KNUD JACOB KNUDSEN, FCIArb

Independent Arbitrator
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Solicitor, England and Wales | Advocate, Norway (with rights of audience before the Supreme Court of Norway)

EXPERIENCE

Knud Jacob Knudsen is an independent arbitrator with 28 years of experience in dispute resolution. His practice focuses on international arbitration, with a particular emphasis on post-M&A, construction (onshore and offshore) and energy disputes.

Knud has served as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator and chair in both ad hoc and institutional proceedings, including cases under ICC, SCC, DIA, LCIA and FAI rules. He is listed or empanelled with several leading arbitral institutions, including SIAC, HKIAC, LCIA, DIAC, KCAB and SCIA.

As an arbitrator, he draws on a substantial background as counsel, having previously headed the international arbitration practice and the construction law practice at leading Norwegian law firms. In that capacity, he acted in numerous international arbitrations, including proceedings under the ICC, SCC, ICDR and NOMA rules, investment treaty arbitration under ICSID, and ad hoc arbitrations under the Norwegian Arbitration Act and the UNCITRAL rules.

As a board member of the SCC Arbitration Institute in Stockholm, he is closely involved in institutional decision-making, including the appointment of arbitrators, challenges and other procedural matters. This direct insight into the standards expected of tribunals ensures his own practice remains aligned with international best practices.

Knud is a Solicitor of England and Wales and an Advocate in Norway, where he holds rights of audience before the Supreme Court following judicial assessment. His dual qualification enables him to work across both common and civil law.

As an arbitrator, he approaches every mandate with equal diligence, ensuring that the value or complexity of a dispute never affects the quality of his work or the attention a matter receives. He seeks to manage cases collaboratively and efficiently, remaining open to argument while maintaining procedural discipline. He takes particular care in the drafting of awards, emphasizing clarity, substantive reasoning and enforceability.

Through his experience as arbitrator and counsel in cross-border disputes involving parties from the Nordics, the UK and continental Europe, the United States, and Asia-Pacific, he has developed a practical understanding of how legal arguments, procedural expectations and advocacy styles may differ across regions and legal systems. This insight ensures a neutral and predictable process where parties can be confident that their arguments are genuinely understood, regardless of their legal background.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Cand. jur.
1996 | University of Bergen

NATIONALITY

Norwegian

LANGUAGES

Norwegian | Native

English | Fluent

Danish | Professional Working Proficiency

Swedish | Professional Working Proficiency

RECOGNITION

Rankings

- *Recommended*, Arbitration — **Lexology 2026**
- *Band 4*, Construction — **Chambers Europe 2021–2025**

Selected Commentary

- "*Knud is widely regarded as one of the leading arbitration specialists in the Nordic region, with extensive experience in handling international commercial disputes*." - **Lexology: Arbitration 2026**
- "*He is highly sought after both as counsel and as an arbitrator.*" - **Lexology: Arbitration 2026**
- "*He has solid expertise, practical judgment and deep understanding of the field*." - **Lexology: Arbitration 2026**
- "*He is highly skilled and a pleasure to work with.*" - **Chambers Europe 2025**
- "*He … shows great care for the people he is representing and is able to adjust his strategy to make his clients feel comfortable during a legal process, when they sometimes are under big pressure*" - **Chambers Europe 2024**

Selected cases as an **International Arbitrator**:

- Sole arbitrator, ICC arbitration (expedited procedure) between European parties concerning the sale of goods in the aviation industry under Swedish law
- Co-arbitrator, LCIA arbitration between European and South American parties concerning the sale of commodities under English law
- Chair, DIA arbitration between parties from various European countries concerning a post-M&A dispute and W&I insurance policy under Danish law
- Chair, DIA arbitration between Dutch and Danish parties concerning a post-M&A dispute under Danish law
- Chair, DIA arbitration between European and US parties concerning a post-M&A dispute under Danish law involving the aviation industry
- Chair, FAI arbitration between Nordic parties concerning an energy dispute relating to the electricity market under Finnish law
- Chair, DIA arbitration between European and US parties concerning a dispute arising out of a distribution agreement relating to the defense industry under Danish law
- Chair, ad hoc arbitration between a Norwegian construction company and an international construction company concerning the construction of a new stretch of railway
- Sole arbitrator, SCC arbitration (expedited rules) between US and Swedish parties concerning contract interpretation and payment of outstanding invoices under Swedish law
- Sole arbitrator, DIA arbitration between German/Australian and Danish parties concerning a distribution agreement under Danish law, involving complex issues of Danish and EU competition law

Selected cases as Counsel

Post-M&A & Shareholder Disputes

- Ad hoc arbitration under the Norwegian Arbitration Act, acting for a Swedish listed company in connection with the sale of shares in a Norwegian company to a Danish buyer
- Supreme Court of Norway proceedings concerning a shareholder's failure to meet payment obligations in connection with a capital increase
- Supreme Court of Norway proceedings concerning the validity of general meeting resolutions and dividend distributions
- Supreme Court of Norway proceedings concerning shareholder rights and access to judicial scrutiny of a company
- Acting for a minority shareholder in disputes concerning pre-emptive rights in connection with share transactions

Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure

- ICC arbitration, acting for a Chinese listed company in a dispute concerning the termination of a joint venture for the construction of one of Northern Europe's longest suspension bridges
- Ad hoc arbitration, acting for a major Norwegian construction company in a dispute with a European wind farm company concerning the construction of one of Norway's largest wind farms
- Acting for one of Norway's largest construction companies in disputes arising out of the construction of a new highway project
- Acting for leading Norwegian contractors and developers in disputes concerning data centres, aluminium production facilities, major residential developments and public infrastructure projects
- Acting in complex construction disputes involving termination of contracts, defective engineering, and disputes between main contractors and subcontractors on large infrastructure projects

Energy, Oil & Gas (including Renewables)

- Ad hoc arbitration, acting for major international energy company in a dispute concerning the interpretation of contracts relating to the storage and throughput of fuels
- Acting for major Scandinavian construction companies in disputes concerning claims for additional payment and delay in connection with large-scale wind farm projects
- Counsel for an international oil services company in a comprehensive dispute concerning the decommissioning of oil production equipment in the North Sea

- Acting for international energy company in dispute concerning liability for contamination at petroleum facilities

Distribution Agreements & Commercial Contracts

- ICDR arbitration, acting for a Norwegian distributor in a dispute concerning termination and payment claims under a distribution agreement
- Acting in commercial disputes concerning termination, payment claims and damages under distribution and long-term commercial agreements, including in the retail industry and financial services sector
- Acting in disputes arising out of lease arrangements, partnership terminations and commercial advisory agreements

Shipping & Maritime

- SCC arbitration, acting for a Norwegian aquaculture company against an Asian shipyard concerning the construction of an offshore installation
- Acting in maritime disputes involving offshore installations and priority issues relating to ship mortgages

Investment Treaty Arbitration

- ICSID investment treaty arbitration, acting for a Norwegian telecommunications company in proceedings against the Republic of Chile

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Partner, Head of International Arbitration | Simonsen Vogt Wiig AS, Oslo |2022 – 2025

Partner, Head of Construction | Arntzen de Besche, Oslo |2017 – 2022

Partner – senior associate | DLA Piper Norway, Oslo |2006 – 2016 (partner from 2011)

Law Clerk | Norwegian Supreme Court, Oslo|2005 – 2006

Associate | DLA Nordic, Oslo |1997 – 2005

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- *Have the IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration Become Hard Law?* Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2025
- *International Arbitration,* Norway chapter, International Comparative Legal Guides, 2025
- *Supreme Court clarifies standard on conflicts of interest,* Newsletter for The Danish Arbitration Institute 2025
- *When an arbitrator's firm is related to a party*, Newsletter for The Danish Arbitration Institute 2024
- *Preserving evidence in arbitration proceedings: from a Swedish and Norwegian perspective,* Stockholm Arbitration Yearbook 2023
- *Recourse claims and arbitration agreements: an analysis of the Norwegian Supreme Court's ruling in HR-2023-573-A,* Norwegian Journal for Tort Law no. 5/2023
- *When must a party invoke an arbitration agreement,* Newsletter for The Danish Arbitration Institute 2023
- *Preserving evidence in arbitration,* Norwegian Journal for Commercial Law, No. 1/2023
- *Law commentary to the provisions of the Norwegian Arbitration Act,* Gyldendal Rettsdata 2023
- *Contractual remedies in the event of delays in construction projects,* Norwegian Journal for Commercial Law No. 2/2022

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Beat the Clock: Essential skills for Rising Arbitrators in Expedited Proceedings*, Paris Arbitration Week (2026)
- *Conflict of Interest and Hardening the Soft Law - Where Now?* Platforum9 (2026)
- *The implications of the Norwegian Supreme Court's ruling in HR-2025-921-A,* Wiersholm law firm's arbitration podcast – Woldgiftspodden (2025)
- *Using AI for clients' and counsel's benefit in international disputes: insights from counsel, AI developers and the SCC Arbitration Institute*, London International Disputes Week (2025)
- *AI in arbitration explained: useful basics, key legal issues and practicalities*, Paris Arbitration Week (2025)
- *Interim measures*, CIArb European Branch webinar (2025)
- *Practice related to oral hearings in international arbitration*, CIArb European Branch webinar (2024)
- *Artificial intelligence and international arbitration – procedural aspects*, The Croatian Arbitration Days (2024)
- *Client communication in arbitration*, Copenhagen Arbitration Day (2024)
- *Application of sanctions in international arbitration*, CIArb European Branch annual conference (2024)
- *Dispute resolution in Norway,* SCC Arbitration Institute (2024)
- *Arbitration in construction cases,* Legal Education Network (JUC) (2023)