represent a modern and comprehensive framework for arbitration proceedings. **arbitrateAD’s Arbitration Rules** are designed to align with international best practices and to address the evolving needs of global dispute resolution.



One of the most important structural features of **arbitrateAD** is the **arbitrateAD Court of Arbitration**: an independent body comprised of highly expert and internationally recognised arbitration practitioners tasked with key supervisory functions over case administration. The Court has authority over matters such as confirming and appointing arbitrators, deciding on challenges, and scrutinising arbitral awards prior to issuance. In undertaking its functions under any of our Rules, the Court of Arbitration is supported by the **Case Management Office**.



Scrutiny of Awards — With an Efficiency Incentive

Before any award is signed, the Tribunal must submit it in draft form to the Case Management Office for scrutiny by the Court of Arbitration. The Court may draw attention to required changes in form, clerical errors, inconsistencies, or omissions, without affecting the Tribunal’s liberty to decide the merits. Importantly, when the Court determines the Tribunal’s final fees, it must have regard to the extent to which the Tribunal acted in an efficient and expeditious manner.



The ADGM Default Seat

Where parties have not agreed on a seat of arbitration, the Rules designate the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) as the default seat. ADGM is an international financial centre operating under English common law, with its own independent courts and a legal framework that is widely recognised across global commercial and financial markets. This provides parties with a neutral, sophisticated curial environment that supports the enforceability of awards in international proceedings.

ABOUT THE CENTRE



docketAD

docketAD is a secure digital platform for communication and file sharing between the parties, the arbitral tribunal, and arbitrateAD. All institutional arbitration cases will be administered using docketAD. The purpose of docketAD is to provide participants with a secure and efficient way of communicating and sharing documents and relevant information regarding the arbitration. The platform serves as a complete file of the case materials and as an archive for one year after the arbitration is terminated.

docketAD is powered by HighQ, a world leading supplier of secure digital solutions for the legal profession used and trusted by 250+ law firms, including some of the largest in the world. The system is ISO 27001 certified and has a SOC2 Report. All files are kept in cloud-based storage in high-security facilities with separate back-up facilities at a different location. Both the primary and back-up facilities are located in the UAE. All data is encrypted using military-grade encryption and all files are scanned for malware and viruses when uploaded. The system has numerous security systems in place; two-factor authentication, a single encrypted https entry point, web application firewalls, intrusion detection, log file monitoring, anti-virus, code scanning technologies, etc. The interface and settings are further designed to minimize the risk of human error compromising security or confidentiality.



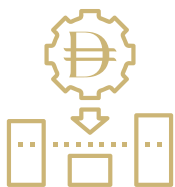
Digital-First Administration

Written communications are exchanged digitally as the default. The case file is transmitted to the Tribunal in digital form. Awards may be executed electronically using verified digital signature technology. This approach reduces administrative friction and supports the efficient conduct of cross-border proceedings.



Early Dismissal

The Tribunal has the authority to dismiss, on its own motion or on application, any claim, defence, or counterclaim that is manifestly without legal merit or manifestly inadmissible. A decision must be rendered within 30 days of the application. This mechanism protects parties from the cost and delay of engaging with unmeritorious positions and reflects a broader institutional commitment to proportionate, efficient proceedings.



Expedited Proceedings for Small Value Disputes

The Rules establish a dedicated Expedited Proceedings track for disputes where the aggregate value of all Claims and Counterclaims does not exceed AED 9,000,000. Where parties expressly agree to the arbitrateAD Rules, the procedure applies automatically unless parties have opted out: the Request for Arbitration serves as the Statement of Claim, the Answer as the Statement of Defence, and the matter is referred to a sole arbitrator without Terms of Reference. The Tribunal must issue its final Award within four months of receiving the case file - extendable by up to two further months in exceptional circumstances - and may determine the dispute on documentary evidence alone where appropriate. The Expedited Proceedings track reflects the Centre's recognition that speed and cost-proportionality are themselves components of justice, particularly for businesses whose disputes do not warrant the time and resource of full-form institutional arbitration.

