



محكمة قطر الدولية  
ومركز تسوية المنازعات

**QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT  
AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTRE**

# JUDICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

# THE CONDUCT OF JUSTICES OF THE QATAR INTERNATIONAL COURT AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

The Justices of the Qatar International Court (‘Justices’) have decided to adopt this Code of Conduct in regard to their individual and collective conduct as Justices of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal. The Code of Conduct relates to principles which are fundamental to the rule of law and to a fair trial, and is observed by all Justices of the Court and Regulatory Tribunal in their decisions and the processes by which their decisions are reached.

## Principles

- 1 Independence
- 2 Impartiality
- 3 Integrity
- 4 Propriety

## Judicial Oaths

The judicial oaths affirmed by each of the Justices read as follows:

### Oath of Allegiance

*I, [name], do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, His heirs and successors according to law.*

### Oath of Office

*I, [name], do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will well and truly serve His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, in the Office of Justice of the [Qatar International Court] [Regulatory Tribunal] and I will do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of the State of Qatar without fear or favour, affection or ill will.*



## 1. Independence

- 1.1 Justices ensure that their official and public conduct does not undermine their individual or institutional independence, or the parties' and the public's perception of that independence.
- 1.2 Justices may consult with other Justices of the Court or Regulatory Tribunal when a point of difficulty arises on a matter of conduct, but they are solely responsible for the decision they take thereon.
- 1.3 Justices are impervious to the effects of publicity, whether favourable or unfavourable.
- 1.4 Justices do not solicit or accept instructions from anyone as to the discharge of their judicial duties.

## 2. Impartiality

- 2.1 Justices do not behave in a manner which undermines public confidence in the impartiality of the Court or Regulatory Tribunal.
- 2.2 Justices avoid activities that are likely to cause them to have to recuse themselves from sitting on a case because of a potential conflict of interest and a reasonable apprehension of bias which might be perceived by a fair-minded and informed observer.
- 2.3 Justices take care not to associate with members of the profession who are engaged in current or pending cases at the Court or Regulatory Tribunal and will recuse themselves from sitting on a case if they are associated with a particular organisation, group or cause in such a way as to give rise to a reasonable perception of partiality.
- 2.4 Justices will, well before any hearing if possible, disclose to all parties in a case any circumstances which in that Justice's opinion might give rise to a perception of bias.
- 2.5 Where any question of perceived bias has not been resolved before a hearing, it will be discussed in open court. A Justice will recuse himself or herself from sitting if he or she considers it inappropriate to sit.



- 2.6 Justices refrain from any involvement in political activity in the State of Qatar, including attendance at political gatherings or political fundraising events, or contributing to a political party, and will be mindful that political activity in Qatar by a close family member might raise concern about their impartiality in a particular case.

### 3. Integrity

- 3.1 Justices avoid conduct and associations in Qatar which might reasonably be seen as undermining confidence in the independence, impartiality or integrity of the Court or Regulatory Tribunal.
- 3.2 Justices show due regard to the rights of the parties to be heard and to be treated equally.
- 3.3 Justices respect the dignity of all, taking care to ensure that hearing arrangements will not disadvantage people under any disability.
- 3.4 No Justice or member of a Justice's family will ask for or accept any gift, bequest, loan or favour in relation to his or her judicial duties or which might appear to relate to his or her judicial office.
- 3.5 Justices may accept invitations to lunches, receptions or dinners by legal and other professional and public bodies or officials in Qatar, but only where attendance can reasonably be seen as the performance of a public or professional duty, and do not give rise to any obligation.



## 4. Propriety

- 4.1 Justices avoid impropriety in all of their activities. They do not exploit their office for personal favours or benefits, or to advance their own private interests, or those of a member of their family or of any friends, nor do they convey or permit others to convey that anyone is in a special position improperly to influence the performance of their judicial duties.
- 4.2 Justices do not accept payments, other than from the Court or Regulatory Tribunal, for the performance of their official duties and for their retainers as Justices.
- 4.3 Justices will not use or disclose confidential information acquired in their judicial capacity otherwise than in connection with the exercise of that capacity. The Justices may practise law, but not in Qatar.
- 4.4 Justices may act as mediators and arbitrators in Qatar and elsewhere, but may not sit on a case at the Court or Regulatory Tribunal in which they previously acted as a mediator or arbitrator.

4.5 Justices may serve as members of official bodies, government commissions, committees and advisory bodies, and bodies that are academic, voluntary, charitable or religious in Qatar, but they take care to limit their involvement in matters which may be contentious in Qatar. Membership of such bodies must not bring into doubt their impartiality or political neutrality, detract from the dignity of their office or otherwise interfere with the performance of their judicial duties in Qatar.

4.6 Justices from overseas are mindful of Qataris' discrete national, religious, social and cultural characteristics and conduct themselves at all times with appropriate sensitivity and respect for local traditions.



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