



## Karishma Vora

Year of call: 2011 (2006 (India), 2011 (England & Wales), 2020 (DIFC))

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Year of call: 2006 (India), 2011 (England & Wales), 2020 (DIFC)

*"A very hard working lawyer, who is always ready to go the extra mile for her client. Her written advocacy is of a high standard and she is able to break some complicated issues and present them in a simplified and persuasive manner."* The Legal 500 UK 2022

Karishma has a busy commercial disputes and civil fraud practice representing companies and individuals in high value cases before the commercial court and in arbitration.

She specialises in banking, private equity, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), breach of guarantee and fraud disputes. Her sector expertise is in defence, metals and commodities, mining, technology, crypto, pharmaceuticals, distribution and diamonds. She has vast experience in cross border investments and transactions and is sought after by banks and borrowers, private equity funds and family offices alike. She is particularly known for her strategy in complex, multi-jurisdictional litigation and arbitration.

Karishma is typically instructed on jurisdiction challenges, applications for service out, anti-suit and summary judgment applications, Norwich Pharmacal claims and freezing injunctions through to trial. She appears on a led basis and equally leads teams in heavy trials and interim proceedings, depending on the nature of the case.

Karishma frequently works with lawyers from foreign jurisdictions. She has the rare expertise of being triple qualified in England, India and the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and has reported judgments in all three jurisdictions. Karishma is ranked by the Legal 500 in three practice areas in the UK - banking and finance, commercial litigation and civil fraud, and for commercial litigation in the Middle East and Africa (band 1). Her international practice includes running a set of chambers in India.

Karishma's significant international arbitration expertise includes being appointed as an arbitrator and as counsel in arbitrations seated in London, Singapore, Dubai and India. She has worked on cases governed by the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), London Metal Exchange (LME), Refined Sugar Association (RSA), London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA), Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) and Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) rules. She is empanelled as an arbitrator with many of these institutions and sits as a sole arbitrator or on a panel.

Karishma is an alumna of the London School of Economics where she also taught commercial law. She

serves on Combar's India and Middle East sub-committees and is the only woman appointed to the advisory council of the ICA



## Areas of expertise

Banking and Financial Services  
Commercial Contracts  
Civil Fraud  
Technology and Cryptocurrency Disputes  
International Arbitration  
Alternative Dispute Resolution - Arbitrator  
International Practice - India  
International Practice - Middle East

## Commercial Contracts

*"Karishma is extremely hard working and committed to her clients. She is responsive, friendly and a pleasure to deal with. She pursues her client's interests with dogged determination and does a lot of oral advocacy."*The Legal 500 UK 2023

Karishma has 16 years of experience as a commercial litigator and taught commercial law at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The average size of her matter is about US\$10-300m in dispute and many of her cases are reported. She is instructed by both investors and fund houses in breach of shareholder agreements and related transactions. She is herself an investor in startups and has had successful exits, making her a trusted choice as she gets the commercial angle in each case.

### Cases of note

- ***Cargill International Trading Pte Ltd v Uttam Galva Steels Ltd* [2018] EWHC 974 (Comm), [2018] EWHC 2977 (Comm) and [2019] EWHC 476 (Comm)** Instructed by Uttam Galva Steels to defend a US\$61.8m breach of an advance purchase and sale agreement. Karishma was instructed in three hearings against leading silks including on issues concerning service out, summary judgment and enforcing seemingly high interest rates abroad.
- ***Maersk A/S v Sree Rayalaseema Hi-Strength Hypo Limited* (CL-2021-000375)** Defended a publicly-listed chemical company in a claim by a time charterer for indemnity and damages exceeding US\$10 million following a calcium hypochlorite explosion on board a container vessel.
- ***Kanji v Eros Media World Plc* [2021] EWHC 2859 (Comm)** Represented an ex-consultant of an NYSE-listed media company who sought damages following the grant of restricted shares under an employee stock option plan (ESOP). Successfully secured indemnity costs at a hearing for default judgment and resisted an application for relief from sanctions, thereafter arguing the case until trial. Karishma previously successfully settled a similar matter for another ex-employee against the same company.

- **CJSC Alfa-Bank (Belarus) v Lek Securities UK Limited (CL-2024-000139)** Defending an FCA-regulated body whose client accounts were frozen during the winding-up process. The claim was brought by their client whose access to funds was frozen by the UK government under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- Advising a prominent Asian family office on navigating the sale of assets and breaches of real estate development agreements following a freezing of their worldwide assets.
- Instructed in a sale at undervalue by receivers of a British pharmaceutical company who incorrectly valued generic licences.
- Instructed in an appeal to the Privy Council from the Cayman Islands Court of Appeal in a dispute between shareholders of a real asset management company.
- Advised a majority shareholder on an unfair prejudice petition arising out of a £2.5m shareholders agreement concerning a 150-room hotel in the north of England franchisee.
- Defended an English franchisee against allegations of breach of a franchise agreement brought by a famous foreign restaurant chain.

## Recommendations

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Karishma's Legal 500 rankings can be found [here](#).

