



**Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration**





المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري  
Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration

March 2025 Edition





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# **The Global Arbitration Center... in Saudi Arabia**

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# 1

## Background and Founding



### The first Saudi arbitration clause

In 1923, Saudi Arabia's founder, King Abdulaziz signed a concession agreement with Maj. Frank Holmes, an agent of Eastern and General Syndicate Ltd., to drill for oil in Al-Ahsa. Paragraph 23 of the agreement provided for disputes to be referred

to arbitration in the event of a dispute. It also defined the scope and procedures for the arbitration and the finality of any arbitration awards rendered.







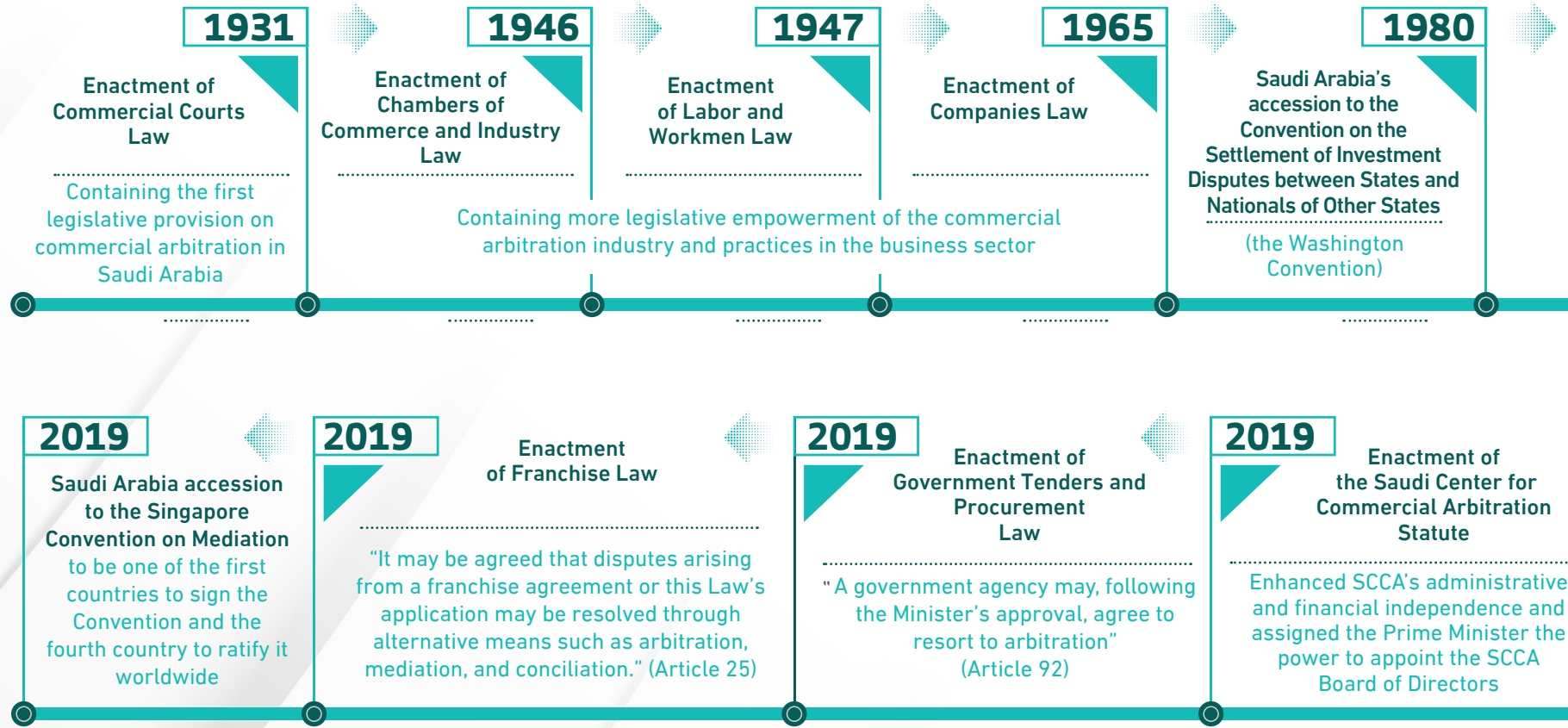
# 90 years between...



