



International Arbitration

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 law as well as private law. In addition to our expertise in investment arbitration, we offer a range of dispute resolution and advisory services to government and corporate clients facing public international law issues. Our team of international law experts have advised states, multinational corporations and international organisations on issues such as boundary disputes, law of the sea, treaty negotiations, cross-border resource development, sanctions, and human rights law.

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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).
- Advise on the strategy for resolving complex international disputes, using legal and other pressure points to achieve overall objectives.
- Advise sovereign states on issues of public international law, such as law of the sea, land and maritime boundaries, and treaty interpretation.

EXPERIENCE

Energy

- Representing Gazprom in a series of SCC arbitrations against the Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz involving multi-billion dollar claims relating to the supply, transit and pricing of gas.
- Representing an international crude oil trading company in English, Nigerian and Dutch proceedings against a major Nigerian importer of oil products relating to amounts owed for the sale and conversion of an oil tanker.
- Representing an oil and gas major in an English law London seated LCIA arbitration in respect of a significant gas pricing dispute.
- Representing a major Italian gas company in an ICC arbitration claim valued at USD 250 million concerning a gas pricing dispute in Libya in the context of changes in the European gas price market.

Mining

- Representing the Republic of Guinea in its investigation of corruption in the acquisition of rights to one of the world's most important iron ore deposits, and defense of parallel multi-billion dollar ICSID arbitrations brought by the investor alleging expropriation of a mining concession and related rights. (BSG Resources Limited, BSG Resources (Guinea) Limited and BSG Resources (Guinea) SÀRL v. Republic of Guinea (ICSID Case No. ARB/14/22)).
- Successfully representing the Republic of Kenya in the defence of ICSID proceedings brought by an investor active in the mining sector,

Cortec. This claim was the highest value and most strategically important investment treaty claim Kenya has ever faced. (Cortec Mining Kenya Limited, Cortec (Pty) Limited and Stirling Capital Limited v. Republic of Kenya (ICSID Case No. ARB/15/29)).

- Representing CCX Colombia in an ICC arbitration concerning the sale of the largest coal reserves in Latin America.
- Successfully representing the Sultanate of Oman in the defense of the first ever claim brought under the US Oman Free Trade Agreement. The claims were valued at USD 275 million and arose out of various concession and lease agreements relating to mining rights. (Adel A Hamadi Al Tamimi v. Sultanate of Oman (ICSID Case No. ARB/11/33)).

Life Sciences

- Representing a leading pharmaceutical company in ICC arbitration proceedings against a US biopharmaceutical company with respect to breaches of a licensing agreement for the development and sale of a medicinal product.
- Successfully representing a seed-stage venture fund partnering in the creation of medical technology companies and an international biotechnology company in an Orlando seated AAA arbitration against a US consulting services company arising from the breach by the latter of a license agreement with our client.
- Successfully defending a leading provider of innovative medical devices against a EUR 3.125m claim resulting from an acquisition in the Netherlands, and securing a full cost order for our client.
- Representing a US pharmaceuticals company as Respondent in an SCC arbitration involving a dispute over milestones in share purchase agreement related to commercial development of pharmaceutical drug.

Banking

- Representing Lithuania in the defence of UNCITRAL arbitration proceedings brought by an investor in the banking sector.
- Acting for Standard Chartered Bank in both litigation in the Commercial Court in London and potential arbitration with a London seat under ICC Rules in relation to the recovery of over US\$130 million connected to the insolvency of a major middle eastern oil trader with far reaching repercussions.
- Acting for a major British bank against significant European financial institutions and a European State in claims arising from the takeover and restructuring of another major European bank in 2007.
- Acting for major British bank in an ICC arbitration in Paris in respect of EUR 135 million in relation to the restructuring of a consortium arrangement.

