

Knud Jacob Knudsen

Arbitrator**Nationality:** Norwegian**Languages:** Norwegian, English (fluent) Danish and Swedish (working knowledge)**Contact information:**

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Knud Jacob Knudsen is a highly experienced international arbitrator with a distinguished career in commercial dispute resolution. Recognised for his expertise in handling complex cross-border disputes, Knud has acted as counsel in numerous cases under ICC, SCC, DIA, UNCITRAL, ICSID, ICDR, and NOMA rules. He has been appointed as arbitrator by both parties and leading arbitral institutions, including the SCC and DIA.

With extensive experience in both ad-hoc and institutional arbitration, Knud has handled cases involving commercial contracts, construction projects (onshore and offshore), post-M&A disputes, company law conflicts, energy and maritime disputes, and professional liability matters. His deep understanding of Norwegian and international standard contracts, joint ventures, and partnering arrangements makes him a trusted decision-maker in arbitration proceedings.

Knud is a dual-qualified professional, holding the title of Supreme Court Attorney in Norway and being admitted as a Solicitor of England and Wales. His background includes significant experience as legal counsel in international arbitration, providing him with a comprehensive perspective on arbitral procedure, party dynamics, and case strategy. He also has a strong academic and professional foundation, having clerked at the Norwegian Supreme Court and led the construction department at Arntzen de Besche.

A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Knud is actively engaged in the arbitration community. He is a board member of the SCC Arbitration Institute and serves on the panels and lists of arbitrators for leading institutions, including HKIAC, SIAC, LCIA, and SCIA. He frequently contributes to international arbitration discourse through publications and speaking engagements, covering topics such as procedural efficiency, contract interpretation, and arbitral best practices.

Fluent in Norwegian and English, with working proficiency in Danish and Swedish, Knud effectively navigates multi-jurisdictional disputes, ensuring fair, well-reasoned, and enforceable arbitral decisions.

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Sector Expertise

- Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure
- Energy, Oil & Gas
- Shipping & Maritime
- Retail and Consumer Goods
- Mergers, Acquisitions & Shareholder Disputes

Experience

- Chair of the arbitral tribunal in an ad hoc arbitration between a Norwegian construction company and an international construction company concerning the building of a new stretch of railroad. The case involved two oral hearings lasting more than three weeks. The Norwegian Arbitration Act (based on the UNCITRAL model law) and the NOMA Guidelines applied to the case.
- Sole arbitrator in SCC arbitration concerning dispute over contract interpretation and payment of outstanding invoices under Swedish law between US and Swedish parties.
- Sole arbitrator in DIA arbitration concerning a dispute involving a distribution agreement between German/Australian and Danish parties. Danish law was the applicable law, and the cases raised complex questions concerning Danish and EU competition law.
- Legal counsel for a Swedish listed company in an ad hoc arbitration under the Norwegian Arbitration Act concerning the sale of the shares in a Norwegian company to a Danish buyer. The case involved a one-week oral hearing.
- Legal counsel for a Norwegian telecommunication company in investment treaty arbitration (ICSID) against the Republic of Chile.
- Legal counsel for a Norwegian aquaculture company in connection with an SCC arbitration against an Asian shipyard concerning the building of an offshore installation. The case involved a three-week oral hearing in Stockholm under SCC Rules.
- Legal counsel to Asian listed company in an ICC arbitration concerning the termination of a joint venture for building one of Northern Europe's longest suspension bridges. The oral hearing was held in Paris.
- Legal counsel for major international energy companies in an ad hoc arbitration against another major international energy company concerning interpretation of contracts regarding storage and through-put of fuels. The case involved a one-week oral hearing. Norwegian Arbitration Act and NOMA Rules and Guidelines applied to the case.
- Legal counsel for major Norwegian construction company in dispute with European windfarm company concerning the building of one of Norway's largest wind farms. Norwegian law and the Norwegian Arbitration Act applied to the case.

