

2024 Annual Report



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**ADR Connecting the World** 







**Dr. Walid Abanumay** 

Chairman

Chairman and board member of various national & international companies



Mr. Toby Landau KC

**Vice Chairman** 

Barrister (King's Counsel), Arbitrator, and Advocate



**Prof. Georges Affaki** 

Lawyer, Independent Arbitrator and Professor of Law University of Paris



**Ms. Abby Cohen Smutny** 

Partner and Global Co-Head of International Arbitration White & Case



**Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf** 

Lawyer, Head of the International Arbitration Group at Abdel Raouf Law Firm, and Associate Professor at both the Pantheon-Sorbonne University School of Law in France and the German University in Cairo



Dr. Saud Al-Ammari

Lawyer and Independent Arbitrator

Saud Al-Ammari Law Firm



Mr. Sulyman Al-Majed

Chairman and board member of various of national and foreign companies



Dr. Abdullah Al-Ajlan

Partner, Head of Litigation & Dispute Resolution
AS&H Law Firm



Mr. Abdullah Al-Hashim (Rahimahullah)

**Managing Partner** 

Al-Jadaan & Partner Law Firm



Dr. Ali Al-Sowailam

Founder and Managing Partner

The Saudi Office, Lawyers & Consultants









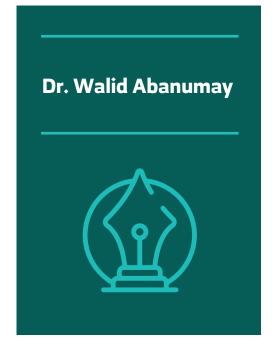
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"All roads lead to Riyadh."

That was the tagline of the inaugural Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW), organized by SCCA last year. The event drew remarkable turnout from the international and local ADR community, putting it on a par with major arbitration weeks elsewhere in the world.

We said at the launch of RIDW that it would be a regional destination, attracting ADR professionals and organizations from all over the world. Today, the figures from RIDW are a testament to strong interest in the Saudi economy among business firms generally and the ADR community in particular, further evidence of the unbeatable investment opportunities to be found amid the megaprojects taking place in Saudi Arabia.

RIDW encompassed 92 specialized legal events, all of which were conducted in person in Riyadh in a five-day span. These activities were organized by 105 hosts and attended by 4,900 participants from 79 countries.

The plan is for RIDW to become a fixture on the calendar of major international legal events, held annually by SCCA with the aim of exploring ADR opportunities in MENA largest economy, providing a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience, and forging relationships and collaboration.

Midway through RIDW, SCCA wrapped up the fifth edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot (SIAM), which was held in person for the first time in Riyadh. The final stages of SIAM unfolded at RIDW with a wide range of local and international teams who came to Saudi Arabia, fulfilling the vision of SIAM to be the Arab international incubator for future generations of arbitrators and legal practitioners.

It should be emphasized in this regard that this intense activity undertaken by SCCA to advance the ADR environment in Saudi Arabia and the region proceeded in parallel with SCCA's core activity of commercial dispute resolution and case management. New cases filed with SCCA totaled 120 last year, a 30 percent increase compared to 2023 and the highest one-year figure in SCCA's history. SCCA reached this mark in its ninth year in operation, faster than other major international arbitration centers.

SCCA has truly come into its own. This is the reality we are living, so welcome to the pages of SCCA's 2024 report.

# Remarks from the CEO







**Dr. Hamed Merah** 



The main task of any arbitration center is to attract and manage cases. This is a fact no arbitration center would deny, and it is a task SCCA has truly mastered, achieving new records in its caseload.

SCCA, though, treats case management as the starting point for a broader and more impactful mission, which is to advance the arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) industry in the Middle East and North Africa. Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW) is SCCA's latest initiative in pursuit of this goal, launched with the aim of creating an international platform that brings together ADR stakeholders from all over the world in the heart of Riyadh.

The inaugural RIDW last year achieved remarkable success and brought in diverse international attendees representing key actors in the global ADR industry. The cornerstone of RIDW was the SCCA 3rd International Conference and Exhibition (SCCA24), which featured 30 international and local speakers, including dignitaries, experts, and officials, and attracted more than 1,200 attendees. SCCA24 was the site of the signing of an agreement for SCCA to host the Ciarb Saudi Arabia Branch. This is a new initiative in the SCCA portfolio, joining RIDW, the SCCA International Arabic Moot (SIAM), and SCCA Academy. Together, they form an integrated framework through which SCCA is working to develop the pillars of the ADR industry and bolster the practice of

ADR in Saudi Arabia and the region.

On the case management front, SCCA has further integrated digital solutions into the structure of its operations and has employed these soolutions to manage its cases and serve its clients. it managed to finish building the Case Management System (CMS) – which will be launched soon – digitalizing 10 ADR services, automating more than 600 workflows, more than 150 communications templates, and aggregating more than 1,500 data points for monitoring and reporting.

