



Enhancing the Judicial Specialization at the Commercial Court

2014



Introduction

Dubai is a city that is commercial and economic in nature. It has been known to be so since its establishment in 1833. The commercial sector has played an important role in the development of the emirate to become the regional center for financial and business activities. To keep up with the requirements of the rapid growth witnessed by Dubai in the business sector and the accompanying need for judicial services related to commercial issues; the Commercial Court of First Instance was established in 2008 to meet those needs in a way that contributes to the achievement of the emirate's strategy. A strategy which emphasizes on providing advanced and easily accessible facilities to ensure fair and swift litigation along with effective and innovative judicial services.

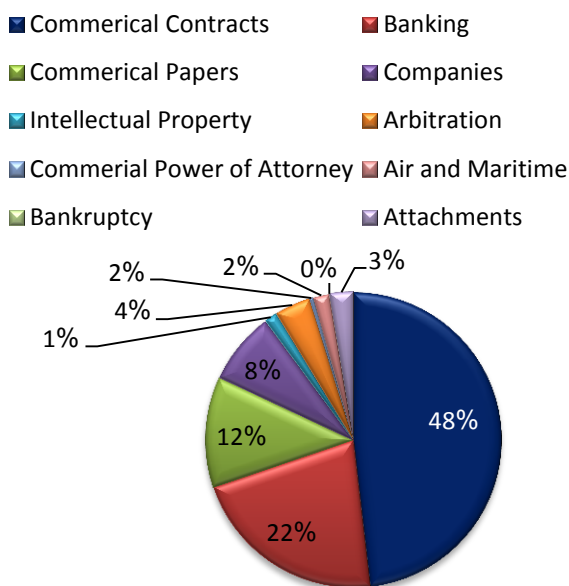
Commercial Court of First Instance considers the various lawsuits related to commercial transactions so as to provide the necessary protection for capital and investors and serves the internal and external trade, business and investment relations. To ensure greater efficiency in the works of the Commercial Court, in January of 2013, the second phase of commercial judicial specialization was launched comprising of substantive classifications of trade issues (commercial contracts, banking, companies, intellectual property, stocks, arbitration, bankruptcy, air and maritime, and commercial agencies, attachments). The Commercial Court also applied the electronic deliberation sessions.

Results

First: Registered Cases

The launch of the second phase of judicial specialization at the Commercial Court procured positive results on the overall level of the Court and at the specialized qualitative categories' level. The total number of cases registered was 2278 cases., which were distributed to the various categories. Although, largest proportion of cases registered were related to commercial contracts, which amounted to 48 % of the total followed by general banking business, which amounted to 22% , as shown in the diagram below :

The number of cases registered in 2013

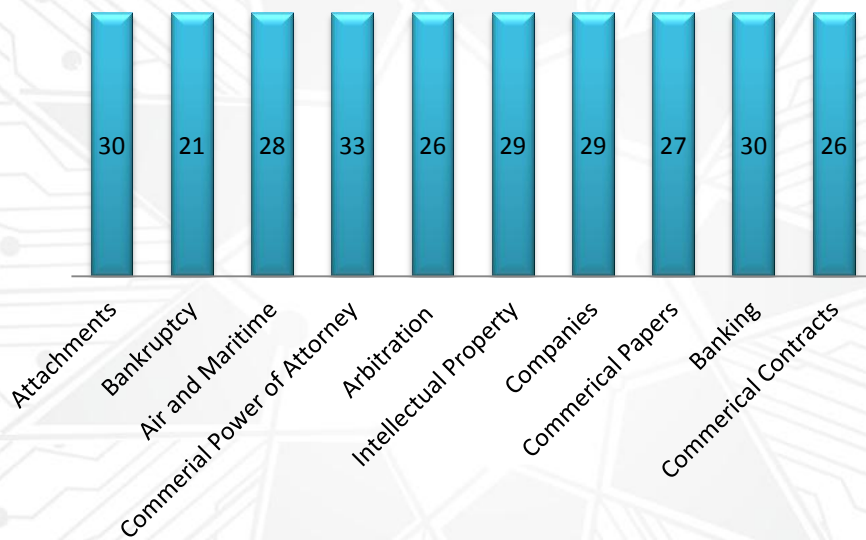


Secondly: Average waiting time for the first hearing session

Average waiting time for the first hearing session is the average time it takes from the time of case registration to the date of the first hearing. The average waiting time for commercial contracts was 26 days and 21 days in bankruptcy cases, as shown in the illustration below

Average waiting time for the first hearing

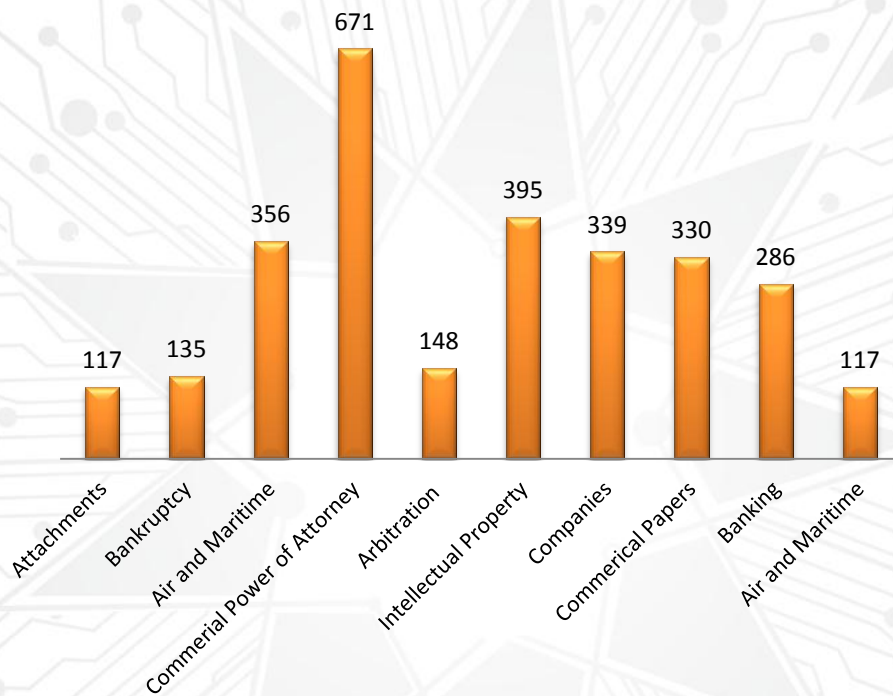
■ Average waiting time for the first hearing Average



Third: Average judgment time from the date of the first hearing session

This indicator calculates the period from the date of the first hearing session to the date of judgment in adjudicated cases registered in 2013. The average judgment rate for commercial contracts was 117 days and 115 days for bankruptcy cases.

Average judgment time from the first hearing



Fourth: Future directions:

The Commercial Court of First Instance is constant study mode and will launch a variety of developmental projects in efforts to make a quantum leap in the procedures and operations of the Court during the year 2014.

the launch of the service will include Online Summons, which will allow defendant companies to notified via e-mail supported by text messages during the case registration day, which is expected to achieve a significant decrease in the average notification time and the average waiting time for the first hearing session. In addition, to the development of the current case management system in line with the new Civil Procedure Code expected pass during 2014. The Commercial Court strives to reduce the average waiting time for the first hearing session to 10 days through the new Online Summons System.

The Commercial Court of First Instance seeks to continuously develop and become the core of the Smart Judiciary in Dubai by achieving the strategic goal of making Dubai the Smartest City, throughout its extensive efforts.