

Arbitrator, solicitor and consultant with a deep technical, commercial and operational experience of **oil & gas**, and an extensive expertise in **natural resources, energy, commodities, shipping, and infrastructure**. **Currently** involved in **several arbitrations** in **Europe, Africa** and the **Middle-East** relating to **shipping, construction** and **gas** matters.

Ruchdi started a career in 2001 working in **international arbitration** with **Professor Ibrahim Fadlallah**. In 2006, he joined Herbert Smith in London and specialised as an **energy lawyer**. Prior to returning to international arbitration in 2023, he pursued a legal and commercial career in the **LNG industry**, becoming ultimately the **CEO** of a subsidiary of a **KOGAS**, the world's largest **LNG buyer**.

Overview

- Expert in natural resources, energy, commodities, shipping and infrastructure
- Arbitration experience in over 20 cases (ICC, LCIA, DIAC, ICSID and LMAA), from 2001 to 2007, and since 2023
- Civil law and common law educated, qualified in England & Wales and Ireland
- Bilingual in English and French, fluent in Spanish and Italian, working knowledge of Arabic and Japanese
- Dual Lebanese and French citizen

Relevant Experience

Arbitration

- Charterparty dispute relating to dry bulk (LMAA, London, English law)
- Gas sales agreement, confidential dispute relating to a breach of contract and force majeure (ICC, Vienna seat, Austrian law)
- Construction, disputes relating to a project in the Middle-East (DIAC, Dubai seat, local law)
- Construction, dispute relating to an infrastructure project in Africa, (ICC, Paris seat, French law)
- Construction, confidential dispute relating to a power project in the Middle-East (ICC, Paris seat, local law)
- Service agreement, confidential dispute relating to a breach of an advisory agreement in relation to construction projects in Western Africa (ICC, Paris seat, French law)
- Textile industry, investor-state dispute (ICSID, US claimant, Egypt)
- Lottery, investor-state dispute in the lottery industry (ICC, London seat, Zambian law)
- Chemicals M&A, dispute relating to a breach of warranty in the sale of a chemical plant (LCIA, London seat, Delaware law)
- Infrastructure construction dispute (LCIA, London seat, English law)
- Mining, expropriation and fraud (LCIA, London seat, Russian law)
- Insurance M&A, misrepresentation (ICC, Paris seat, Egyptian law)
- Distribution, dispute in the textile industry between a licensor and a distributor (ICC, Paris seat, French law)
- Foundation, dispute between the beneficiaries of a foundation over control of the estate (ICC, Paris seat, Liechtenstein law)

Other dispute resolution

- LNG sale, negotiating the settlement of a dispute relating to a failure to deliver LNG from Australia to North-East Asia (English law)
- LNG time charterparty, settlement of a demurrage claim between the affiliates of a Korean and Chinese state-owned entities based in Singapore (English law)
- Oil production in a central Africa state, petroleum contract interpretation and settlement strategy in a confidential dispute with a Chinese investor relating to the production, sale and taxation of oil (local law)
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, contract interpretation and dispute strategy relating to a breach of the delivery terms by the seller in a long-term contract (English law)
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, contract interpretation and dispute strategy relating to a potential breach of a greenfield long-term contract (English law)
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, termination for prolonged force majeure of a long-term contract (English law)
- LNG terminal use agreement, import terminal in the USA, expert advice on market practice regarding termination in an AAA/ICDR arbitration
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, expert advice on market practice regarding price review prior to arbitration (English law)
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, dispute and second settlement following a breach of a first settlement agreement for failure to deliver under a long-term contract (English law)
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, commercial settlement for failure to deliver for alleged force majeure (English law)
- LNG sale and purchase agreement, price review settlement in a long-term contract (English law)