First Saudi arbitration clause

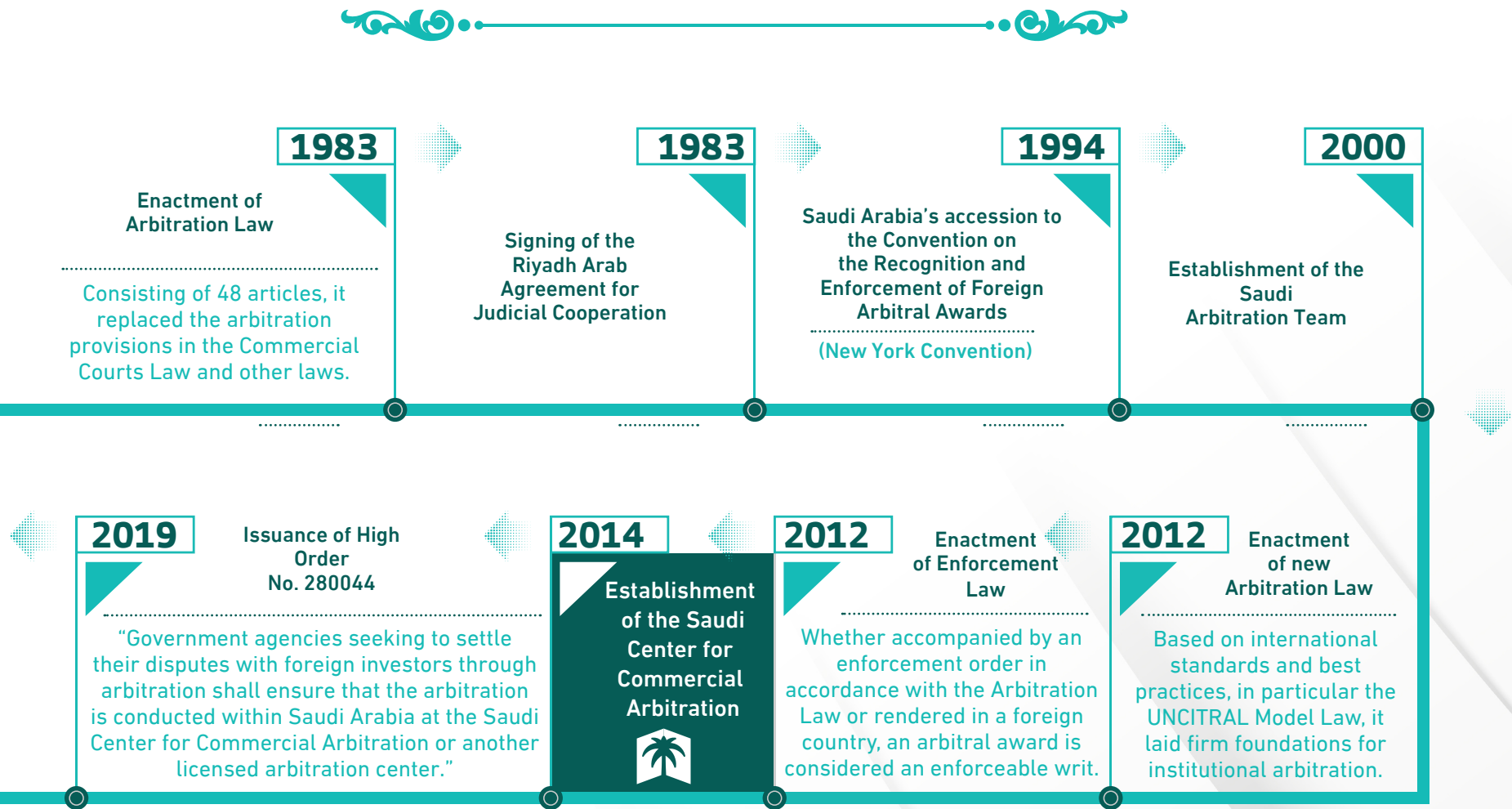


Establishment of Saudi Arabia's first arbitral institution





# A transformative journey of legislative, executive, and judicial support for the development of a national alternative dispute resolution industry





## The Cornerstone



"... II. To establish a center named the **Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration...** with its headquarters in Riyadh, to supervise arbitration procedures in commercial and civil disputes which the parties agree to settle through arbitration within the framework of this center. ..."

