

Jiries Saadeh

Partner



CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Fietta LLP, partner (2018 onward), counsel (2016-2018)
- United Nations, legal officer (2014-2016)
- Volterra Fietta, associate (2011-2014)
- Slaughter and May, associate (2005-2009), trainee solicitor (2003-2005)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Jiries Saadeh is an English-qualified lawyer and Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Courts Civil Proceedings). He has been practising law for over 15 years and is a Partner at Fietta LLP. Jiries also sits as a Deputy District Judge.

The Legal 500 has consistently recognised Jiries as one of the “Next Generation” of leading public international law practitioners, describing him as “truly an exceptional talent in PIL”, “one of the most skilled lawyers around”, “among the best three of his generation - definitely a name to note” and “simply fantastic”. Chambers UK recognises Jiries as an “Up and Coming” practitioner in both public international law and international arbitration, noting that he is “a sharp mind in the industry”, “practical and down to earth, and very nice to work with” and “among the best in his generation in the world”. Jiries was included in the inaugural Lawdragon Global Litigation 500 in February 2021 for his expertise in public international law. Clients have praised him as a “highly skilled lawyer of vast experience”.

Jiries advises States, international organisations and commercial entities on a full spectrum of public international law matters, including State sovereignty; international humanitarian law; sovereign and diplomatic immunity; UN, EU and national sanctions regimes; boundary disputes; the protection of foreign investments; and human rights.

Jiries’ extensive contentious work includes representing State and investor clients in international investment treaty and commercial arbitration cases under ICSID, UNCITRAL, LCIA and other institutional rules, managing associate teams in all phases of proceedings. He helped secure an award against Venezuela, which constitutes one of the largest in ICSID’s history. He also has significant experience in the law of international organisations, particularly the law and practice of the United Nations and international administrative law.

Jiries has taught classes at UCL, Queen Mary, Sheffield and other universities and is adjunct professor of law at Pepperdine University, where he co-teaches the International Investments Dispute course (alongside Lucas Bastin of Essex Court Chambers). He sits on the consultation board for Practical Law’s arbitration service, alongside a number of eminent practitioners and academics in the field, where he advises on developments in international arbitration so as to ensure that the Practical Law resource stays preeminent in its field. Jiries is a member of the advisory committee for a new Advanced LLM in International Dispute Settlement at Leiden University and also acts as a rapporteur for Oxford International Organisations, a repository of acts and practices of international organisations established by OUP, where he is providing input on the arbitral tribunals of the United Nations.

Jiries holds a BA/MA from the University of Oxford and an LLM in public international law from the University of Leiden. Prior to joining Fietta, Jiries worked as a Legal Officer at the United Nations in New York, where he litigated before the United Nations Dispute and Appeals Tribunals. He trained and practised for many years at Slaughter and May and also worked with Stephen and other members of the Fietta team at a previous firm from 2011 until 2014.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Jiries' contentious practice have included:

- Representing the Respondent State in an *ad hoc* arbitration brought by a Canadian investor under a bilateral investment treaty involving issues of state succession with respect to real estate interests
- Representing an individual investor in an UNCITRAL arbitration against a Gulf State under the OIC Agreement in relation to a real estate project
- Representing Arab Telemedia, a Jordan-based media company, in a treaty arbitration against Qatar under the Jordan-Qatar BIT
- Representing Mr Bahgat, a Finnish national, in his UNCITRAL arbitration brought against Egypt under two successive Finland-Egypt BITs in relation to an iron ore and steel producing concession
- Advising Mr Bahgat in defending an application brought by Egypt in the Netherlands (the seat of arbitration) to set-aside his arbitral award
- Advising Mr Bahgat in connection with enforcement proceedings relating to his arbitral award against Egypt worth over US\$ 115 million, working with local counsel in multiple jurisdictions around the world
- Advising investors from a Middle Eastern country on a potential investment treaty claim against the State of Libya under the investment agreement under the investment treaty of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (now the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation)
- Representing City-State N.V. (Netherlands) and its subsidiaries in an ICSID arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Ukraine
- Advising Owens-Illinois European Group B.V. (Netherlands) in an ICSID arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Venezuela
- Advising Fabrica de Vidrios Los Andes, C.A. and Owens-Illinois de Venezuela, C.A. in an ICSID arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Venezuela
- Advising Alapli Elekrik (Netherlands) in the annulment phase of an ICSID arbitration brought under the Energy Charter Treaty and a bilateral investment treaty against Turkey
- Advising a United Kingdom national in an arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Pakistan arising out of a major energy infrastructure project
- Advising a Mauritian liquefied petroleum gas importer in an arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Pakistan
- Representing the national oil company of a Balkan State in an UNCITRAL Rules arbitration against an Italian energy company
- Advising a Russian company in an international commercial arbitration under the London Court of Arbitration (LCIA) rules
- Representing staff members of the United Nations and its funds and programmes in disputes before the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and United Nations Appeals Tribunal
- Advising on the development of a global enforcement strategy and merits of a set-aside application at the seat with respect to a recent, substantial investment treaty award

