

# CPR Seminar – Business Unusual

## Strategies to Disrupt Disputes in the Middle East

Date:  
**Monday, November 18, 2019**

Time:  
**Registration starts at 3.30pm**

Where:  
**Freshfields Dubai offices**  
Al Fattan Currency House Tower 2  
Level 20 DIFC, Dubai

Headquartered in New York, the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (**CPR**) was created over 40 years ago by General Counsel at Fortune 100 companies to promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness in commercial dispute prevention and resolution.

For the first time in the Middle East, CPR invites you to learn everything you need to know about CPR and its latest thought-leadership initiatives, and discuss strategies which can reduce uncertainty, time, and costs involved in formal dispute proceedings in the region.

This event is designed to address so-called 'pain points', or difficulties, of dispute resolution from the perspectives of in-house counsel, arbitrators, experienced practitioners and technical experts.

CPR's unique composition of both in-house and private practice practitioners gives it an unmatched ability to address issues from a practical standpoint. At this event, organised jointly by **CPR**, its **Y-ADR group**, **Freshfields** and **FTI Consulting**, the panel discussion will seek to address such challenging topics as the following:

- What are the barriers to effective alternative dispute resolution in the UAE and how can these be overcome? What regional considerations should be taken into account when trying to structure effective settlement discussions?
- Do informal settlement negotiations have to end in entrenched, opposing positions? Can mediations be more than just jurisdictional tick box exercises? Is there anything else parties can do to prevent formal dispute proceedings?

- If a formal dispute cannot be avoided, how can the dispute process be made more efficient? Can parties agree limitations to the parameters of the dispute at the outset of a case, such as word limits on submissions and expert reports; financial penalties for time extension requests; or limited numbers of document requests per party.
- Can legal and expert costs be reduced? Do clients have to agree to billable hours or are there other pricing alternatives?

Participants are strongly encouraged to submit questions for the panellists and other event participants in advance of the programme, and to interject during the discussion with any further questions or comments.

This event will be held at the offices of Freshfields in Dubai and will also be available via webinar. The event will be followed by a drinks reception at Dusty's, sponsored by FTI Consulting, during which the dialogue between disputes stakeholders, including in-house counsel, private practitioners, and experts can develop further.

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### Welcome

#### Allen Waxman

CPR's CEO & President and  
Former General Counsel of Pfizer  
and Litigation Partner

#### Olivier P. André

Senior Vice President, International &  
Dispute Resolution Services, CPR

(both joining from New York via video conference)

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### Moderator

#### Antonia Birt

Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle,  
Partner

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### Panel speakers

#### John Packer

Bechtel, Senior Counsel

#### Nayiri Boghossian

Al Owais, Partner

#### Samantha Lord-Hill

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer,  
Senior Associate

#### Sana Belaid

Cisco Systems, Senior Counsel, and  
Member of the International Arbitration  
Court of the International Chamber of  
Commerce

#### Steve Harris

FTI Consulting, Senior Managing Director  
Economic and Financial Consulting

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### Programme

3:30 – 4:00 pm

**Registration**

4:00 – 4:30 pm

**Welcome and Introduction to CPR**

4.30 – 5:45pm

**Panel discussion**

6:00 pm

**Drinks Reception at Dusty's**

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### Registration

To register for the event please send an email to Alexandra Gore at  
[alexandra.gore@freshfields.com](mailto:alexandra.gore@freshfields.com)

Please indicate whether you wish to attend in person or via webinar.  
We welcome any advance questions or comments for the panellists,  
including on an anonymous basis.

Space is limited and registrations will be confirmed on a first-come,  
first-served basis.

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