Intellectual Property and Technology

- Acting for a subsidiary of a leading multinational conglomerate in a HKIAC arbitration against a Singapore-based subcontractor in relation to the disputes arising from the IT sub-contract package for a construction project in Saudi Arabia.
- Representing the privatised telecommunications operator in Albania in its defense of a EUR 120 million ICC arbitration relating to an Albanian law claim brought by a rival telecommunications operator regarding an interconnection agreement.
- Representing a major US software and hardware company in an AAA arbitration seated in London and related litigation proceedings brought in California and Delaware in relation to a dispute with a Swiss mobile software company regarding the unlicensed use of its intellectual property, breach of contract and copyright, and anti-competitive behavior.
- Representing a large Asian technology service provider in a NOK 1.2 billion institutional arbitration subject to Norwegian law concerning a long term comprehensive redesign of key communication services offered by a major European telecommunications company.

Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure

For our arbitration experience in Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure please refer to the dedicated page.

Investment Arbitration and Public International Law

- Representing Lithuania in the defence of UNCITRAL arbitration proceedings brought by an investor in the banking sector.
- Successfully representing the Republic of Kenya in the defence of ICSID proceedings brought by an investor active in the mining sector, Cortec. This claim was the highest value and most strategically important investment treaty claim Kenya has ever faced. (Cortec Mining Kenya Limited, Cortec (Pty) Limited and Stirling Capital Limited v. Republic of Kenya (ICSID Case No. ARB/15/29)).
- Successfully representing Belgian investors in a multi-million dollar ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Madagascar relating to an

investment in the textile manufacturing sector ((DS)2, S.A., Peter de Sutter and Kristof De Sutter v. Republic of Madagascar (ICSID Case No. ARB/17/18)).

- Successfully representing the Sultanate of Oman in the defense of first ever claim brought under the US Oman Free Trade Agreement. The claims were valued at USD 275 million and arose out of various concession and lease agreements relating to mining rights. (Adel A Hamadi Al Tamimi v. Sultanate of Oman (ICSID Case No. ARB/11/33)).
- Representing the Republic of Moldova in an ICSID arbitration brought under the bilateral investment treaty between France and Moldova. The Claimant sought damages in excess of USD 55 million for alleged mistreatment of investments in duty free stores on the Romania Moldova border and at the Chisinau airport. (Franck Charles Arif v. Republic of Moldova (ICSID Case No. ARB/11/23)).
- Representing the Republic of Timor Leste in ICSID proceedings brought by an investor in the energy sector. (Lighthouse Corporation Pty Ltd and Lighthouse Corporation Ltd, IBC v. Democratic Republic of Timor Leste (ICSID Case No. ARB/15/2)).
- Advising Timor-Leste on its strategy for securing maritime boundaries with Australia, including representing Timor-Leste in a case before the International Court of Justice and the first compulsory conciliation on maritime boundaries under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, resulting in an historic maritime boundary treaty with Australia. Currently advising a number of other countries on maritime boundary negotiations, and countries and companies regarding petroleum interests in disputed areas and strategies to overcome differences and obstacles to development.

INSIGHTS

Publications

The tale of Zhongshan Fucheng v. Nigeria: how investment treaties help safeguard Chinese investments abroad

14 June 2022

Thanks to schemes such as the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese investment across the world has grown exponentially in the last decade. Cross-border trade and investments however are prone to a wide range of risks including adverse actions from host states.

Mexican Congress rejects electricity constitutional reform and approves bill to regulate lithium

20 April 2022

An outline of the House of Representatives' decision regarding the Electricity Reform and Mining Reform, as well as its possible implications.

Africa, In The Vanguard: Africa's Role In Shaping The Future Of Investor-State Arbitration

12 April 2022

DLA Piper is delighted to have collaborated with Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration to produce an article regarding "Africa, In The Vanguard: Africa's Role In Shaping The Future Of Investor-State Arbitration" in its Alternative Dispute Resolution Journal. The journal provides a platform for scholarly dialogue on pertinent issues relating to the reform of the investor-state dispute settlement regime.