SCCA also continued its efforts to build trust with clients who are parties to contractual relationships across various local and international business sectors. Last year alone, it held more than 88 meetings and visits with government agencies, companies, law firms, and international and diplomatic organizations. These efforts by SCCA since its establishment have resulted in increased local and international reach, as well as growth in the number and quality of cases, with an average growth rate of 65 percent over the past four years and 28 nationalities represented among parties to cases.

Last year alone, 120 cases were filed with SCCA. Arbitration accounts for 73 of the cases, or 61 percent – a 59 percent increase compared to 2023 – while the amounts in dispute rose to 304 million USD, up 58 percent from 2023.





### March



Riyadh International Disputes Week



3rd International Conference and Exhibition



between SCCA and Jus Mundi to analyze Saudi judicial rulings

2024







by an official delegation from the Hong Kong government at SCCA headquarters



of Ciarb Saudi Arabia Branch



of the recognition of electronic arbitration awards at UNCITRAL in Vienna









**120** Cases

registered in 2024

30%
increase
compared

to 2023





73

**Arbitrations** 

**59%** 



8

Mediations



39

À la carte Services

11%



Arbitrators:

102

91% Male 9% Female





304 Million USD

Total Amount in Dispute

58%

166

Average days to disposal of all arbitrations

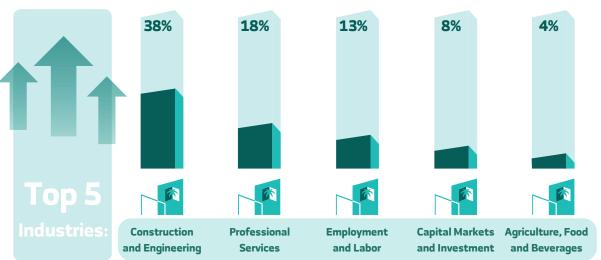








**Industries** represented in SCCA caseload







represented in SCCA caseload



























Total of 28















































# Tireless efforts

to raise the profile of SCCA and the commercial dispute resolution environment in the Kingdom

SCCA continued its series of meetings with stakeholders in the field of commercial dispute resolution, both within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and abroad. The aim of these meetings was to familiarize the dispute resolution community with SCCA and the quality services it provides, as well as to highlight the Kingdom's efforts to transform its judicial environment into one that is safe and supportive for commercial dispute resolution.



# More than 88 Business Meetings











#### **Public Sector**





































هيئة المدن والمناطق الاقتصادية الثاصة Economic Cities and Special Zones Authority

#### **Communications and Information Technology**









































#### **Private Sector**

























صدارة Sadara















#### **Law Firms**



**LATHAM**&

WATKINSLLP



THREE CROWNS

















EYAD REDA



MCNAIR

RESOLVING GLOBAL DISPUTES









#### **International and Non-profit Organizations**





中国国际经济贸易仲裁委员会
CHETAC CHINA INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND TRACE AMERITRATION COMMISSION



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL



SITC























#### Memorandums of Understanding & Cooperation Agreements





SCCA's outreach efforts resulted in the signing of cooperation agreements with several organizations connected to the **dispute resolution** industry, which aim at building strategic partnerships to advance the growth of the industry and enhance the level of practice both locally and internationally.



Memorandum of Understanding With the Saudi Ministry of Investment





#### **Areas of Cooperation:**

- SCCA will offer advisory services and specialized technical support to the Ministry.
- SCCA will provide training services in the field of ADR.
- Strengthening the incorporation of the arbitration clause under SCCA's administration in the Ministry's contracts and its ecosystem.



Cooperation Agreement With the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation





#### **Areas of Cooperation:**

- ■Establishing a representative office for SCCA in the special logistics areas under the Authority's supervision.
- SCCA will provide training services in the field of ADR.
- Strengthening the incorporation of the arbitration clause under SCCA's administration in the Authority's contracts.







#### **Memorandum of Understanding With SIAC**





#### **Areas of Cooperation:**

- Facilitating the utilization of alternative dispute resolution services provided by both institutions.
- Enabling the administration of arbitration and mediation sessions at each other's facilities by the respective institutions.
- Providing support for any major event organized by the two parties in Saudi Arabia and Singapore.



#### Agreement With Ciarb to Host the Saudi Arabia Branch

# ciarb



#### **Areas of Cooperation:**

- SCCA shall support the Saudi Arabia Branch of Ciarb in cooperating with Ciarb.
- The parties shall collaborate in relation to the Branch activities.



