



Mark Beer, OBE
Co-Chief Executive and Registrar General, DIFC Courts, UAE

In addition to his role as Co-Chief Executive and Registrar General of the DIFC Courts, Mark is a Judge of the Courts' Small Claims Tribunal, a Member of the Rules Subcommittee and Registrar of the Special Tribunal Related to Dubai World. In 2010 Mark was appointed for a year's term as a Member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the International Legal System and he remains a member of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network for Justice. Mark is also the President-Elect of the International Association for Court Administration and a member of The International Council of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Under Mark's direction, the Courts have secured a reputation as one of the most efficient and advanced commercial courts in the world. He has overseen the launch of various firsts for the Middle East, including a Code of Professional Conduct, a Pro Bono programme, a common law training academy and a Wills and Probate Registry. He has played a key role in the development of the Courts' many formalised relationships with partner judicial systems and was involved in negotiating the memoranda signed with courts in New York, England & Wales, Shanghai, South Korea, Singapore, Kenya and Australia. He has also been at the forefront of the Courts' commitment to service excellence, with the DIFC Courts becoming the first court in the world to receive accreditation pursuant to The International Standards for Service Excellence, and the first non-Federal entity to receive 5 Stars under the UAE's Government Service Rating Scheme.

Mark was instrumental in the creation of the DIFC's Dispute Resolution Authority, which hosts the DIFC Courts, the DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre, the DIFC Wills and Probate Registry and the DIFC Academy of Law. The Authority was established in 2014 and shortly after its creation Mark was appointed Chief Executive.

Mark joined the DIFC Courts after five years working at MasterCard Worldwide in Dubai where he served as the company's Regional Legal Counsel for South Asia, Middle East and Africa and was later promoted to Vice President, heading MasterCard's Government Relations and Corporate Services across the same region. Previously, Mark worked in the corporate finance team of Man Investments in Switzerland and prior to that in private practice both in the UK and the UAE.

Beer has twice been named in the 'Top 50 most influential Brits in the UAE' by ArabianBusiness.com. He is also listed as one of the 100 most influential people in Dubai. He has twice been shortlisted by the Law Society of England and Wales as the UK's Solicitor of the Year - In-House and became an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2013 Queen's Birthday Honours list for outstanding work in strengthening relations between the UK and the UAE.