ABOUT THE CENTRE



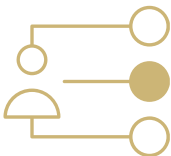
The Emergency Arbitrator Mechanism

For parties facing situations of urgency that cannot await the constitution of a Tribunal, the Rules provide a fully developed Emergency Arbitrator mechanism. A party may apply at any time before the Tribunal is constituted - including before a Request for Arbitration has been filed. The Court of Arbitration endeavours to appoint an Emergency Arbitrator within one business day of a complete application. The Emergency Arbitrator holds the full powers of the Tribunal, must rule within ten days of appointment, and may order preliminary measures on an interim basis pending submissions or a hearing, with written reasons required in all cases. The Emergency Arbitrator may allocate the costs of the emergency proceedings. The appointment terminates automatically upon constitution of the Tribunal, which retains the authority to reconsider, modify, or vacate any measures previously granted - ensuring continuity and coherence between the emergency and substantive phases of the arbitration.



Flexible Terms of Reference

Rather than mandating the preparation of Terms of Reference as a fixed procedural step, the Rules give the Tribunal discretion to decide whether issuing them is appropriate in the circumstances of each case. This flexibility avoids unnecessary procedural overhead in straightforward disputes while preserving the option for more complex cases where a structured issues framework adds value.



Third-Party Funding Transparency

Any party that has entered into a third-party funding arrangement is required to disclose the existence and identity of the funder at the earliest opportunity, including within the initial Request for Arbitration. This requirement supports the integrity of the proceedings and enables early identification of any potential conflicts affecting the Tribunal.

Altogether, the arbitrateAD Arbitration Rules reflect a forward-looking and robust set of procedures designed to meet the demands of global commerce and foster confidence in Abu Dhabi as a premier seat for international arbitration.

These features collectively contribute to a robust arbitration framework that meets the demands of contemporary dispute resolution aligned with international best practice.



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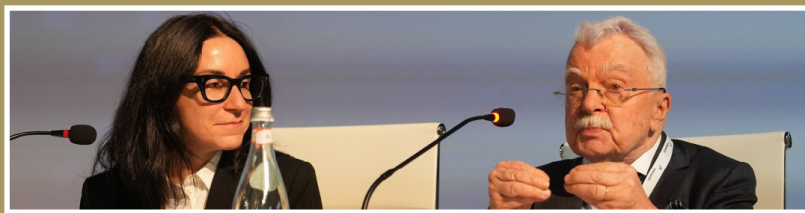
Year 2 in Review

Key Milestones & Developments

Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

2025 Annual Court Summit

2025 opened on a strong and forward-looking note with our first **arbitrateAD Court Summit**, which brought together members of the Court of Arbitration, practitioners, and stakeholders for an engaging exchange of ideas. The Summit featured insightful presentations, a live mock court session, and valuable opportunities for dialogue, reinforcing **arbitrateAD's** commitment to transparency, engagement, and professional excellence.



Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

Throughout 2025, arbitrateAD maintained a strong presence at leading regional and international forums, further strengthening its profile within the global dispute resolution community.

Global Arbitration Review (GAR) Award

The Centre's growing reputation was further reflected in its international recognition. In 2025, arbitrateAD was honoured with the **Global Arbitration Review (GAR) Award** as the institution that impressed the most, underscoring the Centre's rapid development and increasing standing among leading arbitration institutions worldwide. In awarding the Centre with the distinction, GAR noted that it had made great strides in its appointment of an impressive Court of Arbitration, a new Chairperson, and a new Registrar.



arbitrateAD played an active role in advancing dialogue on arbitration and dispute resolution through participation in a wide range of conferences and professional events across the region and internationally. The Centre engaged in major gatherings spanning energy disputes, civil law, and commercial arbitration — including dedicated conferences jointly organised with ADGM and ICSID, regional arbitration weeks across Europe and the Middle East, and leading international forums such as GAR Live in Istanbul. The Centre also contributed to panels addressing dispute resolution in the clean energy transition, reflecting the growing relevance of arbitration to global sustainability challenges.

The Centre became an institutional supporter of the Green Pledge, reflecting its dedication to reducing the environmental impact of international arbitrations through meaningful behavioural change. It has also joined multiple pledges and initiatives that promote equal representation in arbitration and dispute resolution, including the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge (ERA Pledge) and Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers (REAL). Our goal is to ensure that panels and teams are composed of professionals who bring a wide range of perspectives and expertise to the table - strengthening the quality and fairness of the services we provide.

The **Green** Pledge



The **ERA** Pledge



The **REAL** pledge



Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

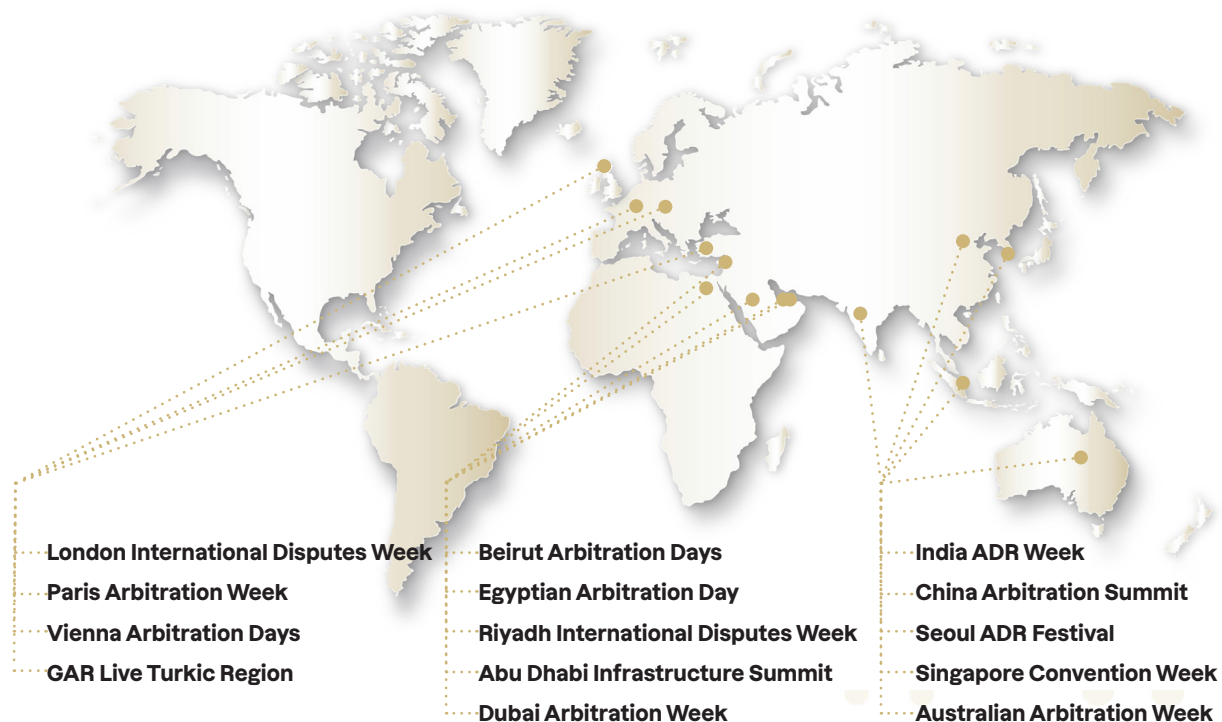
Strengthening Regional & International Ties

The Centre also took part in major regional initiatives, including the **Abu Dhabi Infrastructure Summit**, and strengthened institutional cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Abu Dhabi Projects and Infrastructure Centre (ADPIC), aimed at promoting effective dispute avoidance and adjudication mechanisms under the ADPIC Standard Contracts framework. Under the agreement, arbitrateAD will serve as the **official appointing authority** for adjudicators and the Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Boards (DAABs) across ADPIC's Capital Projects Standard Contracts as well as the designated arbitral institution ensuring consistency in the deployment of dispute resolution practices and enhancing delivery certainty in major infrastructure developments. arbitrateAD was also designated as the default arbitral institution for arbitration across ADPIC's Capital Projects Standard Contracts.



Abu Dhabi Infrastructure Summit 2025

Further reinforcing its international outreach, arbitrateAD acted as a sponsor at **London International Disputes Week**, alongside leading global law firms, and supported arbitration-focused initiatives across Asia, including the **China Arbitration Summit**, **India ADR Week**, the **Seoul ADR Festival**, and **Australian Arbitration Week**. The Centre also invested in the future of the profession by participating in the **Sorbonne University career fair**, engaging with students and promoting careers in arbitration. arbitrateAD also launched an internship program, opening its doors to the next generation of dispute resolution professionals and providing hands-on experience within a leading international arbitration institution.



Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

In December, the Centre was proud to serve as a supporting partner of **RESOLVE**, Abu Dhabi International Dispute Resolution Forum held as part of Abu Dhabi Finance Week.



Abu Dhabi International Dispute Resolution Forum - RESOLVE



Dubai Arbitration Week 2025

During the **Dubai Arbitration Week 2025**, arbitrateAD contributed to four widely attended sessions addressing the evolving landscape of arbitration regionally and internationally, and hosted its **Courtside with arbitrateAD** event, offering participants the opportunity to engage directly with the Court of Arbitration and exchange ideas in an informal and collaborative setting.

Collectively, these activities reflect a year of sustained momentum, growing international engagement, and institutional maturity. They highlight arbitrateAD's expanding role as a convenor of dialogue, a contributor to the development of arbitration practice, and a trusted institution at the heart of the global dispute resolution community.



During the Courtside with arbitrateAD event, arbitrateAD marked a significant milestone with the launch of the official Arabic version of its Arbitration Rules. This reflects the Centre's ongoing focus on accessibility and effective engagement with users across the region.

The introduction of the Arabic Rules responds to the growing demand for high-quality arbitration frameworks in Arabic, ensuring that parties, counsel, and arbitrators can engage with the Rules in a language that aligns with their legal and commercial practices. Carefully translated to preserve the precision and intent of the original text, the Arabic version reinforces legal certainty while remaining fully aligned with the Centre's procedural standards and institutional approach.

Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

2026 Annual Court Summit



arbitrateAD held its 2026 Annual Court Summit on 28 January 2026, hosting its full Court of Arbitration and announcing the launch of two new sets of rules: arbitrateAD's Mediation Rules and the Adjudicator Appointment Rules.



Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

Launch of the Adjudicator Appointment and Mediation Rules

In early 2026, just ahead of its two-year anniversary, arbitrateAD marked a significant milestone with the launch of its Adjudicator Appointment Rules and Mediation Rules (the “Rules”).

Launched in conjunction with the Centre's Annual Court Summit focused on the Court of Arbitration's work and strategic direction, the introduction of the new Rules formed part of a broader moment of institutional reflection and forward-looking development. The new Rules mark a purposeful evolution toward a more comprehensive and coherent service offering designed with the needs of the parties in mind. Further, they capture the Centre's continued progression into a multi-faceted dispute resolution institution - one that is steadily broadening its capabilities while maintaining a consistent, principled approach.

The Adjudicator Appointment Rules establish a streamlined mechanism through which the Court of Arbitration may act as appointing authority for adjudicators, Dispute Adjudication Boards, and Dispute Boards. In making appointments, in addition to independence, impartiality and availability, the Court of Arbitration expressly considers technical expertise, relevant industry knowledge, and language skills. Appointees are subject to disclosure obligations on an ongoing basis, and a challenge mechanism is available that mirrors the standards applied under the Arbitration Rules, ensuring procedural consistency across the Centre's suite of services. To preserve the integrity of the process, an adjudicator appointed under the Rules is precluded from acting in any subsequent arbitration or other proceedings on the same subject matter.

The Mediation Rules establish a structured, institution-backed mediation framework that complements the Centre's arbitration offering for parties seeking a consensual resolution pathway. The Rules are designed with international enforceability in mind: the framework is aligned with the Singapore Convention, and any settlement agreement reached under them may be recorded as a consent award, allowing enforcement under the New York Convention when otherwise applicable. Party autonomy is preserved throughout - parties may agree their mediator directly, with the Centre's Court of Arbitration available to make an appointment within 15 Business Days if needed. The process is built for speed, with a preliminary meeting required within 10 Business Days of the mediator's appointment, and is explicitly designed to run concurrently with arbitral or other proceedings without prejudicing either. Confidentiality protections are comprehensive, extending to all communications, documents, and conduct in the mediation, with a specific prohibition on AI-generated or digital recordings - a provision that reflects the operational realities of modern dispute resolution.

Together, the new Rules affirm the Centre's broader commitment to the full lifecycle of dispute management - advancing not only the timely resolution of disputes, but also dispute avoidance and the strategic use of diverse ADR mechanisms. They also reflect the remarkable pace of arbitrateAD's institutional growth. In under two years, the Centre has strengthened its arbitration offering while deliberately expanding its tools to meet a wider range of dispute resolution needs and reinforce arbitrateAD's role as a partner to the parties at every stage of the dispute avoidance and dispute resolution process.



Year 2 in Review: Key Milestones & Developments

Landmark Memorandum of Understanding with Abu Dhabi Family Business Council



As announced during the 2026 Annual Court Summit, arbitrateAD signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abu Dhabi Family Business Council, an affiliate of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This strategic partnership aims to support the advancement of long-term sustainability and strengthened governance of family-owned enterprises in the UAE.