Mexican Supreme Court dismisses Unconstitutionality Action against Electricity Industry Law reform

8 April 2022

Key developments and implications

New wave of US sanctions targets Russian Duma, additional elites, defense entities; BIS extends export controls to more than 100 Russian aircraft

29 March 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

The latest sanctions affect all members of the Duma, Russian elites, bank executives and board members, and Russian defense firms, and BIS has extended export controls to certain Russian aircraft.

US announces new trade restrictions against Russia as well as a new round of sanctions against Russian political elites

16 March 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

Many of the newly announced measures will require Congressional action.

US sanctions Russian energy sector while allowing various energy-related activities to continue

9 March 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

Today's actions further restrict commercial activity and increase risks of sanctions violations by well-intentioned companies.

US continues to escalate sanctions against Russia and Belarus

4 March 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

White House announces new sanctions while putting in place extensive new export control measures against Russia and Belarus; DOJ announces Task Force KleptoCapture; OFAC closes some loopholes.

US escalates its sanctions regime against Russia, targeting its financial system

28 February 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

And additional measures are expected to be announced by the US and its allies in the coming days

US imposes further sanctions and export controls against Russia

25 February 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

The White House emphasized that these newly announced sanctions and export controls will be complemented with similar measures imposed by US allies and partners.

New US sanctions in response to Russia's actions against Ukraine

23 February 2022

GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT

Additional sanctions are expected that will target Russia's financial, technology, and defense sectors.

France Investment Treaty Arbitration

16 December 2021

DLA Piper is delighted to have collaborated with Lexology Getting The Deal Through to produce the chapters on France and Spain in its Investment Treaty Arbitration 2022 publication.

Spain Investment Treaty Arbitration

16 December 2021

DLA Piper is delighted to have collaborated with Lexology Getting The Deal Through to produce the chapters on Spain and France in its Investment Treaty Arbitration 2022 publication.

Disclosure dos and don'ts – ICSID Tribunal's reminder to parties of document production principles

13 December 2021

This article outlines the dos and don'ts of document production issued in a recent procedural order from the ICSID Tribunal.

Law applicable to arbitration agreements: UK Supreme Court confirms law of the contract generally prevails

22 November 2021

In the eagerly anticipated judgment of *Kabab-jj v Kout*, the English Supreme Court upheld the Court of Appeal's 2020 decision in the same matter that when English law is expressly chosen by the parties to govern a contract, English law will also usually govern the arbitration agreement contained in that contract.

New developments in the Mexican energy sector generate uncertainty

17 November 2021

A discussion of relevant measures, criticisms and comments.

Successful asset preservation application in Mainland China prior to the recognition of Hong Kong arbitral award

17 November 2021

Following a victory in an arbitration at the HK International Arbitration Centre lead by DLA Piper Hong Kong, we have recently succeeded in assisting the Israeli client in obtaining an order from the Ningbo Intermediate People's Court for asset preservation prior to the recognition and enforcement of the HKIAC arbitral award in Ningbo, China.

An interview with Aldersgate Funding

11 October 2021

In this podcast, DLA Piper partner Henry Quinlan interviews Jim Holding and Matthew Lo at Aldersgate Funding Limited, who shed some light on the advantages of litigation and arbitration funding; the types of claims eligible for funding; the process of funding a case; and the jurisdictional constraints on this type of financing.

President of Mexico files constitutional reform bill on electricity

7 October 2021

The result may include serious consequences for private investors in the energy sector in Mexico.

The ICC's 2020 Dispute Resolution Statistics

22 September 2021

The International Chamber of Commerce has recently published its annual Dispute Resolution Statistics for 2020. This article offers a summary of the key takeaways despite challenges posed by COVID-19.

Virtual Hearings 2021

21 September 2021

[VIRTUAL HEARINGS](#)

In this latest report in the Virtual Hearings series we set out a summary of data-driven conclusions and personal observations from clients and litigators from around the globe.

Chambers International Arbitration 2021 Global Practice Guide – Trends and Development in China

15 September 2021

China encompasses a number of arbitral jurisdictions, the most popular of which are in Hong Kong and China. In the past year, we continued to see a significant rise in the number of arbitration cases seated in Mainland China and Hong Kong and strong development of the arbitration market despite the pandemic.