- *"Karishma brings a true knowledge of both the Indian and English legal markets which [is] really valuable in cross-border disputes involving those jurisdictions where you have elements of law from both"* The Legal 500 UK 2024
- *"Karishma is extremely hard working and committed to her clients. She is responsive, friendly and a pleasure to deal with. She pursues her client's interests with dogged determination and does a lot of oral advocacy. She is known for her work on India related disputes."* The Legal 500 UK 2023
- *"A very hard working lawyer, who is always ready to go the extra mile for her client. Her written advocacy is of a high standard and she is able to break some complicated issues and present them in a simplified and persuasive manner."* The Legal 500 UK 2022
- *"Hard working, diligent, enthusiastic, good at building rapport with clients and instructing solicitors"* The Legal 500 UK 2021
- *"Very thorough and very committed – she knows her stuff, is tactically aware and sees the bigger picture and where we are going with it."* The Legal 500 EMEA 2021 (Tier 1)
- *"She is a forceful advocate who fights hard for her clients' interests."* The Legal 500 UK 2020
- *"Her analytical and systematic approach to matters are just one of her many hidden strengths."* A client instructing her on an LCIA arbitration
- Mrs Justice Cockerill: *"Ms Vora... has done an excellent job..."*
- Mr Justice Picken: *"...was grateful for Ms Vora's clear submissions"*

## Memberships

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### Committee Member

- Serving member of FICCI's arbitration arm, the Indian Council of Arbitration's international advisory committee.
- Serving committee member on two COMBAR subcommittees - The COMBAR India Subcommittee and the COMBAR UAE subcommittee. Karishma is also 39 Essex Chambers' representative for COMBAR.

- Served on the organising committee of the Bar Council's Annual Bar Conference in 2018
- Gray's Inn Barristers' Committee (January 2014 – January 2017)

## Memberships

- The Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- The Chancery Bar Association
- African Arbitration Association (AfAA)
- The London School of Economics Lawyers Alumni Association
- Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi
- Bombay Bar Association, Mumbai
- Life member of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

## Qualifications

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### Education

- Karishma is an alumna of and taught commercial law at the London School of Economics.
- 2003 London School of Economics and Political Science, BSc (Hons)
- 2006 Government Law College, Mumbai, LLB (first)

### Scholarships and Prizes

- 2017 Karishma won the 'Commercial Disputes Lawyer of The Year Award' conferred by The Lawyer Monthly Women In Law Awards
- 2015 Karishma was nominated for the Rising Star Award at the Society of Asian Lawyers Annual Awards
- 1999-2003 London School of Economics entrance grant
- 1997-1999 The Mahindra United World College scholarship
- 1997 The Leela Moolgaokar Award for academic excellence at the ICSE (10th grade)
- 1997 The Bombay International School award for topping the ICSE examinations (10th grade)

## Additional Information

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### Publications

- 2021 *"Anti-suit Injunctions"* in a Thompson Reuters published book titled 'Commercial Arbitration: International Trends and Practices'.
- 2021 "ERP Software Disputes: Common Pitfalls".
- 2020 "Why not be less shy in the use of Worldwide Freezing Injunctions?"
- 2015 Indian arbitration law: A roundup of the year 2015
- 2015 India's landmark judgments on arbitration law from 2014

### News

- Indian banks win UK High Court challenge over unpaid loans by Singapore's GVK - The Economic Times
- Gvk: 6 Indian banks win \$2bn case against GVK in London HC - Times of India

- [PNB's UK subsidiary loses Rs 320 crores fraud case – Times of India](#)
- [New UK ruling on PNB debt recovery stayed | World News - Hindustan Times](#)
- [Mallya could escape extradition through asylum route - Times of India](#)
- [Vijay Mallya's extradition delayed, speculation mounts over his application for asylum - Times of India - New India Life](#)
- [From Bombay HC to London's Royal Courts of Justice: Karishma Vora's long journey to become an English barrister - Legally India - Career Intelligence for Lawyers, Law Students](#)
- ['There is no dearth of work in India. In England, one has the luxury of time to prepare for a case.' Karishma Vora, Second dually qualified barrister in India and England after Salve \(livelaw.in\)](#)

## Webinars

- [Conference hosted by IAMC Hyderabad and White & Case in London - Arbitration In India: From Challenges To Opportunities - A Roadmap To 2030.](#)
- [Conference hosted by Indian Council of Arbitration \(ICA\) - Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes" Indian Council Of Arbitration Holds The Second Edition Of "Arbitrating Indo-UK Commercial Disputes" Conference In London \(livelaw.in\)](#)
- Kenya-UK Legal Symposium organized by Bar Council of England and Law Society of Kenya. Karishma spoke on 'The rise in the use of cryptocurrencies in business and fraud' and 'International commercial arbitration and ADR – hot Africa-related topics' [Kenya-UK Legal Symposium \(barcouncil.org.uk\)](#)
- India Round Table Conference organized by Combar. Karishma spoke on 'Getting Parties In – Can non signatories be required to arbitrate?'
- Karishma's webinars can be accessed on her YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck5iGBRWNw7rOZLmx7JG18Q>
- [Conference hosted by Indian Council of Arbitration \(ICA\) - Arbitration in the Era of Globalization](#)
- [Webinar hosted by SIAC India - India's experience with Emergency Arbitrations](#)
- [Webinar hosted by Nishith Desai & Associates - Not a MANel](#)
- [Webinar hosted by Howard Kennedy and Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co - Enforcement – harnessing the real power of arbitration?](#)
- [Conference hosted by Indian Council of Arbitration \(ICA\) - Shareholder Disputes](#)
- [Webinar hosted by At Home, Around the World – Technology and its impact on the way disputes are managed](#)
- [Interview by Her Forum - Being triple qualified in England, India and DIFC](#)
- [Interview by Alumni Association of Government Law College Mumbai - Learnings from practicing law overseas](#)
- Webinar hosted by LexisNexis - [Latest commercial contracts](#)
- Conference hosted by [Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration \(MCIA\) - Institutional Arbitration - The way the world arbitrates](#)
- [Conference hosted by African Arbitration Association \(AfAA\) – Interplay between Arbitration and Litigation: the important role played by domestic courts in safeguarding disputing parties' choice to resort to arbitration](#)

## Languages

- Hindi (fluent)
- Gujarati (fluent)
- Marathi (basic)

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