

### CONTRACT LAW OF QATAR

As Qatar's aspirations of becoming a key location for international dispute settlement and international trade grow, so too does the importance of understanding private law in Qatar and the Gulf states. In this innovative book, Ilias Bantekas and Ahmed Al-Ahmed provide an original, English-language treatise on the contract law of Qatar. Using an abundance of case law, the authors combine scholarly and practice-oriented expertise to develop a comprehensive treatment of Qatari contract law. The analysis is drawn from a wealth of judgements from the Qatari Court of Cassation and Court of Appeal, much of which was previously inaccessible to readers. Bringing sophisticated, detailed insights on Qatari law to an English-speaking legal audience, this is a vital text for academics, practitioners and students who wish to comprehend this increasingly influential global player. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Ilias Bantekas is Professor of Transnational Law at Hamad bin Khalifa University (Qatar Foundation) and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University. He has authored more than 200 articles in leading peer-reviewed journals, as well as 20 books, including *Islamic Contract Law* (co-author, 2023), *Introduction to International Arbitration* (2015), and *Commentary on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration* (2020).

Ahmed Al-Ahmed is a Former Legal Counsel at Qatar Energy and Former Senior Marketer at Qatar Petroleum for the Sale of Petroleum Products Company Limited. He has 15 years of experience in the Oil & Gas industry in commercial operations and trading of crude oil and its by-products. He provided legal advice on Qatar Energy's new business development activities and was responsible for drafting relevant agreements, regulatory approvals and venture setups.



Contract Law of Qatar

# **ILIAS BANTEKAS**

Hamad bin Khalifa University (Qatar Foundation)

# AHMED AL-AHMED

Formerly at Qatar Energy







Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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# Preface

The regulation of contracts is nowadays a matter of transnational concern. Countries in the Gulf have made great efforts to diversify their economies by, among others, enhancing and transnationalising their legal systems. Qatari contract regulation has gone through several phases of development and modemisation in its relatively short history, starting from its first civil code in the early 1970s that was inspired by the Egyptian civil code of 1948. Although this book focuses on Oatar's current civil code, as well as related legislation, the authors are not oblivious to the fact that a big part of the economy is cross-border in nature and by implication, most of the pertinent contracts are governed by foreign laws or (soft law) principles, such as the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts. There is equally an interplay between the influence, or the remnants, of Egyptian private law and the infusion of Anglo-American law as a result of the influx of foreign law firms in Oatar and their dominance in the market. Still, the regulation of contracts by Qatari law is substantial and most contracts entered by state entities are governed, to one degree or another, by this law. What is more, the sustained growth and investment in Gulf legal systems by GCC nations is slowly contributing to a diverse, pluralistic, rich and user-friendly body of private and commercial law that is attractive for global end-users.

For all these reasons, the authors believed it was compelling that a short, albeit comprehensive, exposition of Qatari contract law in the English language would be an important contribution to the global contract law literature. Practice suggests that foreign courts and arbitral tribunals encountering disputes governed wholly or partially by Qatari private law resort to expert opinions of dubious quality and utility. It is hoped that this book will not only change perceptions about the presumed exotic or esoteric nature of Qatari contract law, showing in the process that it is both transnational and modern in its outlook, but that courts, tribunals and non-Qatari legal experts will no



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longer be operating in the dark. Because this book was written as a comprehensive guide for the professional legal market, we assumed that fundamental concepts of contract law were familiar to our audience and so at times we dive in from the deep end. The book is structured in a manner emulating contract law textbooks in the common law and civil law tradition. In order to make the work comprehensive, the first chapter deals with the history and influences of Qatari contract law, whereas the last chapter addresses the very particular circumstances of the regulation of contracts in the Qatar Financial Center (QFC), the country's special economic zone. Although as will become evident Islamic law plays a minuscule role in the regulation of private law in Qatar, the authors nonetheless desired to provide the reader with some Islamic law background to key notions and concepts, even if the courts or litigants no longer refer to such historical background. We do so sparingly and only for the purpose of providing useful insights.

This work would not have been possible without the belief from our commissioning editors that Qatar's private law was worthy of global exposure. Our wholehearted appreciation, therefore, is extended to Finola O'Sullivan and Marianne Nield who were the backbone of the book. We express our gratitude to Safaa Jaber who provided invaluable research tracking down judgments that were inaccessible. Finally, many thanks to colleagues and friends who read and commented on the chapters. They are too many to mention. The authors would like to thank Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and particularly Susan Karamanian, Dean of the College of Law, who generously agreed to cover all expenses associated with the publication of this book. Despite its relatively short existence, HBKU College of Law has proven to be a leader in legal education not just in Qatar and the GCC, but also one of the top law schools in Asia. The authors welcome comments and suggestions from our readers. Ilias Bantekas wrote Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6–8 and 11–13. Ahmed Al-Ahmed wrote Chapters 2, 5 and 9–10.



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**Abbreviations** 

AC Appeal Court [Reports, Eng]

AHRLJ African Human Rights Law Journal

All ER All England Reports
Arab LQ Arab Law Quarterly

Art Article

BGB Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (German Civil Code)

BIT Bilateral Investment Treaty
CA Court of Appeal (England)

CC Civil Code

CCP Code of Civil Procedure
CFI Court of First Instance

chp chapter

CL Commercial Law
Colum L Rev Columbia Law Review

Comm. Commercial

Comm L World Rev Common Law World Review
CLR Commercial Registry Law

CRPD Convention on the Right of Persons with Disability

Doc Document

EC European Communities

ed editor

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

EU European Union

EWCA England and Wales Court of Appeal EWHC England and Wales High Court

FIDIC International Federation of Consulting Engineers

FL Family Law

GCC Gulf Cooperation Council

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xxii List of Abbreviations

H Hajira

HKLJ Honk Kong Law Journal

Int'l Surv. Fam. L International Survey of Family Law

JIDS Journal of International Dispute Settlement

KB King's Bench (Eng)

LL Labour Law

LLC limited liability company
Louisiana L Rev Louisiana Law Review
LPL Lease Property Law
LQR Law Quarterly Review

LR Law Reports (1865–1950, Eng)
MENA Middle East and North Africa
MENA Bus L Rev MENA Business Law Review

MoCI Ministry of Commerce and Industry

n.d. no date

NY Intl L Rev New York International Law Review

OUP Oxford University Press

PICC Principles of International Commercial Contracts

POE Power of Attorney
OAR Qatari riyals

QB Queen's Bench (QB)
QCL Qatar Companies Law
QFC Qatar Financial Center

QIC Qatar International Court [Reports]

SEZ Special Economic Zone UAE United Arab Emirates

UKHL United Kingdom House of Lords [Reports]

Uniform LR Uniform Law Review WLR Weekly Law Reports