New VIAC Arbitration and Mediation Rules Enter into Force

26 July 2021

On 1 July 2021, new Arbitration and Mediation Rules of the Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC and VIAC Rules) entered into force.¹ The revised VIAC Rules will apply to arbitrations commenced after 30 June 2021.

The LCIA 2020 Annual Casework Report

21 June 2021

The LCIA published its annual casework report for 2020, the report showed that during the COVID-19 pandemic the LCIA has continued to thrive, with more disputes being referred to the LCIA in 2020 than in any previous year. We have summarised below some of the key trends which emerge from the Report.

GAR guide to challenging and enforcing arbitration awards – Second edition

15 June 2021

The Global Arbitration Review's Guide to Challenging and Enforcing Arbitration Awards addresses the applicable standards for challenging and enforcing awards globally. We have authored a chapter outlining the challenges that may arise when trying to secure the awards.

Investment Arbitration in Africa

15 June 2021

Working with the Global Arbitration Review, we have published a new chapter on Investment Arbitration in Africa. Providing an overview of recent trends and developments in investment arbitration, the rise of investment disputes and the various initiatives to reform the ISDS system.

Reforms in the energy legal framework in Mexico and challenge mechanisms

4 June 2021

The Energy Counter-Reform includes variations which aim to restore the monopoly power of CFE and Pemex.

ICC and SIAC Receive “Permanent Arbitration Institution” Status in Russia

20 May 2021

On 19 May 2021, it was reported that the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) have received from the Russian Ministry of Justice the right to act in Russia as permanent arbitration institutions (PAI).

US government announces sweeping sanctions against Russia

16 April 2021

[GLOBAL SANCTIONS ALERT](#)

The newly imposed sanctions represent a significant escalation and addition to the sanctions architecture put in place by the Obama and Trump Administrations.

Mexico's Hydrocarbons Law Reform Bill: A controversial new measure in the Mexican energy sector

8 April 2021

The reform seeks to give Pemex the same monopoly control it had over the national market before the 2013 energy reform.

Paris Court of Appeal finds PCA lacked power to intervene in OIC investor-state arbitration

6 April 2021

The decision of the Paris Court of Appeal casts uncertainty on arbitrations under the OIC Agreement for which the PCA Secretary-General has agreed to act as appointing authority.

Revised IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration

17 March 2021

The International Bar Association has released its revised Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration (**2020 IBA Rules**). The 2020 IBA Rules were formally adopted on 17 December 2020 and mark the first update to the rules since the 2010 edition (**2010 IBA Rules**). The revisions to the rules reflect developments in global arbitration practice, including the emergence of remote hearings and the growing need for data protection and confidentiality.

Reform to the Electric Industry Law: a new risk for energy projects in Mexico

10 March 2021

Foreign investors involved in energy projects in Mexico may wish to consider their rights and potential remedies under applicable investment treaties.

Arbitrator's Duty of Disclosure and Apparent Bias - "Justice must be seen to be done"

1 December 2020

In its much awaited judgment in *Halliburton v Chubb*, the English Supreme Court has considered issues which go to the core of the perceived fairness and integrity of international arbitration proceedings. The issues are of such importance that five different entities intervened in the proceedings, including the LCIA, ICC and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Current trends in investor state disputes in the telecommunications sector

9 November 2020

The telecommunications sector is one of the fastest growing sectors globally, and has played a critical role during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic in keeping the world interconnected. The high levels of activity in this sector have given rise to a corresponding increase in telecoms-related #disputes, including under investment treaties.

Litigation funding in Africa: Maximizing opportunities

4 November 2020

[AFRICA CONNECTED](#)

The measures implemented by governments in response to COVID-19, coupled with the rapid economic downturn and ongoing uncertainty arising from the pandemic, have created the perfect storm. The outlook may seem bleak, but third-party funding offers a ray of hope for beleaguered boardrooms looking to maximize cashflow in this unpredictable period.