Saudi Cabinet Decree No. 257 of 14 April 2014

## The Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration Statute\*

1

"The Center shall be a juridical person that is financially and administratively independent and not-for-profit."

3

"The Center's Board of Directors shall be constituted by an order from the Prime Minister. ... No board member may hold government office or employment."

5

"The Board is the ultimate authority controlling Center affairs and conducting its business."

2

"Arbitral tribunals shall work independently of the Board ... [and] shall take no instructions relating to the performance of their work."

4

"Board members and Center employees shall work independently of the Council of Chambers and individual chambers, and they shall take no instructions from those bodies relating to the performance of their work."

6

"The Center shall ... participate in representing the Kingdom in the field of commercial arbitration on the local and international level."

\* Enacted by Cabinet Decree No. 448 of 30 April 2019



## Vision

**To be the preferred ADR choice in the region by 2030**



## Mission

SCCA is dedicated to providing professional, transparent, and efficient ADR services. SCCA services are inspired by Shariah principles and meet international standards. SCCA shall contribute to enhancing ADR awareness in order to create a safe investment environment that attracts both domestic and foreign investments.



## Values





# 2

## Saudi Center... Global Outlook



**By High Order\***

**A select group of local and international arbitration experts, Shariah and law specialists, and business leaders, all on one Board**

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\* By High Order No. 45319 of 23 March 2021

## SCCA Board of Directors



### Dr. Walid Abanumay

#### Chairman

Chairman and board member of various national & international companies



### Mr. Toby Landau QC

#### Vice Chairman

Member of Duxton Hill Chambers



### Dr. Mohamed Abdel Raouf

Head of the international Arbitration Group  
Abdel Raouf Law Firm



### Prof. Georges Affaki

Lawyer, Independent Arbitrator and Professor of Law  
University of Paris



### Dr. Abdullah Al-Ajlan

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



### Dr. Saud Al-Ammari

Lawyer and Independent Arbitrator  
Saud Al-Ammari Law Firm



### Ms. Abby Cohen Smutny

Global Head of International Arbitration Practice  
White & Case



### Mr. Musaab Al Muhaidib

CEO of the Entertainment Sector, Board member  
Al-Muhaidib Group



### Mr. Abdulaziz Alsubeaei

Board Member  
Mohammed Alsubeaei & Sons Investment Company (MASIC)



### Mr. Jingzhou Tao

Independent International Arbitrator





# SCCA Court

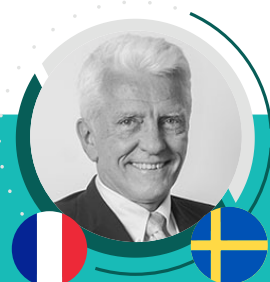
**An independent body within SCCA, composed of highly qualified and accomplished arbitration experts with international reputations in the ADR industry from all over the world.**

**Determining technical aspects related to the administration of arbitration and mediation cases under the auspice of SCCA and based on its rules and in accordance with international best practices.**





**Vice President**  
**Dr. Ziad Al-Sudairy**  
International Arbitrator; Principal  
Ziad Al-Sudairy Law Firm



**President**  
**Mr. Jan Paulsson**  
Consultant  
and Independent Arbitrator



**Vice President**  
**Mr. James Hosking**  
Founding Partner  
Chaffetz Lindsey LLP



**Dr. Mostafa Abdel Ghaffar**  
Former Judge  
Cairo Court of Appeal



**Dr. Tai-Heng Cheng**  
Global Co-Head of International  
Arbitration and Trade Practice  
and Co-Managing Partner  
Sidley Austin LLP



**Mr. Alec Emmerson**  
Independent Arbitrator and  
Mediator  
ADR Management Consultancies



**Ms. Jennifer Kirby**  
Principal  
Kirby international  
arbitration practice



**Ms. Sara Koleilat-Aranjo**  
Partner  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius



**Dr. Hamad Al-Kudiry**  
Former Acting Deputy  
Minister, MoJ; former  
President, Riyadh  
Commercial Court



**Ms. Sarah Lancaster**  
Chambers Director  
Arbitration Chambers  
(London, Hong Kong, New  
York)



**Prof. Loukas Mistelis**  
Partner, Clyde & Co; Profes-  
sor of Int. Arbitration, Queen  
Mary University of London



**Dr. Habib Al Mull**  
Founder  
Habib Al Mulla & Partners



**Mr. Tunde Ogunseitan**  
Arbitrator, Mediator and Counsel



**Dr. Majed Al-Rashed**  
Managing Partner  
Al-Rasheed Law Firm



**Dr. Laurence Shore**  
Partner  
Seladore Legal



# Global Advisory Committee

**If you want to come in first ... You must be the best**

A group of international arbitration experts from Saudi Arabia and around the world, the committee provides advisory support to SCCA to maintain its domestic and international standing in the arbitration industry.