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Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure

Knud has extensive experience in construction projects, both onshore and offshore, including final settlement disputes and claims involving defects. He has represented builders, main contractors and sub-contractors, engineers, designers and architects. He has also represented clients in all types of projects, including various types of buildings (residential projects, factories, storage facilities, data centers, offices, schools, stores and museums) and infrastructure (bridges, tunnels, roads, windfarms and dams).

Knud is familiar with the various types of issues and disputes, including unexpected ground conditions, variation orders, delays and claims for liquidated damages and time extension, design and engineering errors, and defects. He is also very familiar with all types of construction contracts, both the FIDIC suite of contracts and Norwegian standard contracts, including EPC contracts, Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) contracts, Design and Build contracts, fixed price contracts and unit price contracts.

Many of the cases he has handled have been complex, both legally and technically.

Examples of cases:

- Representing one of Norway's largest construction companies in a dispute before the district court with the Norwegian Roads Authority concerning the building of a new stretch of highway
- Representing a Chinese construction company in district court proceedings in connection with the building of one of Europe's longest suspension bridges
- Representing one of Norway's leading construction companies in connection with the building of an aluminum production facility
- Representing a leading European technical sub-contractor in a dispute with the builder in connection with the construction of a data center
- Representing one of Oslo's premier property developers in a dispute with the contractor in connection with one of Norway's largest real estate projects
- Counsel owner of football stadium in dispute involving serious defects in connection with the building of one of Norway's largest football stadiums
- Representing a municipality in a dispute with a contractor before the Court of Appeals involving claims for damages due to faulty engineering in connection with the building of a new swimming facility and water park
- Representing the main contractor in a dispute with a sub-contractor before the Court of Appeals involving the building of a dam and power station
- Representing a leading European technical contractor in connection with the building of Norway's new national museum
- Representing a UK engineering company in a dispute with the builder concerning the construction of a new tram system
- Representing a main contractor in a Court of Appeals case against a builder concerning the termination of a contract due to failure to provide adequate financing

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Energy, Oil & Gas

Knud has worked on several forms of energy related projects, both traditional oil and gas projects and renewables. He also has experience with cases concerning storage and distribution of petroleum products and decommissioning of oil production equipment in the North Sea. I have handled many technically and legally challenging cases.

Examples of cases:

- Counsel for one of Scandinavia's largest construction companies in a dispute with builder concerning claims for additional payment and counterclaims concerning delay in connection with the construction of one of Norway's largest wind farms
- Counsel for one of Norway's leading construction companies in dispute with sub-contractor concerning claims for additional payment and counterclaims in connection with the building of a wind farm
- Counsel for one of Norway's largest oil distribution companies in a dispute with the government builder concerning liability for pollution
- Counsel for an international oil services company in a comprehensive dispute concerning the decommissioning of oil production equipment in the North Sea
- Counsel for one of the largest oil companies in the Nordics in an arbitration concerning the storage of oil and gas products and liability for contamination at Norway's largest storage facility

Shipping & Maritime

The types of maritime disputes Knud has worked have involved the building of ships and other offshore vessels and installations. He is also familiar with the Norwegian standard contract for shipbuilding, SHIP 2000, as well as various BIMCO standard contracts.

- Acting as counsel for a Norwegian aquaculture and shipping company in a dispute before the Court of Appeals concerning priority of ship mortgages
- Representing a Norwegian aquaculture company in a dispute with a Chinese shipyard concerning the building of a fish farming installation

Distribution Agreements and other Commercial Contracts

Knud's experience also includes disputes concerning distribution agreements and other commercial contract disputes, including cases concerning termination, damages and liability for breach of contract and requests for specific performance.

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Examples of cases:

- Representing a Norwegian distributor of a soft drink in a dispute with the supplier concerning claims for damages and other forms of payment under the distribution agreement
- Representing a landlord in the Court of Appeals a dispute with a lessee concerning a claim for increase of rent for lease of office space following refurbishment of the premises
- Representing one of Scandinavia's largest banks in a Court of Appeals case in connection with the termination of an agreement for distribution of insurance products
- Representing a partnership offering advisory services in a case before the Court of Appeals concerning claims for remuneration in connection with a partner's termination of his partnership

Mergers, Acquisitions & Shareholder Disputes

Knud has first-hand experience with post-M&A disputes and disputes concerning share purchase agreements, including claims for breach of representation and warranties and claims concerning adjustment of purchase price and earn out claims. He has also handled company law disputes, including claims concerning the rights of first refusal and validity of decisions by company bodies such as distribution of dividends, share capital increases and decreases and share buy-backs. He has also handled cases regarding liability for board members and management.

