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## Amel Makhlouf panellist at first annual California International Arbitration Week

On 18 March, Dr Amel Makhlouf joined a panel of eminent experts at the first annual California International Arbitration Week (CIAW) to address the topic of arbitration in Islamic finance. More specifically, Dr Makhlouf has explored 'the application of late payment charges (ta'widh & gharamah) in Islamic finance arbitration'.

Dr Makhlouf provided an overview of the prohibition of *ribā* (interest) in Islamic law and discussed a broad range of alternative claims used in most Muslim-majority jurisdictions (UAE, Qatar, Algeria, Bahrain, Malaysia, etc) in international arbitration. Such alternative claims can take the form of compensation for late payment or late performance (*ta'widh*), or the form of penalty (*gharamah*).

The event gathered arbitration practitioners and professionals from all parts of the world involved and/or having an interest in gaining further knowledge in the practice of arbitration in Islamic finance.

The engaging session concluded with the panellists addressing questions from the audience and a closing remark from the moderator, Ms Nadhirah Syahmi, Case Counsel at the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC).