

***NADINE DEBBAS ACHKAR, ESQ., C.ARB, FCIARB***  
***Attorney & Chartered Arbitrator***

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Nadine Debbas Achkar is a member of the New York Bar and has been a practicing attorney for over 20 years, with professional experience in the United States, France and the Middle East. She holds a *Juris Doctor* from Columbia University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Georgetown University.

Nadine is a Chartered Arbitrator specializing in international arbitration, having started her career as an attorney within Shearman & Sterling's Arbitration Group in Paris. She currently serves both as arbitrator and as counsel. In the past few years, she has been appointed as Tribunal Chair, Sole Arbitrator or Co-Arbitrator in numerous arbitrations arising from a wide range of disputes. Nadine is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

In parallel to her arbitration practice, Nadine also advises on corporate/commercial transactions and project development. She previously served as the General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Abu Dhabi Basic Industries Corporation PJSC (ADBIC, now merged into SENAAT), one of the UAE's largest industrial investment holding companies, mandated by the Abu Dhabi Government to be a key contributor to Abu Dhabi's Economic Vision 2030.

Nadine's experience as both in-house and outside counsel as well as in both common law and civil law jurisdictions ensures she brings a pro-active, commercial and transnational approach to complex legal matters.

She is a Visiting Professor at New York University Abu Dhabi where she teaches a Seminar on International Commercial Arbitration. She is also a Lecturer in Business Law at the American University of Beirut and teaches International Business Law as part of the Executive MBA core curriculum at the *Ecole Supérieure des Affaires* (ESA), affiliated with ESCP Europe.

Nadine is a citizen of France, Lebanon and the United States of America and is a native speaker of Arabic, English and French and is fluent in Spanish.

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Legal Counsel & Independent Arbitrator**

**Based in Beirut, Lebanon**

**Visiting Professor / Lecturer**

**July 2011-present**

- **International Arbitration:** Serves as counsel and arbitrator (Tribunal Chair, Sole Arbitrator, or Co-Arbitrator) in arbitrations arising out of disputes relating to, *inter alia*, construction, property development, breach of contract, distribution and agency relationships, shareholders' agreements, payment defaults, delay, unmet specifications, force majeure, damages and valuations.
- **Corporate/Commercial:** Advises a select number of Gulf-based clients on a variety of corporate and transactional matters, including drafting and negotiating project development documentation, share and asset sale and purchase agreements, shareholders' and other joint venture agreements, construction contracts, long-term land, feedstock, utilities and off-take agreements, distribution agreements, etc...
- **Teaching:** Visiting Professor at New York University Abu Dhabi (Seminar on International Commercial Arbitration); Lecturer at the American University of Beirut, (Business Law); Visiting Professor at the *Ecole Supérieure des Affaires* (ESA), affiliated with ESCP Europe (International Business Law).

**Abu Dhabi Basic Industries Corporation PJSC (ADBIC, SENAAT)**

**Abu Dhabi, UAE**

**General Counsel and Senior Vice President**

**January 2010-June 2011**

**General Counsel and Vice President**

**January 2008-December 2009**

- **Project Development:** Drafted and negotiated project development documentation for green-field industrial projects, including joint venture agreements and ancillary agreements (intellectual property, marketing and distribution, operation and management), long-term land, feedstock, utilities and off-take agreements, service and consultancy agreements, project management and construction agreements, and equipment supply agreements.
- **Acquisitions:** Analyzed due diligence reports, drafted and negotiated share and asset purchase agreements and ancillary documentation.
- **Corporate:** Established Legal Department, created legal policies and procedures, drafted and streamlined suite of documentation to address corporate needs, established corporate agreement policies, streamlined competitive bidding process for appointment of outside counsel, oversaw work by outside counsel for successful delivery of external legal services on time and within budget, recruited legal counsels.
- **Board/Committees:** Secretary, Board of Directors; Member and Secretary, Management Committee and Investment Committee; advised Board, Chairman and CEO on a variety of corporate issues.

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***Member of the New York Bar***  
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**Raphaël & Associés (previously affiliated with Ernst & Young Law)**      **Beirut, Lebanon**  
***Partner / Of Counsel***      ***January 2006-December 2006***  
***Of Counsel***      ***November 1998-December 2005***

- ***International Arbitration:*** Drafted legal briefs, pleaded orally and examined and cross-examined witnesses in ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL arbitrations in the fields of telecommunications, construction, distribution and advisory services; elaborated strategy and drafted pre-arbitration correspondence in several international construction disputes involving FIDIC contracts.
- ***International Agreements:*** Drafted and negotiated a variety of agreements, including sale and purchase contracts (real estate, aircrafts, vessels, company shares), construction agreements (contracting, sub-contracting, engineering management and supervision) and telecommunications agreements (licensing, distribution, system turnkey, hosting, content aggregation).
- ***International Transactions:*** Recommended and implemented corporate structures on behalf of foreign investors, advised on employment, intellectual property, real estate, tax and other corporate matters.
- ***Mergers and Acquisitions:*** Conducted due diligence and advised on several corporate acquisitions.

**Shearman & Sterling**      **Paris, France**  
***Associate***      ***January 1996-July 1998***

- ***International Arbitration:*** Drafted legal briefs and memoranda and participated in hearings and witness examinations in arbitrations involving construction (FIDIC, ICE, cost-plus-fee and other contracts) and oil and gas disputes.
- ***International Litigation:*** Advised European clients in commercial disputes before U.S. courts on procedural and substantive issues.
- Publications with Emmanuel Gaillard in *New York Law Journal*: “The Adoption of Revised ICC Rules”, “The New English Arbitration Act” and “Enforcement of a Nullified Foreign Award”.

**Harvard Law School**      **Cambridge, MA**  
***Research Assistant, Professor Frank E. Vogel***      ***July 1993-August 1993***

- Researched issues of Islamic contract law.

**Covington & Burling**      **Washington, D.C.**  
***Legal Assistant***      ***June 1990-June 1992***

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**EDUCATION**

**Columbia University School of Law**, New York, NY

*Juris Doctor*, May 1995

*Honors:* Parker School Certificate in International Law, with *Honors*, 1995  
Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, 1994-1995  
John M. Olin Law and Economics Junior Fellow, 1992-1993

**Georgetown University**, Washington, DC

Bachelor of Arts, May 1990 (Economics / English)

*Honors:* First Honors, Second Honors and Dean's List, 1987-1990

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Member of the New York Bar, First Judicial Department
- Chartered Arbitrator (C.Arb) and Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- Trained Mediator (American Bar Association and USAID, April 2007)
- Citizen of France, Lebanon and the United States of America
- Native speaker of Arabic, English and French; Fluent in Spanish
- Frequent speaker at international arbitration conferences

**Contact Information**

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