Specific cases include:

- Representing a minority shareholder in a Supreme Court case challenging the validity of a resolution by the general meeting regarding distribution of dividends due to failure to give proper notice of the general meeting
- Legal counsel for Norwegian mining company against a shareholder concerning the shareholder's failure to make required payments in connection with a share capital increase
- Representing a shareholder against a limited liability company in a Supreme Court case concerning scrutiny of the company
- Representing a minority shareholder against a majority shareholder in a Court of Appeals case concerning a pre-emptive right to acquire shares in connection with a share transaction
- Representing a company before the Court of Appeals in a claim for damages against a managing director due to failure to disclose relevant information in connection with an acquisition of the shares in the company
- Legal counsel for a Swedish listed company in a dispute concerning the sale of the shares in a Norwegian company to a Danish buyer

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Academic & Professional Qualifications

Academic

- University of Bergen, Cand. Jur (1996)
- SCC Arbitration Institute, Diploma course in International Arbitration for foreign arbitrators (2023)
- Solicitors Regulation Authority, Solicitors Qualifying Exam (2024)

Professional

- Advokatfirmaet Simonsen Vogt Wiig AS, Partner, 2022 – 2025
- Arntzen de Besche Advokatfirma AS, Partner 2017 – 2022
- Advokatfirma DLA Piper Norway DA, Partner, 2011 – 2016
- Advokatfirma DLA Piper Norway DA, Senior Associate, 2008 – 2011
- Advokatfirma DLA Piper Norway DA, Senior Associate, 2006 – 2007
- Norwegian Supreme Court, Law Clerk, 2005 – 2006
- Advokatfirma DLA Nordic, Associate, 1997 – 2005

Certifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Fellow – Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Right of audience before the Supreme Court of Norway
- Practicing license as attorney in Norway

Professional Associations & Recognitions

- Board member – SCC Arbitration Institute (Stockholm)
- Member of the HKIAC's List of Arbitrators (Hong Kong)
- Member of the Reserve Panel of Arbitrators at SIAC (Singapore)
- Member of the LCIA Database of arbitrators (London)
- Member of the DIAC Arbitrator List (Dubai)
- Member of SCIA's Panel of Arbitrators (China)
- Member of APIAC's Panel of Arbitrators (Asia)

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Publications, Articles & Thought Leadership

Publications:

- 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.
- Arbitration binding on third parties under the Norwegian Arbitration Act, LexisNexis
- Contractual remedies in the event of delays in construction projects, Norwegian Journal for Commercial Law No. 2/2022
- Procedural errors in a busy lawyers' schedule, Law and Justice no. 7/2007
- The significance of breach of the procedural rules in the Companies Act, Nordic Journal for Company Law no. 2/2004
- Practical due diligence, Norwegian Journal for Commercial Law no. 1/2000
- Share buy-backs, Norwegian Journal for Commercial Law no. 1/1999

Speaking Engagements:

- 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)

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- 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)

Directories & Client Quotes

Knud is consistently recognized by the leading directories for his expertise and experience in dispute resolution and construction.

"He is highly skilled and a pleasure to work with." **Chambers, 2025**

"Knud Jacob Knudsen is a brilliant lawyer." **Chambers, 2025**

"Knud Knudsen acted as a good adviser who inspired trust and security. Appears to be professionally skilled and able to explain a complex case in a good way." **Legal 500, 2025**

"Extremely thorough in his work. Good legal insight and perspective. Eye for details." **Legal 500, 2024**

"He is available 24/7 if we want or have the need to discuss a case with him. He also 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 & Partners, Construction 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024**

Knud Knudsen is a very good practitioner" **Legal 500, 2021**