The committee provides guidance and direction for the continuous improvement of SCCA's working rules, procedures, and services. It monitors international trends in the arbitration industry and advises SCCA on introducing new services or reviewing existing services.

**Committee Chair**



**Mr. Richard Naimark**  
Principal  
Naimark Dispute Resolution



**Dr. Fahad Abuhimed**  
Managing Partner  
AS&H Law Firm



**Dr. Mostafa Abdel Ghaffar**  
Former Judge  
Cairo Court of Appeal



**Prof. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Wahab**  
Founding Partner  
Zulficar & Partners



**Mr. Ben Cowling**  
Partner  
Clyde & Co



**Mr. Alec Emmerson**  
Independent Arbitrator and Mediator  
ADR Management



**Prof. Franco Ferrari**  
Professor of Law  
New York University School of Law



**Mr. James Hosking**  
Founding Partner  
Chaffetz Lindsey LLP



**Mr. Timothy Martin**  
Managing Director  
Northumberland Chambers



**Mr. Michael Patchett-Joyce**  
Counsel and Independent Arbitrator  
Ely Place Chambers



**Ms. Erin Rankin**  
Partner  
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP



**Mr. Bernardo Cremades Sanz-Pastor**  
Founding Partner  
Cremades y Asociados



**Dr. Matthew Secomb**  
Partner  
White & Case



**Mr. Salman Al-Sudairi**  
Partner  
Latham & Watkins



# 3

## SCCA Services



**Accessible  
anywhere,  
anytime,  
for all business  
sectors**



SCCA provides  
**a wide range**  
of ADR services



in various forms to  
**meet the needs**  
of business sectors



aligned with  
**best standards and practices**  
at the global level



## Arbitration Services

1

### Standard arbitration

Institutional arbitration in accordance with time-tested procedural rules. An independent, expert arbitrator decides the dispute and issues a final award that is enforceable locally and internationally.



2

### Expedited arbitration

Meets the need for timely arbitration, particularly in small and midsize claims. It costs 30% less than standard arbitration and generally takes less than six months.



3

### Emergency arbitrator

For issuance of a temporary measure that cannot await the formation of an arbitral tribunal. SCCA appoints the emergency arbitrator within 24 hours of submission of the application.



4

### Online arbitration

For the resolution of disputes that do not exceed SAR 200,000 through fully virtual proceedings, resulting in an arbitration award within 30 days of the appointment of the arbitrator.







## Mediation Services



### Standard mediation



※ 1 ※

Institutional mediation by SCCA in accordance with its rules. A formal alternative that facilitates an amicable resolution agreed to by the parties to the case.

※ 2 ※

### Emergency mediation



For small-claim disputes that need an amicable resolution resolved typically under 60 days and after only one remote mediation conference. Proceedings make use of existing technology from the online filing until the settlement and issuance of an executive bond.

### Mediation facilitation



※ 3 ※

Facilitating party agreement to mediate disputes under SCCA Mediation Rules where no prior agreement to mediate existed.

## À La Carte Services

### Arbitrator selection and appointment

1



A transparent process that assists parties in non-SCCA-administered arbitrations to overcome the challenges associated with the selection of impartial and independent arbitrators that have subject-matter expertise and understand the importance of resolving disputes swiftly and efficiently.



