



International voldgift

Cross-border disputes are ever more significant in international business.

International arbitration has increasingly become the preferred method of resolving such disputes, offering the benefits of greater flexibility, confidentiality and crucially, prospects for enforcement, than national court based litigation. The right advice in relation to incorporating optimum international arbitration agreements in commercial deals can pay dividends not only in terms of ultimate success if a full-blown dispute arises, but also in allowing for the negotiation and settlement of disputes from the strongest possible position. Given the multitude of options in terms of arbitral institutions, seat and governing law, it is often not straightforward to make the right choices in an arbitration agreement and therefore getting tailored advice from experienced international arbitration lawyers all the way from the contract drafting stage to the resolution of any disputes can be critical.

International arbitration offers flexibility in procedures and rules of evidence; flexibility as to who will determine the dispute; a greater ease of enforcement worldwide under international conventions; and increased levels of confidentiality and neutrality.

Our leading international arbitration practice has lawyers located worldwide. Many of our lawyers are acknowledged as leaders in the field of international arbitration and serve on the institutions that administer international arbitration across the world such as the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the American Arbitration Association, the Singapore International Arbitration Association and the London Court of International Arbitration.

Our global team has vast experience in conducting international arbitration including acting as counsel or sitting as arbitrator under all the major institutional and procedural rules, including those of the AAA, CIETAC, DIAC, HKIAC, ICC, ICSID, LCIA, Milan Chamber of Commerce, SCC, SIAC and UNCITRAL. The global reach of our team leaves us especially well placed to put together teams that speak the 'right language' - not just literally, but also in the sense of understanding first hand the key business, political and cultural issues that may be in play. We deliberately do not adopt a 'fly-in/fly-out' model but pride ourselves on our ability to put together teams with both international arbitration experience and an understanding of applicable local laws and cultures.

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We represent parties in international arbitrations arising in a broad range of industry sectors, including aviation, banking, construction, energy, insurance and reinsurance, international finance, international trade and investments, intellectual property, maritime, media and communications, technology and telecommunications.

We have extensive experience in handling arbitration disputes involving sovereign states, including claims brought under bilateral investment treaties (BITs) and multilateral investment treaties (MITs), such as the Energy Charter Treaty, involving the application of public international as well as private law.

CAPABILITES

- Advise on the management of risk through the drafting of arbitration agreements, including the selection of arbitration rules, choice of law and jurisdiction.
- Conduct arbitral proceedings.
- Enforce and resist the enforcement of arbitral awards worldwide.
- Litigate before domestic courts in connection with arbitration, including obtaining emergency injunctions and orders.
- Provide guidance on the incorporation of specific arbitration rules, choices of law and jurisdiction.
- Advise on the protection of investments through the application of BITs and MITs incorporating arbitration procedures.
- Advise on other effective dispute resolution mechanisms, such as alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

EXPERIENCE

- Acting as lead counsel for Turkcell in a US \$2 billion expropriation case against the Islamic Republic of Iran arising from the loss of the first private nationwide GSM license.
- Advising on all relevant aspects of a multi-billion dollar dispute arising out of a shareholders' agreement related to the world's largest company in its sector, including two LCIA arbitrations (London seat) concerning shareholder rights in relation to three contracts together with related company and competition law issues.
- Representing a Central European country in an investment treaty arbitration and related international commercial arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules involving US \$5 billion worth of claims arising out of the failure of one of the largest banks in the country.
- Representing a South-East European Government in its defence of a €250 million ICC arbitration dispute concerning a multi-billion Euro Project to design and construct more than 70 kilometres of commuter railway including a new tunnel and all associated infrastructure (including over 40 new railway stations).
- Representing a European gas seller in eight consolidated arbitrations under the Stockholm Charter of Commerce Rules relating to the supply, transit and storage of gas through Ukraine, resulting in securing an award that was the largest obtained in international arbitrations in 2010, according to American Lawyer Magazine.
- Acting for an Italian energy company in ICC arbitration proceedings regarding the re-negotiation of pricing in various long-term gas supply agreements.
- Representing the Government of Georgia in consolidated ICSID arbitration claims totalling more than US \$700 million under the Greece/Georgia and Israel/Georgia bilateral investment treaties and the Energy Charter treaty arising from a trans-Caucasus pipeline project.
- Representing Oman in the first claim totalling US \$500 million brought under the US-Oman Free Trade Agreement, arising out of a concession and lease agreements for mining rights.
- Representing a global energy company in ICC arbitration proceedings with seats in Paris and Milan, in relation to a US \$120 million dispute with a Middle Eastern LNG supplier under long-term gas contracts involving Libya and Norway in the context of the application of economic change of circumstance review provisions.
- Acting for a global telecoms business in LCIA arbitration proceedings brought by an Israeli company relating to a 3G telephony project conducted in Russia.

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- Advising a Forbes Rich List family in relation to several high value disputes for the last two years, including a US \$1billion LCIA (India) arbitration seated in New Delhi, concerning a joint venture dispute involving 19 real estate projects in India, and a US \$400 million dispute involving parallel proceedings in the London Commercial Court, the Isle of Man Courts, the BVI Courts and five LCIA arbitrations seated in Singapore concerning real estate projects pursued in association with a London AIM-listed company.