The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation focused on enhancing the legal resilience of family businesses, and developing effective mechanisms for the avoidance and resolution of family business disputes. Under the MoU, both entities will collaborate to promote adjudicator appointment, mediation, and arbitration as trusted and efficient tools for safeguarding commercial and family relationships. These mechanisms will support smooth generational transitions and provide structured pathways for dispute settlement in a private and confidential setting, aligned with international best practices and the highest standards of procedural integrity.



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Case Statistics & Insights

CASE STATISTICS & INSIGHTS

1 Statistics Overview

This section presents an overview of arbitrateAD's activity since its inception, from 1 February 2024 to 1 February 2026, followed by a comparative analysis between Year 1 (1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025) and Year 2 (1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026) of operations. Statistics demonstrate not only sustained growth in caseload and value but also increasing institutional maturity and geographic reach.

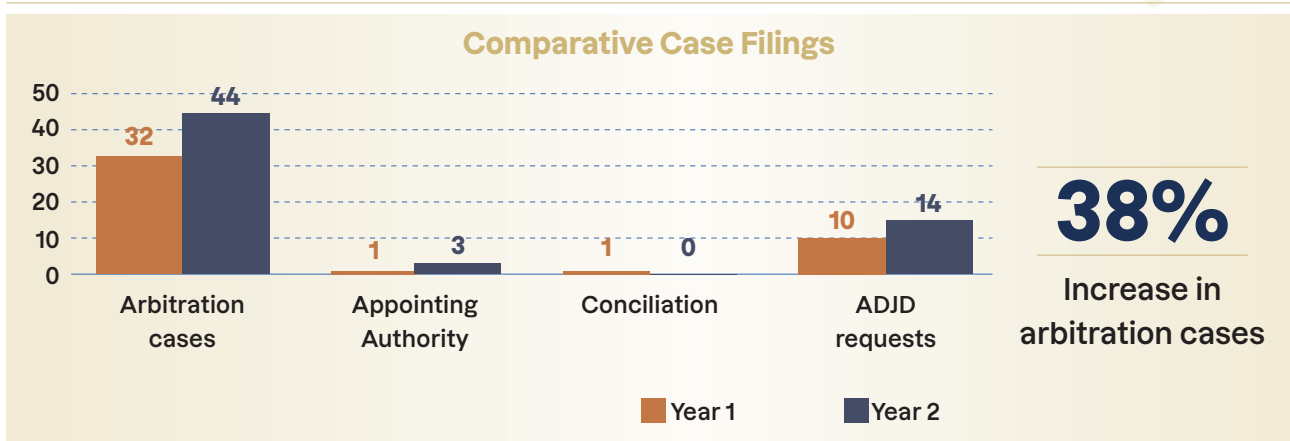
2 Overall Case Statistics

From 1 February 2024 to 1 February 2026, arbitrateAD has administered a total of **105 matters**, with arbitration proceedings representing the clear majority (**76 cases**). These figures reflect the Centre's rapid establishment as a trusted dispute resolution institution in the region.



3 Case Growth: Year 1 vs Year 2

The Centre recorded a **38% increase in arbitration cases** from its first to its second year of operation, underscoring strong market confidence and increasing institutional visibility.