A

#### List-only

SCCA provides a list of 5, 10, or 15 candidates based on the applicant's needs

B

#### Appointment authority

SCCA appoints a tribunal of one or three arbitrators, or the tribunal chair, based on the applicant's needs

C

#### List and appointment

A combination of list-only and appointment authority

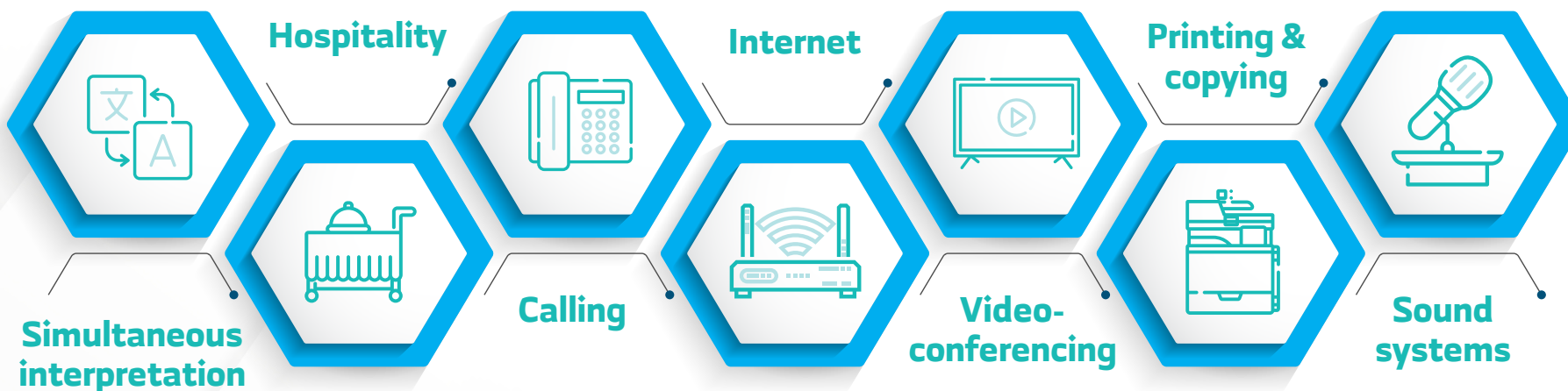


2



## Facilities

A suite of logistical support services for SCCA-administered and non-SCCA-administered arbitrations and mediations that enables all stakeholders to focus on the resolution of the dispute.

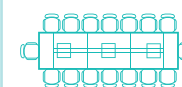


**SCCA facilities in Riyadh and Jeddah**  
Equipped with various forms of technical support for arbitration and mediation proceedings

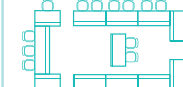
Mas'oliya Hall (Riyadh)



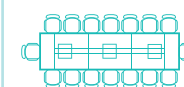
Nazah Hall (Riyadh)



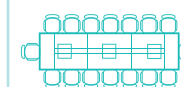
Hiyah Hall (Riyadh)



Al Shafaiyyah Hall (Jeddah)



Al Istiklaliyyah Hall (Dubai)



91

Seats



5

Conference rooms





**Mas'oliya Hall (Riyadh)**



**Hiyad Hall (Riyadh)**



**Nazah Hall (Riyadh)**



**Al Shafafiyah Hall (Jeddah)**



**Al Istiklaliyyah Hall (Dubai)**



# Arbitrator and Mediator Roster

580 +

Arbitrators  
and Mediators



SCCA Arbitrator and Mediator Roster is composed of highly qualified and accomplished professionals from the legal and business communities that have subject-matter expertise in a particular field to cover the needs of local and international business sectors.

24

Languages



52

Nationalities

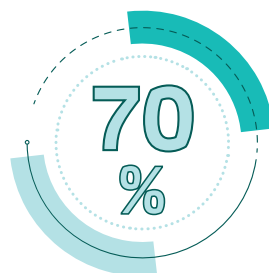


54

Specialties



• The above figures are subject to change.



**A passionate and experienced team with multifaceted skills and attention to detail that does not stand in the way of responsive, swift, and effective case management.**

**Staff**  
**Depth, Diversity & specialization**



\* The above figures are subject to change.

