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United Arab Emirates Branch

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Young Members Group

Programme

Ciarb UAE Branch Congress





Part of the Dubai Arbitration Week 2026

Monday 9 November 2026

Waldorf Astoria

Dubai International Financial Centre

Welcome to our Congress

A day of ideas, debate and connections

For 2026, our flagship Dubai Arbitration Week event expands into a full-day congress, bringing together Young Members Group (YMG) debates, a joint networking lunch, three main committee panels, and an early evening cocktail reception.

This full-day structure offers delegates and sponsors exceptional engagement across all levels of the dispute resolution profession.

Programme at a glance

09:30–12:30	Ciarb Young Members Group Debate Series
12:30–13:30	Networking lunch
13:30–13:40	Welcome remarks
13:40–14:50	Panel 1 | The Future of ADR —Adjudication, Mediation and Arbitration
15:00–16:20	Panel 2 | Proving the Impact: the Expert, the Advocate and the Tribunal
16:20-16:30	Refreshments
16:30–17:50	Panel 3 | The Future of Ciarb in the UAE: Meeting the Needs of a Changing Profession.
18:00	Cocktail reception

Panel 1 13:40-14:50

The Future of ADR — Adjudication, Mediation and Arbitration

Are adjudication, mediation and arbitration competing for the same disputes — or are they complementary tools?

As parties look for faster, more commercial and less adversarial ways of managing disputes, this panel considers whether current dispute resolution clauses remain fit for purpose and how AI and shifting expectations may shape the next generation.

Panellists



Hannah Dennehy
PRO, Ciarb UAE
Head of Dispute Resolution & Innovation / Mediator
ADGM Courts



Maria Mazzawi
Moderator
Co-Vice Chair, Ciarb UAE
Registrar, arbitrateAD



Victor Leginsky
Chartered Arbitrator, Arbitralis



Maria Scanlan
Legal Director,
Crescent Petroleum



Robert Sliwinski
Chartered Arbitrator, Accredited Mediator and Adjudicator, and DB Member, ArbDB Chambers

Panel 2

15:00–16:20

Proving the Impact: the Expert, the Advocate and the Tribunal

When the experts disagree, how does a tribunal decide whom to believe?

Expert witnesses, advocating counsel and tribunal members discuss evaluating expert evidence, cross-examination strategy, hot-tubbing, and proving complex technical and quantum claims in regional arbitration.

Panellists



Dr. Assel Zimmo FCIArb
Arbitrator & Mediator



Kasia Halliday
Moderator
Co-Chair Ciarb UAE
Director, Alvarez and Marsal



Dr. Monif Loutfy FCIArb
UAE Committee Member, Ciarb UAE, Construction Expert



Julian Cohen
Barrister & Arbitrator



Ivana Kocheva
Managing Director & Delay Expert at Vertex EMEA



Sergejs Dilevka
Partner, Galadari Advocates



Marcus Khoury
Legal Counsel
Associate Director
Arada

Panel 3 16:30-17:50

The Future of Ciarb in the UAE: Meeting the Needs of a Changing Profession

What should Ciarb membership offer a changing profession?

As the UAE strengthens its position as a global dispute resolution hub, voices from Ciarb leadership, the Board of Trustees, Branches and arbitral institutions explore what members value most and how their needs are changing.

Panellists



Reshma Oogorah FCIArb
Co-Chair, Ciarb UAE Branch | Independent Arbitrator



Cesar Pereira C.Arb FCIArb
President of Ciarb
Partner, Justen, Pereira, Oliveira & Talamini and Marsal



Michael Tonkin C.Arb FCIArb
Deputy President of Ciarb
Partner, HKA



Ghada Awada MCIArb
Independent Arbitrator, Legal Consultant, Professor, AUB



Neeti Sachdeva FCIArb
Secretary General and Registrar, MCIA



Saad Hegazy FCIArb
Honorary Treasurer & Trustee at Ciarb, Partner, Resolve International

Ciarb YMG Debate Series

09:30–12:30

Debate 1

The use of generative AI in drafting of witness statements and expert reports should be prohibited.



Edward McCullagh
Senior Associate
Three Crowns LLP



Magnus Taylor
Associate
Clyde & Co



Jonathon Parris
Senior Account Executive
Bond Solon



Christopher Hollard
Director
FTI



Michael Caddick
Director
BRG

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Ciarb YMG Debate Series

09:30–12:30

Debate 2

Emergency arbitrator provisions are not fit for purpose for arbitrations in the Middle East.



