

Covington recruits in Dubai

Jack Ballantyne



Philip Norman

Philip Norman has left Simmons & Simmons to join the partnership at Covington & Burling in Dubai.

Norman focuses on construction, infrastructure and energy disputes in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Originally a barrister in London, he subsequently became a solicitor and now practises as counsel and arbitrator.

His appointment became effective on 1 May.

While at Simmons & Simmons, he helped Italian engineering firm Tozzi to secure an award against Qatar Solar Technologies in a dispute over a construction project in Doha. Tozzi successfully resisted a set-aside application and enforced the award – the first enforcement to be conducted in full under the 2017 Qatar Arbitration Law.

Norman has represented the Vietnamese government in four ICC arbitrations over payment calculation methods for the Ho Chi Minh East-West Highway – a road project designed to ease congestion in the Vietnamese capital.

He has also acted in a Miami-seated AAA arbitration over the US Air Force Base situated in Qatar and for a Japanese contractor defending an ICC arbitration relating to Doha international airport.

Norman began his career in London in 1995 as an independent construction and commercial barrister. In 2004, he joined UK firm Knowles (known at the time as Knowles Solicitors).

In 2005 he joined Pinsent Masons in London and spent five years there as a senior associate. This included six months on secondment as acting general counsel for Europe, the Middle East and Africa in the London office of US construction and engineering firm Black & Veatch.

In 2010, he relocated to Doha and joined Simmons & Simmons, becoming a partner. He worked in their Dubai office between 2015 and 2018 before returning to London. He will return to Dubai with Covington later this month.

Norman is admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor in England and Wales. He also holds practising licences in Dubai and Qatar.

Norman has been listed in GAR's sister publication "*Who's Who Legal: Construction*" since 2012. He speaks English, French and Italian.

In-house counsel in Dubai for US engineering group KBR, **Ronnie Leyes**, says Norman has "demonstrated great skills at structuring and driving a matter, and managing the client relationship all along."

"Philip brings with him a wealth of experience in the Middle East, which I have no doubt will make his return to Dubai a great success."

Co-chair of Covington's international arbitration practice, **Jeremy Wilson**, says Norman's hire reflects the firm's "desire to continue the growth of our international arbitration practice generally and our dispute resolution capabilities in Dubai in particular, as well as the fact that construction, energy and infrastructure disputes feature heavily in the critical issues our clients face."

Norman says he looks forward to joining "an ambitious team of lawyers operating at the cutting edge." He adds: "the energy and infrastructure sector is undergoing significant changes around the world, and it is a privilege to be part of a firm that is investing in a full-service offering to the industry by assembling a dedicated team based on clients' needs across the globe."

Simmons & Simmons' head of the international arbitration **Stuart Dutson** says:
“Philip is a dynamic and talented lawyer who will be missed at Simmons.
Covington & Burling are very lucky to have him.”