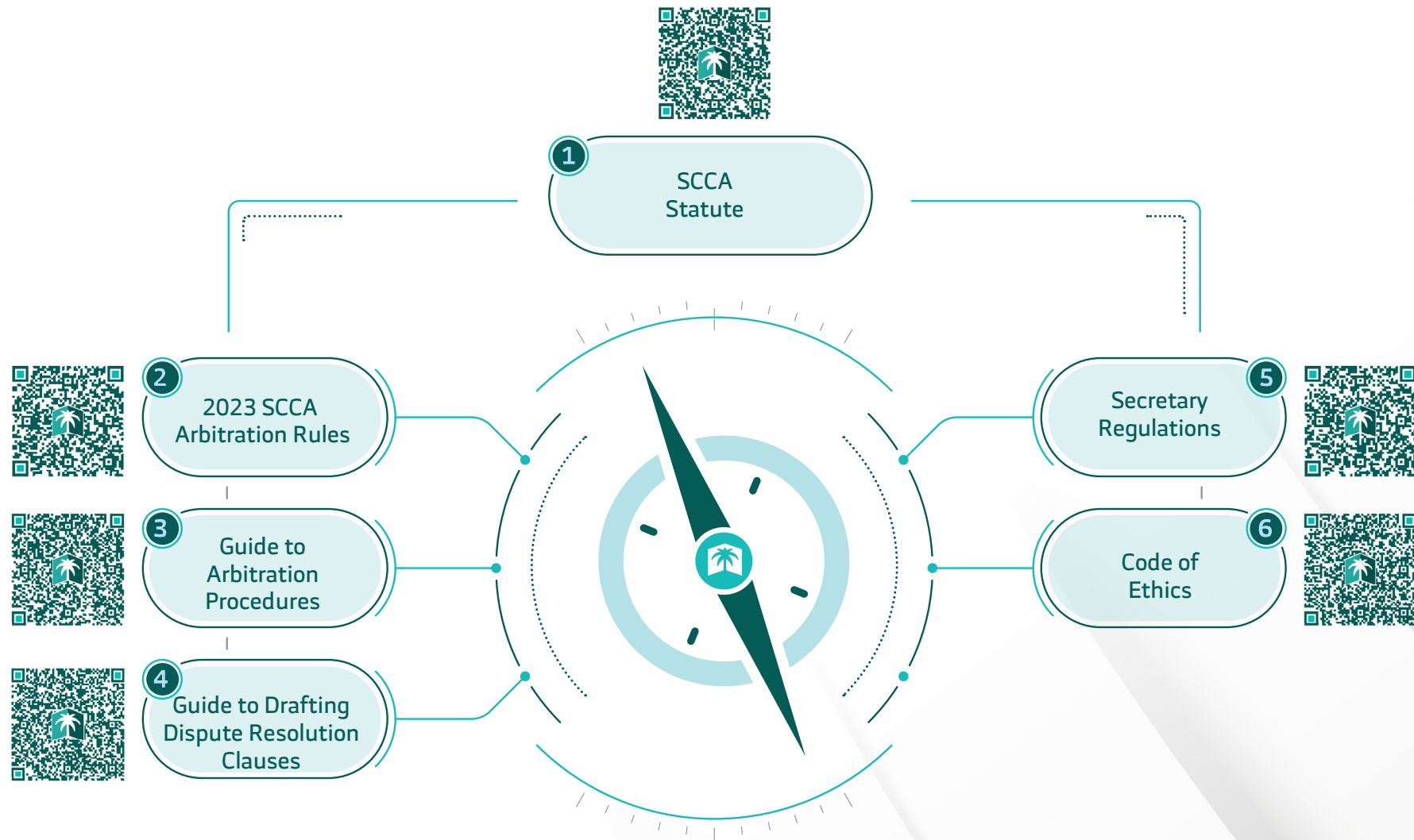




## A steady compass for institutional action



**SCCA rests on an integrated organizational structure of rules, standards, codes, and guides that ensure that ADR services are provided with an institutional approach consistent with international best practices and professional standards. This structure is accessible through the following links:**







المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري  
Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration





**A dispute resolution clause in your contracts is comprehensive insurance for your business**

المركز السعودي للتحكيم التجاري  
Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration

“Any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or relating to this contract, or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof, shall be settled by arbitration administered by the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (the “SCCA”) in accordance with the SCCA Arbitration Rules.”



The above is a model clause that can be used to draft an optimal dispute resolution clause for a commercial contract. SCCA recommends consulting a legal advisor before incorporating it into a contract.





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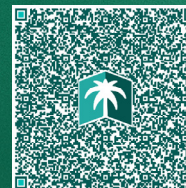
• — Contact Us — •

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## Visit us



### Riyadh – Headquarters

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Riyadh 12711 - 4183, Saudi Arabia



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1264 Jeddah 21431, KSA



### Dubai Office

Office # 307, 308, Al Fattan Currency House,  
Sheikh Zayed Rd - DIFC - Dubai P.O Box 747,  
Dubai, UAE