Asia Pacific Arbitration Virtual Hearings

2 November 2020

[VIRTUAL HEARINGS](#)

In this edition, we take an in-depth look at the various procedural rules and guidance on virtual/online hearings published by major arbitration institutions within the Asia Pacific region and the practical aspects of virtual hearings being carried out in the region.

Americas Arbitration Roundup

26 October 2020

In this first edition of *Americas Arbitration Roundup*, our thought leaders across the region provide updates on recent key developments in

international arbitration in the Americas.

Argentina: The year in review

26 October 2020

The last year has been a time of significant change in Argentina, including for international arbitration.

Brazil: Will COVID-19 mean more arbitrations against public entities?

26 October 2020

Recent legislative initiatives have created greater certainty for potential and existing parties looking to do business with Brazilian states or their instrumentalities.

Canada: Third-party litigation funding, enforcement of arbitral awards, admissibility of fresh evidence during court review

26 October 2020

Three recent decisions.

Chile: Drafting arbitration clauses in international contracts – practical aspects

26 October 2020

International arbitration has expanded considerably in recent years in Chile.

Peru: Top developments in international arbitration

26 October 2020

Major arbitration-related developments and cases recently decided in Peru.

Puerto Rico: Legal and practical aspects of international arbitration

26 October 2020

Parties benefit from this legal framework to solve their disputes when conducting business in Puerto Rico.

Replacing NAFTA: What the USMCA means for the future of North American trade and investment – a Q&A

26 October 2020

Contributors from the US, Mexico and Canada discuss several key considerations.

US: Four significant developments in arbitration case law

26 October 2020

US-style discovery; compelling arbitration on the basis of equitable estoppel; class-wide arbitration when the arbitration agreement is ambiguous; ongoing use of the US DDCC for ICSID award enforcement.

USMCA investor-state dispute settlement provisions: Key differences for Mexico

26 October 2020

For ISDS claims, only after the local litigation requirement is fulfilled or 30 months have elapsed may certain substantive claims be brought against a state.

Venezuela: Recent, significant commercial arbitration developments include several Supreme Tribunal cases

26 October 2020

Recent significant developments in Venezuela's arbitration landscape.

Online Arbitration Hearings: A review of key developments in response to COVID-19

28 September 2020

[VIRTUAL HEARINGS](#)

In this second report, we focus on arbitration and look at how arbitral institutions have adapted in response to COVID-19. We draw out some of the key legal as well as practical challenges faced, and we offer some observations on what the future may look like.

US courts affirm expansive discovery under 28 U.S.C. § 1782

29 SEP 2015

There is increasingly clear consensus among US courts giving § 1782 expansive reach.

[Events](#)

[Previous](#)

Latin America International Arbitration Webinar Series 2020-2021

8 December 2020 | 12:00 - 1:00 CST

Latin America International Arbitration Webinar Series 2020-2021

Webinar

Global International Arbitration Training Day 2020 – Disputes arising from Sino-US tensions

29 October 2020

Webinar

Episode I – 28 U.S.C. § 1782: A sword or a shield in your international dispute

30 September 2020 | 11:00 am Eastern

Latin America International Arbitration Webinar Series 2020-2021

Webinar

NEWS

DLA Piper lawyers and practices ranked in *Chambers Latin America 2022*

30 August 2021

DLA Piper today announced that the firm received 38 individual lawyer rankings and 15 firm rankings in the *Chambers Latin America 2022* guide.

Gabriela Alvarez-Avila joins DLA Piper's International Arbitration practice in Mexico City

20 July 2021

DLA Piper announced today that Gabriela Alvarez-Avila will join the firm's International Arbitration practice as a partner in Mexico City.

Carlos Nuñez named regional head for Latin America of DLA Piper's International Arbitration practice

1 July 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Carlos Nuñez has been named regional head for Latin America of DLA Piper's International Arbitration practice.
