

Rising Star: Gibson Dunn's Rahim Moloo

Law360, New York (July 18, 2017, 3:16 PM EDT) – Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP's Rahim Moloo represents clients in some of the world's most complex and high-profile cross-border disputes, including when he recently helped WalAm Energy Inc. defeat Kenya's jurisdictional objections in an arbitration with hundreds of millions of dollars on the line, earning him a spot as one of three international arbitration practitioners under 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST CASES OF HIS CAREER:

Moloo represents Egyptian telecommunications company Global Telecom Holding SAE in an arbitration case brought against Canada in relation to its multibillion-dollar investment. The case before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, in which Moloo is co-lead, was filed under a bilateral investment treaty between Canada and Egypt — the first known BIT case against Canada.

"Most of these BITs were written for an investor from a developed country investing in the developing world. This is the reverse of what you would have expected. It's the Egyptian — the more developing of the two economies — investing in the more developed economy. It shows that it's a truly reciprocal obligation. Both states are held to the same standard and are expected to abide by it."

PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:

Moloo is working as co-lead counsel for WalAm Energy in an ICSID arbitration against the Kenyan government over the alleged wrongful termination of the company's geothermal license, and he's responsible for directing overall strategy on

RISING ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ STAR



Rahim Moloo

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Age: 35

Home base: New York

Position: Of Counsel

Law school: [New York University School of Law](#), University of British Columbia law school

First job after law school: Associate at Burnet Duckworth & Palmer LLP

the case, overseeing and directing the associate team working on the matter — based in New York, London and Dubai — and coordinating the work of local counsel. An ICSID tribunal in March rejected Kenya’s jurisdictional objections in their totality.

“All wins give you that same high when you get the news, but that one is a recent example that stands out,” he said.

WHAT KEEPS HIM MOTIVATED:

“It’s going to sound really simple, but it’s just to achieve the best possible outcome for our clients. The longer you practice law, the more you appreciate the importance of that objective, and to achieving it with integrity and good judgment.”

WHY HE’S AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION ATTORNEY:

Moloo has always viewed international law as a way for societies to come together to resolve their problems and to affirmatively address issues that are common to them. He said you realize very quickly that there are a limited number of places where you can actually practice international law, but international arbitration is one of them.

“International arbitration has a long history, but as its own practice, it’s a relatively new phenomenon,” he said. “We’ve only really seen international arbitration groups at firms for the last 15 to 20 years, so it’s a very new area, especially in the investor-state context.”

ADVICE TO YOUNG ATTORNEYS:

Moloo said “persistence and a strong desire for excellence” are the key factors.

“You really do have to think strategically about a dispute and how it will play out,” he said. “Having really good clients who are thoughtful is helpful, but you can’t stop short. It’s a marathon. You have to be diligent, hardworking and thoughtful. In these high-stakes disputes, every little advantage you can get makes a huge difference.”

--As told to Natalie Olivo

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.