

SEEMA BONO

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Nationality: British
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EDUCATION

2004 – 2005 **BPP University Law School, London**
Legal Practice Course (Distinction)

2000 – 2004 **University College London**
Law with French Law LLB (2.1) Firsts in Jurisprudence and Medical Law
Certificat Supérieur de Droit Français from Université Panthéon-Assas - Paris II

1996 – 2000 **Streatham & Clapham High School, London**
A Levels: English Literature (A), Mathematics (A), French (A)
9 GCSEs (A* - A)
Senior Prefect and House Captain. Recipient of Ellis Trophy.

PROFILE

Seema specialises in international commercial dispute resolution and compliance / investigations. She joined Pinsent Masons in August 2019 having previously practised at the magic circle firm, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP.

Seema is the Chair of Pinsent Masons' Diversity & Inclusion Committee in the Middle East.

She is an English qualified lawyer and practised in London for a number of years before relocating to Dubai in 2014. Seema has extensive experience of advising clients on complex, multi-jurisdictional litigation and arbitration proceedings in various sectors, including hotels, real estate, financial services / banking, telecoms and IT, technology, energy and logistics.

Seema is a registered lawyer at the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts and has expertise in various forms of alternative dispute resolution, including mediation. She has advised on proceedings involving a range of governing laws and various arbitration institutions, including the ICC, LCIA, ADCCAC, DIFC-LCIA and DIAC. When advising clients on their most critical mandates, she is adept at advising on strategy throughout the process and bringing together and leading multi-disciplinary, international teams.

In addition to disputes, she advises major corporate clients on high-profile investigations arising from accounting issues, bribery and corruption and fraud. She routinely advises on managing internal investigations and compliance matters, including third party risk management.

Prior to moving to Dubai, I was a Senior Associate at the US firm, Mayer Brown International LLP, in London. As part of the commercial disputes and arbitration team, I worked on a number of major disputes. I also had the privilege of being seconded to AstraZeneca in London and UBS Group in Zurich.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Pinsent Masons LLP, Dubai – Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution (August 2019 – Present)

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Dubai – Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution (October 2014 – July 2019)

Mayer Brown International LLP, London – Senior Associate, Dispute Resolution (March 2008 - June 2014)

Mayer Brown International LLP, London – Trainee Solicitor (March 2006 - March 2008)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pinsent Masons LLP (2019 – Present)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conferences / events / publications:

Seema regularly takes on speaking engagements and her recent speaking engagements / publications include the following:

- Speaking at Pinsent Masons' Annual Compliance and Investigations Conference on risk mitigation and managing third party relationships;
- Out-law article on modernisation of DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Rules;
- Out-law article on the UN Convention on Mediation;
- Speaking at The Association of Corporate Counsel's Webinar on managing internal investigations effectively;
- Speaking at Breakfast Briefing for external clients on Compliance matters, including corporate governance and anti-bribery and corruption;
- Out-law article on enhancements made by the Abu Dhabi Global Market on its dispute resolution framework, including the ADGM arbitration regime;
- Contributing two chapters on arbitration in the Middle East and UAE to the International Comparative Legal Guide;
- LexisNexis article on anti-bribery and corruption in the UAE;
- Speaking at Commercial dispute resolution webinar with French Business Council in the UAE;
- Speaking at ICC Arbitration Conference in Kuwait on arbitration trends;
- Speaking at DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Symposium panel on use of experts in arbitration in Dubai;
- Speaking at EMEA Anti-Corruption and Compliance Summit in Dubai discussing Deferred Prosecution Agreements and the current landscape in the UK and beyond regarding resolution of criminal conduct;
- Recording Podcast with FTI Consulting during Dubai Arbitration Week on arbitration trends, mediation and litigation funding;
- Author of two chapters of the International Comparative Legal Guide in relation to the Middle East and North Africa as well as other contributions to articles and client updates on a range of topics;
- Out-law articles on DFSA enforcement activity and cyber issues.

Diversity & Inclusion: Chair of Pinsent Masons' Diversity & Inclusion Committee in the Middle East. This role involves connecting with our international offices to actively promote diversity & inclusion initiatives, to level the playing field and create an environment of inclusion and belonging. I have also been an active member of the Mindful Business Charter Committee in the Middle East which was set up to launch the Mindful Business Charter in our Middle East business.

Languages: Competent French, Gujarati.

Pro Bono and CSR: Assisting with a French language club at Malmesbury Primary School, London; volunteer at the Royal Courts of Justice, Citizens Advice Bureau in London; participating in a Legal Chances event to promote the legal sector to a diverse range of students.

Other: Participated in Camp America as a Team Leader in New Hampshire, USA. Avid backpack traveller around South & Central America, New Zealand, Australia and South East Asia.