Industry

- **Upstream oil & gas:** Drafted, negotiated or advised on the full range of upstream oil & gas contracts, including production sharing contracts (PSC) and concessions (legal and fiscal terms), geophysical agreements, joint operating agreements (JOA), lifting agreements, sales, service agreements, and ancillaries
- **Oil & Gas M&A:** Advised on the sale and purchase of oil & gas assets in various jurisdictions across the world
- **Gas/LNG:** Drafted, negotiated or advised on the entire suite of LNG contracts, from the upstream to downstream gas sales. This includes project structuring, preliminary agreements, HOAs, LNG SPAs, lifting agreements, tolling agreements, shipping chartering agreements, terminal use agreements, transshipment agreements, gas sales agreements and others
- **LNG Sale and Purchase:** Negotiated and drafted many long-term LNG SPAs representing several million tons of LNG per year, as a seller and as a buyer. Representative examples include the Yamal LNG export project (several 20 years contracts, 16.5 Mtpa) and an import project in Pakistan where Ruchdi Maalouf was also lead negotiator (20 years, 2.3 Mtpa with Qatargas)
- **Shipping:** Drafted and negotiated long-term time charterparties for LNG carriers, trip-time charter parties, FSRU time charterparty and some ancillary agreements; oversaw operations and settled demurrage disputes
- **Gas/LNG:** Commercial experience with LNG projects including project structuring, construction, shipbuilding, ship chartering and operations

- **Trading:** Oversaw the legal, commercial and operational activities of a gas company. Commodities included LNG and some LPG. Commodities contracts included LNG MSPAs, confirmation notices, master ISDAs, time charterparties, LNG SPAs, LNG tolling agreements, LNG lifting agreements, and an incalculable number of term sheets
- **LNG Procurement:** Senior legal and commercial role in a greenfield integrated LNG import project in Pakistan
- **LNG Marketing:** Commercial manager for Yamal LNG, a greenfield project in the Russian Arctic region (largest LNG project decided in 2013)
- **Gas/LNG Consultancy:** Advised a North African oil & gas producer on LNG marketing strategy
- **Gas/LNG Pricing:** Advised on price review settlement, drafted and advised on drafting price clauses in gas and LNG sales agreements, negotiated price in long-term LNG SPAs, portfolio LNG sales, spot LNG sales and LNG tenders (buy, sell, spot and long-term)

Professional Memberships

- Solicitor, **England & Wales** and **Republic of Ireland**
- Member, **Association of International Energy Negotiators**
- Supporting Member, **London Maritime Arbitrators Association**
- Member, **LCIA**
- Member, **Association Francarbi**
- Member, **Société de législation comparée**
- Member, **ICC Lebanon**
- Panels and lists: **SIAC, CCI France, ICC Lebanon, DIAC, OCAC, BICAM, ArbitrateAD**

Education and Academic Credentials

2017 - 2021	Associate Professor , Law and economics of gas and LNG, IFP Training <i>List of courses taught below</i>
1996 - 1997	LL.M , University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) <i>Attended the arbitration course by Profs Julian Lew and John Adams at QMW College</i>
1994 - 1995	Erasmus program, KU Leuven <i>Attended the International trade law course taught by Prof. Hans Van Houtte</i>
1991 - 1995	Maîtrise en droit (French law degree), Université Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne <i>Attended the arbitration course taught by Pierre Mayer and Jean-Denis Bredin</i>

Languages

- **French, English, Spanish, Italian:** Fluent
- **Japanese, Arabic:** Intermediate

Career Outline

2023 - present	Arbitrator and tribunal secretary in Europe, Asia and the Middle-East
2022 - 2023	COO and acting CEO, Kogas International - Singapore
2017 - 2020	Head of Oil & Gas, De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés - Paris
2016 - 2017	LNG and Gas Expert, Berkeley Research Group - Singapore
2015 - 2016	Head of LNG Supply and general counsel, Global Energy Infrastructure Ltd -Singapore, Islamabad
2013 - 2014	Commercial Manager, Yamal LNG - Moscow, Singapore
2011 - 2012	Associate, Norton Rose LLP - Singapore
2010 - 2011	In-house secondment, Korea Gas Corporation – Bundang (South Korea)
2006 - 2011	Trainee and Associate, Herbert Smith LLP - London, Tokyo
2004 - 2005	Arbitrator's assistant, Arthur Marriott QC - London
2001 - 2004	Arbitrator's assistant, Professor Ibrahim Fadlallah - Paris