#### **Agreement on General Arrangements with ICSID**





#### **Areas of Cooperation:**

- Facilitating the utilization of ADR services provided by both institutions.
- Enabling the administration of arbitration and mediation sessions at each other's facilities by the respective institutions.
- Cooperating in disseminating knowledge about arbitration, conciliation, mediation, etc.







# Platforms for dialogue

to promote collaboration and innovation

SCCA pursues active participation in international and local gatherings connected to dispute resolution, whether in the role of organizer, speaker, or supporter. These events provide a chance to raise the profile of SCCA and its operations, explore opportunities, and establish partnerships with influential institutions in the industry.









# **Exploring opportunities for the industry**

in MENA's largest economy



Riyadh International Disputes Week 2024 (RIDW24) was a standout international event that brought together major players in the dispute resolution industry, along with various government bodies, companies, and relevant international organizations. They all gathered in the heart of Riyadh to explore opportunities in the largest economy in MENA, exchange knowledge and experiences, and establish collaborations and partnerships through a series of specialized legal activities held in-person in Riyadh.































# Projecting the growth prospects of the industry

As the centerpiece of RIDW24, the SCCA 3rd International Conference and Exhibition (SCCA24) presented a unique opportunity for leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders in Saudi Arabia, the Middle East, and around the world to explore growth prospects and international trends in the dispute resolution industry.





















#### **Attendance at International Arbitration Weeks**



SCCA continued to attend international arbitration weeks in London, Paris, China, and Dubai, to meet leaders and pioneers in the industry from around the world and to showcase SCCA's work to advance its pillars in Saudi Arabia and the region.



















#### The 5th Edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot (SIAM5)

Featuring extensive international participation, the fifth edition of the SCCA International Arabic Moot (SIAM5) concluded during (RIDW24). The competition gives law students an opportunity to gain practical experience in international commercial arbitration, enhancing their practical skills and reinforcing their legal knowledge, thus shaping a skilled generation of legal practitioners in the Arab world.





700 Students



134 Teams



**111**Universities



221
Academics



Specialized
Training
Programs





















Shaping future generations of ADR practitioners

Through its training arm, SCCA Academy, SCCA offers a suite of training programs in two main forms, long-term programs (fellowships) and short-term programs, put on in partnership with selected international institutions involved in the development of the industry.

International
Fellowship in Commercial
Arbitration

In 2024, **286 candidates**, making up **12 classes**, enrolled in the program. The program enables successful candidates to attain Ciarb membership and to join an elite class of international arbitrators.

**Enrollment by module** 

Module 1

Module 2

Module 3





Mediation in Commercial Disputes

SCCA organized three rounds of the Mediation in Commercial Disputes program in Riyadh and Jeddah with the aim of providing those enrolled with the necessary knowledge and skills to practice commercial mediation in accordance with the latest international practices.



78

**Trainees** 







Arbitral
Tribunal Secretary
Preparation

The Arbitral Tribunal Secretary Preparation training program was implemented with the aim of providing trainees with knowledge and skills related to the role and duties of an arbitral tribunal secretary, using model arbitral disputes.



15

**Trainees** 





ADR
Clause Drafting

The ADR Clause Drafting Program was created with the aim of familiarizing participants with the essential elements of drafting a sound clause leading to the resolution of disputes.



39

**Trainees** 











Spreading SCCA's message and publicizing its initiatives

As an extension of its presence on the ground, SCCA maintained an active communications presence to publicize its services and initiatives and communicate SCCA's message to industry practitioners and institutions, with the aim of creating a positive perception of SCCA and its role in developing the dispute resolution system in KSA and the region.



120

Communications
Campaigns

through various media channels













1,200

**Posts** 

on SCCA social media channels







Impressions:

1.4

million







**Riyadh International Disputes Week 2024** (RIDW24) Coverage

Campaign Date:

> March 3-14, 2024

**Number of** Coverage Items:

items

#### **Media Engagement**



Items in mass media



+39

Media outlets covered the event



**73M** 

Reach



Social media Social media engaged with posts discussed the event the event



#### **Notable Campaigns**

#المركز\_السعودي\_للتحكيم\_التجاري حضور عدد من أصحاب السمو والفيادات من

The #SCCA International Conference features the attendance of Multiple

Excellencies, international organizations, and business administrators from the

المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري 🍫 ۱۰@Sadrorg مارس ٢٠٢٤ مارس ٢٠٢٤ 🚳

📸 | يشهد المؤتمر الدولي النالث لـ

.legal field

قطاع الأعمال والبيئة القانونية والمنظمات الدولية.



















#### **ADR and the Saudi Updated Investment Law**



August 11, 2024 Number of Coverage Items:

21 items















#### Coverage of the launch of the Ciarb Saudi Branch



Number of Coverage Items:













#### **Promotion of the SCCA Academy Programs 2024**













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