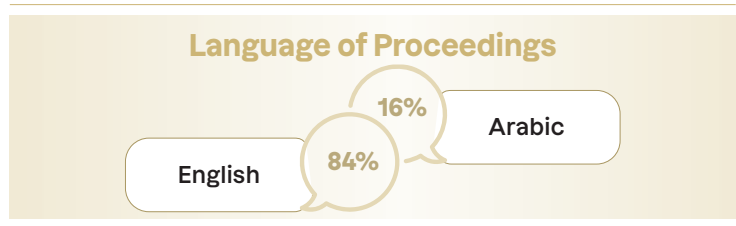


* ADJD : Abu Dhabi Judicial Department

CASE STATISTICS & INSIGHTS

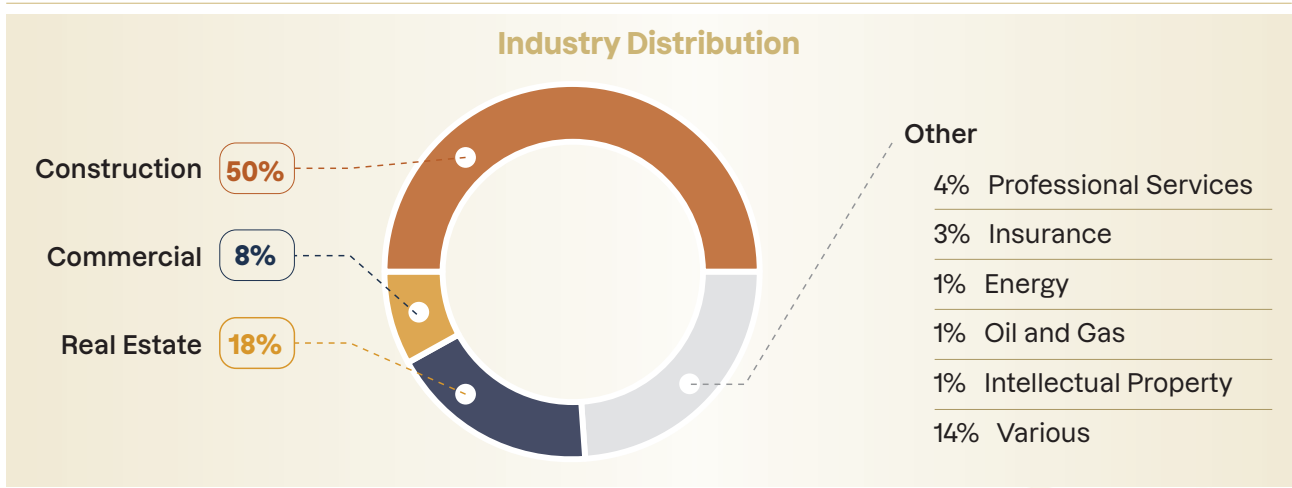
4 Language and Industry Profile

While English remains the predominant language of proceedings, the proportion of Arabic language cases reflects the Centre's expanding regional footprint, further reinforced by the launch of the Arabic Arbitration Rules.