Recent Publications

LNG Sales and Trading Contracts

Oil & Gas Contracts, Principles and Practice, Peter Roberts (ed), 4th edition, Sweet & Maxwell (2025)

International LNG contracts (2nd ed)

Oil, Gas & Energy Law, OGEL (planned in 2026)

LNG sales agreements: towards commoditization?

The Encyclopaedia of Midstream and Downstream Oil and Gas, Eduardo Pereira and Kim Talus (editors), 2nd edition, Globe Business Publishing (2023)

The Portfolio SPA: A Tool of Portfolio Marketing

Oil, Gas & Energy Law, OGEL (2020)

Force majeure in the era of coronavirus – challenging times for common sense?

Petrostrategies, 20 April 2020

The essential evolution of LNG trading – Moving to GTCs

Journal of World Energy Law and Business, Oxford University Press, Oct 2018

Lebanon's first offshore licensing round and the prospects of deepwater gas developments

Oil, Gas & Energy Law, OGEL 1 (2015) - Natural Gas Developments: An International and Challenging Legal Framework

Contractual Issues in International Gas Trade with Peter Roberts

Research Handbook on International Energy Law, Kim Talus (editor), E. E. Publishing (2014)

LNG unchained: New value propositions are needed to support the growth of the gas industry

Petrostrategies, 1 December 2014

What is required for the creation of a spot LNG market in Asia?

Petrostrategies, 11 March 2013

LNG swaps market is leap forward as hedge for cargo and trading activities, with James Atkinson

LNG Journal, November-December 2012

Improving Efficiency and Liquidity in the Short-Term LNG Markets

CWC LNG & Gas Leaders' Forum, September 2012

The short term LNG market: the case for general terms and conditions for LNG sales

LNG Journal, May 2012

Section 20(8A) TMA 1970: When are there reasonable grounds to believe a class of taxpayers has failed to comply? with Heather Gething

F.I.T.A.R., March 2007

The Prerequisites to the Emergence of a new *lex mercatoria* in the theories of Clive Schmitthoff and Berthold Goldman

SOAS Occasional Papers, March 2001

Trainings and Seminars

Force Majeure in International Supply Contracts, Common Law and Civil Law Perspectives

Société de Législation Comparée, Paris, 9 April 2025

LNG Economics and Law Courses

Various tailored IFP Training courses from 2017 to 2020:

- **Le GNL : l'amont et l'aval, les ventes et les autres contrats caractéristiques** (40 hours), 2021
- **LNG: Technical aspects, trade, projects, marketing, contracts and operations** (30 hours), 2019
- **Le droit et l'économie du gaz : Cadre juridique et institutionnel, contrats et ventes** (20 hours), 2019
- **LNG terminals, markets and financing** (16 hours), 2017 and 2018

Upstream Licensing and Fiscal Terms Course (20 hours)

Sponsored by the African Legal Support Facility, for the Central African Republic, Kigali 2-6 December 2019

Arbitration in the LNG Trade Seminar

Third Annual Arbitration and Investment Forum in the Bahamas, Nassau 23 January 2015

LNG pricing overview

Workshop On Best Practices In Gas Market Regulation organised by the U.S. Department of Commerce for the oil and gas regulator of Pakistan, Singapore, 14 January 2015

The standardisation of the LNG short term trading terms - Can contracts improve efficiency and liquidity?

KOGAS Seminar, Bundang, 16 October 2012

Boilerplate clauses in LNG Master Sales Agreements

KOGAS Seminar, Bundang, 3 April 2012