



Michael Davar
International Arbitration and Litigation Lawyer

Date of Birth: 07 October 1988
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Professional Experience

Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP , Senior Associate, International Arbitration and Litigation	Jun 2015 - Present
Rosling King LLP , Associate, Private Equity and Special Situation Disputes	Dec 2014- May 2015
Ince & Co LLP , Trainee	Sep 2012 – Sep 2014

Arbitration Experience

UK qualified lawyer with ~~close-over to~~ a decade of experience representing claimant and respondent parties in international arbitrations covering a wide range of commercial and financial disputes, including under UNCITRAL, ICC, [LCIA](#), SIAC, HKIAC, [SHIAC](#), LMAA and GAFTA Rules.

Michael is the co-author of [of several legal volumes, including *International Commercial Arbitration: 21st Century Perspectives* \(2016 and 2020\); *Oil and Gas Decommissioning: Law Policy and Comparative Practice* \(2016\); and *The Regulation of Decommissioning and Abandonment and Reuse Initiatives in the Oil and Gas Industry* \(2020\).](#) ~~the 2016 and 2020 editions of the specialist legal volume *International Commercial Arbitration Practice: 21st Century Perspectives* as well as numerous international arbitration publications.~~ He is highlighted in *The Legal 500* [2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023](#) for [both](#) international arbitration and commercial litigation – mid market, and was described in [various](#) *The Legal 500* ~~2020~~ [entries](#) as a rising star for work in international arbitration [and a practitioner that really cares about his cases and clients.](#)

The arbitrations he has been involved in include, *inter alia*:

- HK\$ 700 million Hong Kong seated UNCITRAL arbitration subject to Hong Kong law between a high net worth individual and a BVI entity controlled by a large financial institution arising from debts allegedly due under a personal guarantee.
- US\$ 500 million Paris seated ICC arbitration between a former Soviet Republic and an independent oil & gas investor arising from the unlawful termination of a production sharing agreement.
- US\$ 450 million London seated ICC arbitration subject to English law between one of the world's largest oil & gas exploration and production companies and an independent oil & gas investor arising from the repudiation of a joint operating agreement.
- US\$ 350 million Zurich seated ICC arbitration subject to Swiss law between a gas wholesaler and a natural gas supplier arising from the cessation of supply of natural gas.

- HK\$ 150 million Hong Kong seated UNCITRAL arbitration subject to Hong Kong law between a high net worth individual and a UK-based investor arising from debts allegedly due under a personal guarantee.
- US\$ 120 million Paris seated ICC arbitration between three co-venturers and a Middle Eastern state arising from losses suffered through the confiscation of oil and the termination of a production sharing agreement and corresponding counterclaims covering, among others, decommissioning, well-integrity, environmental, cost recovery, employment and custom and duties claims.
- US\$ 45 million Hong Kong seated HKIAC administered arbitration subject to Hong Kong law between a Chinese high net worth individual and a BVI entity controlled by a large financial institution arising from debts allegedly due under a personal guarantee.
- US\$ 43 million London seated LMAA arbitration subject to English law between a German shipping consortium and a Croatian shipbuilding company arising from the repudiation of a shipbuilding contract.
- US\$ 20 million Singapore seated SIAC arbitration subject to Singaporean law between a Philippine oil & gas operator and a Malaysian offshore contractor arising from the repudiation of an offshore drilling contract.
- US\$ 20 million London seated LMAA arbitration subject to English law between a Norwegian KS and a Singaporean oil & gas contractor arising from sale and leaseback contract.
- US\$ 12 million Paris seated ICC arbitration, and emergency arbitration, between a consortium of construction contractors and a Central Eastern state arising from extant pollution identified across the construction site.
- US\$ 9 million London seated LCIA arbitration between a German seller and Polish buyer arising from an international sale dispute over a cargo of coal.
- US\$ 3 million London seated GAFTA arbitration subject to English law between a Korean commodity house and an Argentinian grain trading company arising from the sale of genetically modified wheat.
- US\$ 1 million London seated LMAA arbitration subject to English law between a Swiss commodities trading company and an Indian steel conglomerate relating to voyage charterparty performance claims.
- US\$ 600 thousand London seated LMAA arbitration subject to English law between a subsea telecommunications cable owner and a vessel owner arising from damage caused to a submarine cable system by a vessel's anchor.
- US\$ 400 thousand London seated LMAA concurrent chain arbitration involving Cypriot shipowners and a Monaco based sub-charterer arising from a chain of charterparties.

Education Background

Legal Practice Course (Kaplan Law School, 2012)
 Graduate Diploma in Law (The College of Law, 2011)
 BSc Economic History (The London School of Economics, 2010)

Expertise

Contract/Commercial Disputes
 Oil & Gas
 Shipping
 International Sale of Goods/Commodities

Shareholder/Financial
Fraud

Practice Location/ Jurisdiction

Admitted in England and Wales (2014)

Working Languages

Fluent: English
Conversational: Georgian, Russian

Other Relevant Experience

In addition to representing parties in international arbitration, Michael also represents claimant and respondent parties in complex cross border litigation. His cases *Essar Oilfields Services Limited v. Norscot Rig Management PVT Limited* [2016] EQHC 2361 (Comm) and *AB Bank Limited, Offshore Banking Unit v. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC* [2016] EWHC 2082 (Comm) have set English legal precedent. He is the co-author of the specialist legal volumes "*The Regulation of Decommissioning and Abandonment and Reuse Initiatives in the Oil and Gas Industry*", the Energy and Environmental Law & Policy Series, Wolters Kluwer, 2020 and "*Oil and Gas Decommissioning: Law, Policy and Comparative Practice*", Globe Law & Business, 2nd Edn, 2016.

The High Court matters he has been involved in include, *inter alia*:

- Proceedings in the High Court of Australia between an offshore drilling contractor and two oil & gas operators relating to a US\$ 82 million claim arising from the repudiation of an offshore drilling contract.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between four high net worth individuals and a UK law firm relating to a GBP 39 million claim arising from allegations of professional negligence relating to an M&A transaction.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a private equity owned insurance broker and an insurance underwriter relating to a GBP 30 million claim arising from a breach of insurance contract.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a Bangladeshi bank, a Singaporean investment vehicle and various individuals relating to a US\$ 22 million claim arising from a substantial fraud.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a British superyacht builder and a high net worth individual relating to a US\$ 10 million arising from alleged construction defects.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a vessel owner, cargo owners and charterers arising out of breaches of charterparty and bills of lading resulting from contraventions of Thai customs law and practice and consequent detention of the vessel, arrest and forced sale of oil cargo and criminal proceedings against certain persons.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a multi-asset exchange platform for forex trading and a Cypriot forex broker, two Russian high net worth individuals and a trust company arising from a US\$ 1.5 million claim relating to a substantial fraud.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a Singaporean shipping company and a UK law firm arising from a US\$ 500 thousand claim concerning the enforceability of a

conditional fee agreement that failed to meet the requirements of s.58 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

- *Norwich Pharmacal* Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between a Bangladeshi bank and a UAE bank in which the High Court was, for the first time, required to consider whether the English courts have jurisdiction to allow service out for a *Norwich Pharmacal* Order application.
- Proceedings in the High Court of England and Wales between an Indian drilling contractor and oil & gas service provider arising from an appeal of the decision of an arbitrator to award third party funding costs on an indemnity basis. This is the leading case which set the precedent that third party funding costs are recoverable under s.59(1)(c) of the Arbitration Act 1996.