

RAHUL DONDE

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PROFILE

I am an independent arbitrator and counsel based in Geneva, with 18+ years of experience in international arbitration.

I have been appointed sole, co-, and presiding arbitrator under the LCIA, ICC, HKIAC, SIAC, DIAC, and MCIA Rules and the Swiss Rules, and in ad hoc arbitrations, and have acted in over 50 international arbitrations.

My tribunal practice spans common-law and civil-law jurisdictions, with seats in England (London), Singapore, Hong Kong, India, the UAE, Switzerland (Geneva and Zurich), and France (Paris). I have applied English, Singaporean, Hong Kong, Indian, UAE, Swiss, French and Russian substantive law.

I have specific experience in cross-border debt-recovery and payment claims, guarantees and sureties, international sanctions, anti-suit injunctions and applications to restrain parallel court proceedings, urgent applications for interim and conservatory measures, including security for costs, breaches of arbitration agreements, disputes arising from settlement agreements, termination of services and contractor agreements, multi-party disputes, matters involving Russian state-owned entities, disputes arising from blockchain-based financial instruments, and employment-related disputes, including within international organisations.

An Indian citizen, I am fluent in English, Marathi, and Hindi, with working proficiency in French.

ARBITRATOR APPOINTMENTS

LCIA

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Swiss and Egyptian companies arising out of a contract for the sale of oil country tubular goods (OCTG steel), including payment obligations and interest.
Seat: London | Governing law: English law | Sector: Metals / Commodities (sale of goods).
- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between British and Hong Kong companies concerning a contract for the sale of iron ore pellet chips, including payment and performance obligations.
Seat: London | Governing law: English law | Sector: Metals / Commodities (sale of goods).
- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between a Russian industrial enterprise and an Italian company arising out of equipment supply contracts for a fertilizer plant, involving EU sanctions, advance payment recovery, and force majeure.
Seat: London | Governing law: English law | Sector: Chemicals / Fertilizers.
- Co-Arbitrator in an arbitration between British and American companies arising out of the sale of chemicals, including claims for unpaid goods, storage costs, and disputes over CFR delivery terms.
Seat: London | Governing law: English law | Sector: Chemicals / Commodities (sale of goods).

ICC

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between a French industrial-technology company and an Italian engineering company, concerning payment obligations under a settlement agreement.
Seat: Paris | Governing law: French law | Sector: Trade and Distribution.
- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Swiss and German entities arising out of a supply agreement for ferrotitanium, involving the application of European and Swiss sanctions instruments.
Seat: Geneva | Governing law: Swiss law | Sector: Metals / Trading.
- Co-Arbitrator in an arbitration between a Spanish company and a Russian state-owned entity arising out of a railway equipment and services contract, involving anti-suit injunctions, applications to restrain parallel court proceedings, and arbitrability disputes.
Seat: Paris | Governing law: Russian law | Sector: Railway / Transport.
- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Bahraini and Turkish companies arising out of a subcontract for instrumentation and control installation works at a 1,800MW combined-cycle power plant, including disputes over delays and cost overruns.

Seat: Zurich | Governing law: English law | Sector: Construction / EPC / Power Generation.

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between a Kenyan company and an Italian company arising out of construction contracts for grain silos and warehouses, including claims for delays and defects.

Seat: Geneva | Governing law: English law | Sector: Construction.

HKIAC

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration concerning guarantee obligations and an assignment agreement between Singaporean, Lithuanian, and Russian entities, including claims for unpaid amounts.

Seat: Hong Kong | Governing law: Hong Kong law | Sector: Consumer goods / Guarantees.

SIAC

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Singaporean and Indonesian companies concerning demurrage charges and port dues arising out of CFR contracts for the purchase of crude oil, including disputes over laytime calculations.

Seat: Singapore | Governing law: Singaporean law | Sector: Trade / Commodities.

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Singaporean and Luxembourg companies arising out of chemical trading contracts, including claims under a related guarantee.

Seat: Singapore | Governing law: Singaporean law | Sector: Chemicals / Guarantees.

DIAC

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between an Emirati sub-contractor and the UAE subsidiary of a Chinese state-owned construction group arising out of a sub-contract for the construction of 120 villas, including claims for site hand-over failures, design non-compliance, payment defaults, and wrongful termination.

Seat: DIFC, Dubai | Governing law: UAE law | Sector: Construction / Residential Development.

Swiss Arbitration Centre

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Swiss and Czech entities arising out of blockchain-based debt securities, including payment and jurisdiction issues.

Seat: Zurich | Governing law: Swiss law | Sector: Banking & Finance / Digital Securities.

MCIA / Ad Hoc

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between two Indian hospitality companies concerning a commercial agreement in the hospitality sector.

Seat: Mumbai | Governing law: Indian law | Sector: Hospitality.

- Sole Arbitrator in a dispute concerning a pharmaceutical distribution agreement.

Seat: Mumbai | Governing law: Indian law | Sector: Pharmaceuticals / Distribution.

- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration between Indian companies arising out of a supply agreement for lubricants, including payment disputes.

Seat: Mumbai | Governing law: Indian law | Sector: Transport / Supply.

- Presiding Arbitrator in an *ad hoc* arbitration under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, between Indian companies concerning the sale of a power plant, including disputes over warranties and completion obligations.

Seat: Mumbai | Governing law: Indian law | Sector: Energy and infrastructure.

SELECT COUNSEL EXPERIENCE

- Counsel, Indian multinational company in its disputes with an Italian company concerning the supply of steel pipes.