Anna Ball
Associate
Mantle Law



Katie Edwards
Associate
DLA Piper



Melissa McLaren
Managing Senior Practice Development Lawyer
Pinsent Masons



Lily Covic
Associate
Trowers & Hamlins



Mian Abdul Hannan
Senior Associate
Hadef & Partners

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Ciarb YMG Debate Series

09:30–12:30

Debate 3

Guerilla tactics are the antithesis of international arbitration



Benedict Tompkins
Barrister
Essex Court Chambers



Amir Mahdavi
Senior Associate
Watson Farley & Williams



Alex Stock
Associate
Addleshaw Goddard



Tania Singla
Associate
Reed Smith LLP



David Keen
Associate
Pinsent Masons

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Ciarb YMG Debate Series

09:30–12:30

Debate 4

The best settlement is reached before the Tribunal is constituted



Emma Warren
Senior Associate
A&O Shearman



Caroline Lauk
Associate
Akin Gump



Celia Johnson-Morgan
Senior Associate
Ashurst Perkins Coie



Peter Smith
Legal Director
Charles Russell Speechlys



Dominic Ryall
Associate Director
Secretariat

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The Evening Cocktail Reception, hosted by Resolution Chambers International

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Ciarb Young Members Group Debate Series

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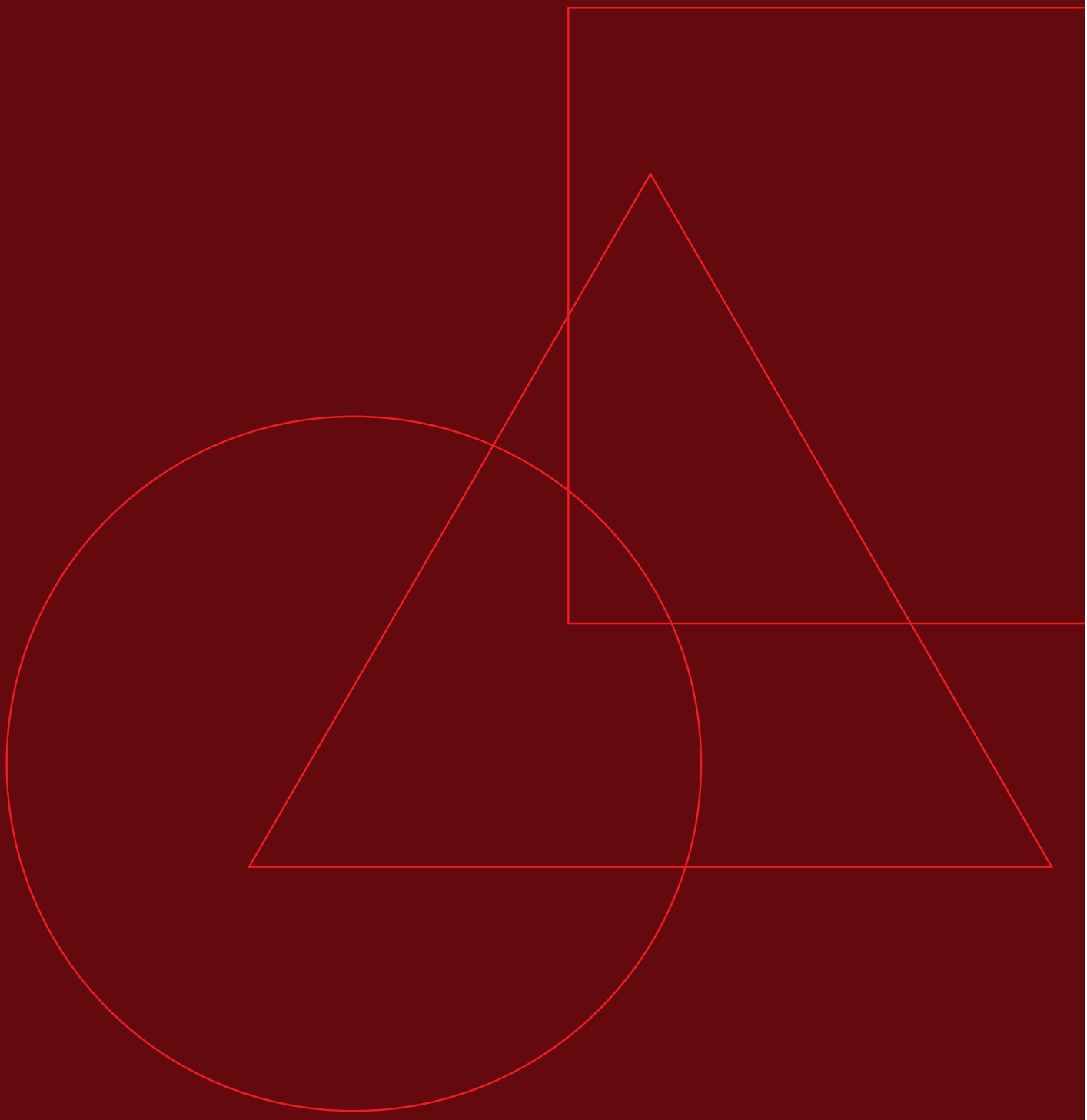
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