



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

International Arbitration

"Her analytical and systematic approach to matters are just one of her many hidden strengths." A client instructing her on an LCIA arbitration

Karishma is instructed in arbitrations under the auspices of the ICC, LCIA, SIAC and MCIA rules and in commodity arbitrations such as under the LME and RSA rules. Her command over conflict of laws makes her an attractive choice for complex arbitrations. For example being instructed as counsel in a London seated ICC arbitration governed by Sudanese law.

She regularly acts as an arbitrator on a panel of three or as a sole arbitrator in ad hoc and institutional arbitrations.

Her being invited as a speaker by the [Global Arbitration Review \(GAR\)](#), at the Paris and Dubai Arbitration Weeks, by the CI Arb etc. is a demonstration of how well she is regarded in the field of international arbitration. Karishma is often invited to author articles and chapters for leading international arbitration publications including by Thomson Reuters.

Cases of note

- ***Uttam Galva Steels Ltd v Gunvor Singapore Pte Ltd* [2018] 2 Lloyd's Rep 152** Defended a US\$35m claim under the London Metal Exchange arbitration rules and brought a section 67 challenge on whether an arbitrator has powers to grant summary judgment and arbitrability of bills of exchange when the arbitration clause was contained in the master sales agreement.
- ***Malhotra v Malhotra* [2012] EWHC 3020 (Comm)** Represented exiting shareholders in a Geneva seated, LCIA arbitration governed by English law concerning breach of non-compete provisions in a US\$225m private equity dispute.
- Advised on an international arbitration worth over US\$ 1 billion concerning the development of the covid-19 mRNA vaccines.
- Instructed by a leading defence manufacturer in a US\$200m liquidated damages arbitration seated

in Asia.

- Instructed in an interim application before the Commercial Court in London in aid of a Singaporean arbitration under the SIAC rules pursuant to the trigger of a share pledge in the automobile industry.
- Defended a US\$79m London-seated LCIA arbitration concerning the acquisition of a Russian coal mine.
- Instructed in a London-seated LCIA arbitration by a leading distributor of skincare products in China and Asia following a breach of a distribution agreement.
- Represented a top steel company in a SIAC arbitration against a Chinese company in relation to payments that were the subject of fraud.
- Karishma is frequently instructed in arbitrations before the Refined Sugar Association (RSA) and has acted in matters arising out of CNF and FOB contracts for shipment of sugar.

Recommendations

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

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

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

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/UCh5iGBRWNw7rOZLmx7JG18Q>
- 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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