Highlights of Jiries' advisory practice have included:

- Advising an Asian State with respect to an UNCLOS arbitral award
- Advising an Asian State on issues of maritime delimitation, navigation and international environmental law in connection with a dispute related to a major international port and land reclamation activities
- Advising an Asian State in relation to the negotiation of a land and river boundary with a neighbouring State
- Advising on the legality under international law of Morocco seeking to issue oil and gas licences off the coast of Western Sahara
- Advising a State on international law and the law of naval warfare arising from a conflict in the Middle East
- Advising a State on the international law implications of the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Israel/Palestine
- Drafting and delivering an extensive multi-module course on public international law to government officials of a Middle Eastern State
- Training African government lawyers on investment treaty protection and arbitration through the Africa International Legal Awareness organisation
- Preparing and delivering various other teaching courses on international law to university students, government lawyers and practitioners in private practice
- Advising an individual on various strategies for pursuing a claim against an international organisation, either in domestic courts or before an international tribunal, arising out of the organisation's involvement in peacekeeping operations, including advising on issues of immunity of international organisations
- Advising an international investor based in the Middle East in relation to the nature and scope of bilateral investment treaties and equivalent instruments throughout the Middle East region
- Advising an investor in a UK public utility on the scope to restructure its investment so as to take advantage of bilateral investment treaty protection
- Advising a number of corporate entities and private individuals on the scope and application of UN, EU and domestic trade sanctions regimes
- Advising a major global hedge fund in relation to an ongoing investment treaty arbitration
- Advising an international organisation on the regulation of NGOs, including with respect to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly
- Advising an NGO on an application for precautionary measures to be brought before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- Advising an NGO on the compatibility of a State's NGO policy with international law
- Advising an NGO on a range of international law issues arising during the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty
- Advising a UN Agency on its guidance regarding children's access to remedy, including before international courts and tribunals

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Adjunct Professor of Law at Pepperdine University, co-teaching a course on International Investment Disputes, 2017-present
- Delivering a webinar to LLM students at Queen Mary University of London on challenges to arbitrators under ICSID, March 2020

- Speaking on the changing nature of investor-State arbitration at the Legal Business International Arbitration Summit, November 2017
- Debating a motion on the merits of the proposed investment treaty court system at a conference in Paris, organised by Sciences Po, on “The future of investment treaty arbitration”, March 2017
- Speaking at a British Institute of International and Comparative Law event on “Careers in Public International Law”, January 2017
- Speaking at a round-table on “Trade and investment post Brexit” at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, September 2016
- "The European Union, investment treaties and investment arbitration post-Brexit", Practical Law arbitration blog, July 2016
- Chairing a panel on "Organised armed groups in international law", ILA British Branch Spring Conference, April 2016

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Courts Civil Proceedings) (2016)

LLM (*cum laude*) (2010), University of Leiden

M.A. (Oxon.) (2006), University of Oxford

Admitted to practise in England & Wales (2005)

Legal Practice Course (2002), BPP Law School, London

Postgraduate Diploma in Law (2001), BPP Law School, London

B.A. (2000), University of Oxford

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English (native), Arabic, French and German (conversational)