



Arbitrage international

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.