Seat: Geneva | Governing law: Swiss law | Sector: Energy and infrastructure.

- Counsel, Indian multinational company in aviation-sector settlement discussions and pre-arbitration strategy involving an American bank and a Swiss entity.

Seat: Zurich | Governing law: Swiss law | Sector: Aviation.

- Counsel, American industrial manufacturer in its disputes with an Indian company concerning the long-term supply of machinery for an oil and gas project.
Seat: Singapore | Governing law: Swiss law | Sector: Energy and infrastructure.
- Counsel, American multinational company in an ICC arbitration against a consortium of multinational commodity mining and shipping companies in Africa concerning shipping rights.
Seat: Geneva | Governing law: Supply agreement and Guinean law | Sector: Commodities.
- Counsel, Indian multinational company in two LCIA arbitrations with its shareholders; also advised the company in annulment proceedings before the Swiss Federal Tribunal.
Seat: Geneva | Governing law: English law | Sector: Consumer grooming.
- Counsel, Indian company in the context of settlement discussions with another Indian company.
Seat: Singapore | Governing law: English law | Sector: Chemicals.
- Counsel, Indian company in its construction disputes with an African state-owned entity.
Seat: Geneva | Governing law: FIDIC Yellow Book | Sector: Construction.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT-RELATED DISPUTES

- Advised a staff member of an international organisation on a potential wrongful-termination claim, including analysis of the organisation's staff regulations, due-process requirements, potential procedural irregularities, and the jurisprudence of the ILO Administrative Tribunal.
- Advised employers and employees on employment-related issues under Indian labour law, including matters involving conduct, performance, wages, and termination processes.

CAREER

- Principal, Rahul Donde Dispute Resolution, Geneva, Switzerland, 2024-present.
- Honorary Lecturer, School of Law, University of Aberdeen, 2020-present.
- Counsel / Associate, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler, Geneva, Switzerland, 2012-2023.
- Associate, M/s. Kanga & Co., Advocates & Solicitors, Mumbai, 2007-2010.

EDUCATION

- LL.M., Oil and Gas Law, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, 2018.
- LL.M., Master of Advanced Studies in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS), 2nd rank, Graduate Institute, Geneva and University of Geneva, Switzerland, 2010-2011.
- Diploma in ADR, Distinction, International Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2009.
- B.L.S., LL.B., First Class, Honours, Government Law College, Mumbai, India, 2003-2008.

RECOGNITIONS

- Global Elite Thought Leader, Arbitration – Under 45 – Partners, Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal), 2026.
- Future Leader – Partners, Lexology Index: Arbitration 2026.
- 'Arbitration', Who's Who Legal, 2026, 2025.
- 'Most Highly Regarded' in the EMEA region, Who's Who Legal, 2023.
- 'Future Leaders: Arbitration', Who's Who Legal, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020.
- 'Rising Star', International Arbitration, Legal 500, 2021, 2020.
- 'Rising Star', Commercial Arbitration, Expert Guides, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

- 'Federal Tribunal Confirms Swiss-seated Arbitral Tribunal's Jurisdiction over Intra-EU Investment Disputes', ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin 2024, Issue 2, p. 22 (co-author).
- Adjudicating Global Business in and with India - International Commercial and Investment Dispute Settlement (Routledge, UK, 2021) (co-editor).

- 'Constitution and Establishment of an Arbitral Tribunal' in J. Martin Hunter, Marike R.P. Paulsson, Dushyant Dave and Fali S. Nariman (Eds.), *Arbitration in India* (Alphen aan den Rijn, Netherlands, 2021) pp. 73-88 (co-author).
- 'The arbitrators' role' in James Freeman, Mark Levy (Eds), *Gas Price Arbitrations* (Globe Law and Business, London, 2020) pp. 121-131 (co-author).

SELECT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- India ADR Week, 'Between East and West: Are Indian Arbitrators and Counsel the New Neutrals of International Dispute Resolution?', 2026 (forthcoming)
- Arbitration Lab, CIS Arbitration Workshop, 'New Geography of CIS-related disputes: New Seats, New Institutions, New Realities', 2026 (forthcoming).
- ASA Fall Conference, 'Behind the Curtain: Dynamics within Arbitral Tribunals', 2026 (forthcoming).
- Below40@Vierländerkonferenz, 'Arbitration's New Frontiers: Navigating the Rise of Public and Private Interests' (keynote speech), 2025.
- Law Society of Ireland, 'Energy Arbitration: Overview and a Focus on Electricity', 2025.
- ICC UK Annual Arbitration & ADR Conference, 'First Appointments', 2024.
- 11th ITA-IEL-ICC Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration, 2023.
- ICDR Conference on New Cha(lle)nges for the AAA-ICDR Rules, 'Consolidation and Joinder: Balance Between Efficiency and Ensuring Jurisdiction', 2023.

ASSOCIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Arbitrator panels:

- Included in the LCIA's database of arbitrators.
- Empanelled as an arbitrator with: CRCICA, Delos, DIAC, HKIAC (List of Arbitrators), MCIA, NPAC, THAC (Panel of Arbitrators), SIAC, WIPO (List of Neutrals).

Professional associations:

- Member, Arbitration Consultative Committee, Delos Dispute Resolution, 2022-present.
- Co-Chair, Alumni Association, MIDS, 2021-2025.
- Executive Committee, Asia-Pacific Forum for International Arbitration, 2019-present.
- Admitted to the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa, India, 2008.