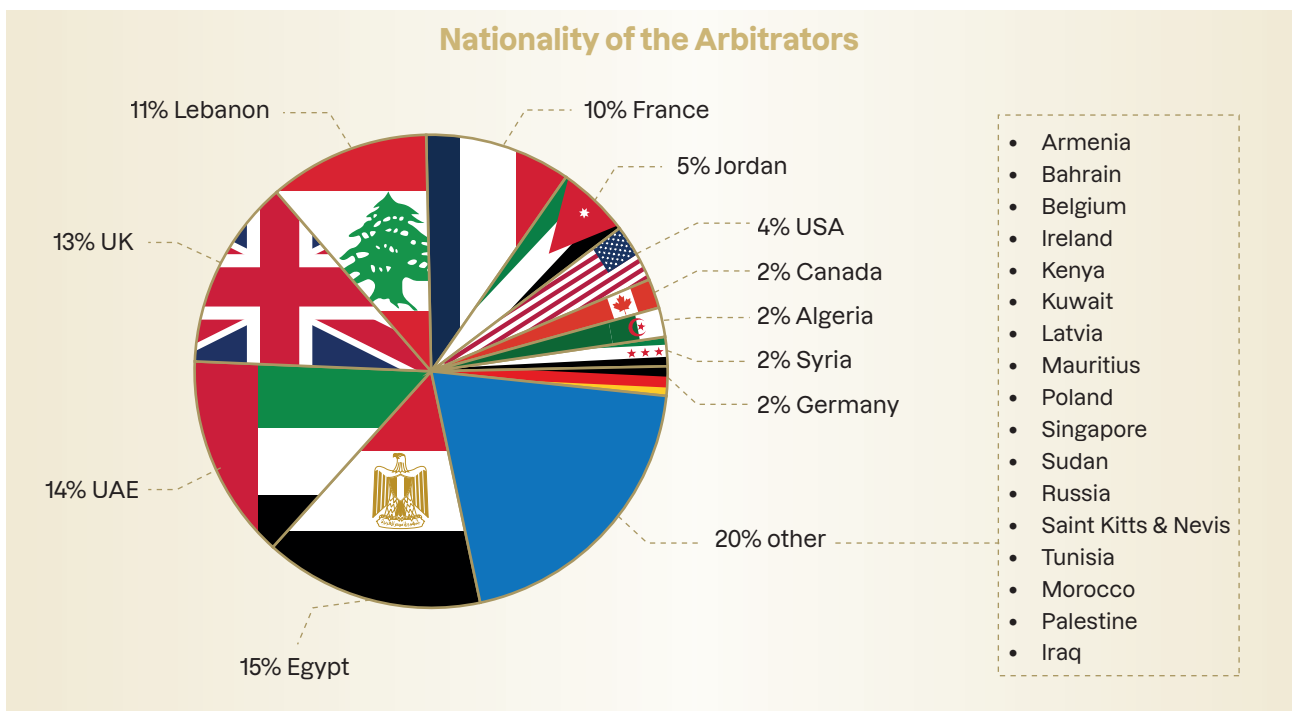
5 Industry Distribution

Construction and real estate disputes together account for over two thirds of the Centre's caseload, consistent with the economic profile of the region and the Centre's role in it.



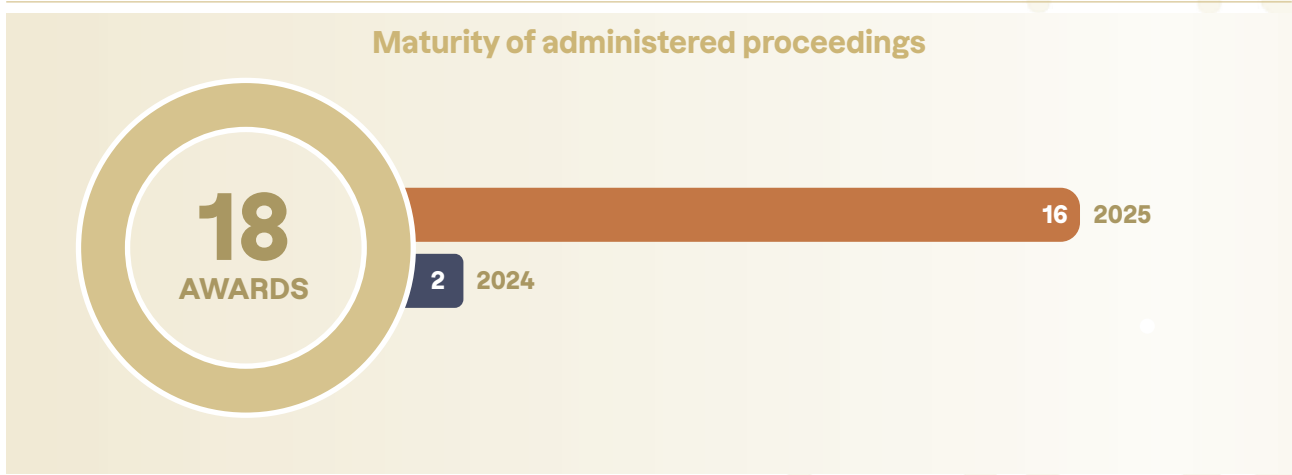
CASE STATISTICS & INSIGHTS

6 Nationalities Represented



7 Award Scrutiny and Jurisdictional Issues

The Arbitration Court scrutinised a total of **18 awards**, with **2 awards in 2024** and **16 awards in 2025**, reflecting the increasing maturity of administered proceedings.



CASE STATISTICS & INSIGHTS

8 Arbitrator Appointments

A total of **105 arbitrator appointments** were made during the reporting period.

Nominating Entity	Appointments
Arbitration Court	71
Parties	27
Co-arbitrators	7

Tribunal Composition



56%
Sole arbitrator
tribunals

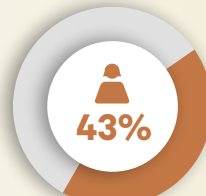


44%
Three member
tribunals

Court nominations in arbitrateAD administered cases



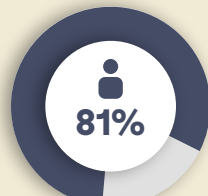
Male



Female

Gender diversity varies by nominating entity, with female representation notably higher in Court nominations than in party nominations.

Party nominations in administered cases



Male



Female



arbitrateAD

مركز أبوظبي الدولي للتحكيم
Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre

Abu Dhabi International Arbitration Centre (arbitrateAD)
Abu Dhabi Chamber Building, Corniche Street.
P.O.Box: 3636, Abu Dhabi, UAE



info@arbitrateAD.ae



arbitrateAD.ae

