



Elinor Thomas

Legal Director

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Elinor Thomas has more than 12 years of experience in complex international dispute resolution, with a particular emphasis on investment disputes and international arbitration, including investment treaty arbitration.

She advises clients across a wide range of sectors, including energy, IT, telecoms, mining, banking, and financial services. Elinor's practice focuses on international arbitration, including conducting arbitrations under the UNCITRAL, ICSID, LCIA, ICC, and SCC rules. She also has significant experience in handling litigation matters in the commercial and other courts, as well as conducting mediations and expert determinations.

Many of the cases Elinor has worked on have been complex, multi-jurisdictional and high profile disputes, such as acting for Gazprom in multi-billion USD SCC arbitrations against the state-owned Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz.

Elinor also regularly advises clients in the Coram Children's Legal Clinic in relation to their ability to register for British citizenship, and conducts other pro bono work for organisations including Integrity Watch and the Human Dignity Trust.

- International Arbitration
- Cross-Border Litigation
- Banking and Finance Litigation
- IT and Telecoms Disputes
- Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Disputes

- Technology
- Financial Services
- Energy and Natural Resources

- Advising The Government of Kenya in its successful defence of a USD2 billion claim under the UK-Kenya bilateral investment treaty in ICSID arbitration proceedings concerning the alleged expropriation of mining rights. In the award issued in October 2018, all of the Claimants' claims were dismissed and Kenya was awarded costs and fees in excess of USD3.5 million.
- Advising The Government of Georgia in an ICSID arbitration valued at USD700 million, brought under a bilateral investment treaty and under the Energy Charter Treaty, relating to alleged investments in the construction of oil and gas pipeline infrastructure and the development of oil and gas facilities. The award was issued in 2010.
- Advising Gazprom in two related SCC arbitrations against state-owned Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz involving claims worth approximately USD40 billion concerning gas supply and transit contracts. The proceedings began in 2014 and awards were issued in 2017.
- Advising a Chinese upstream oil and gas company in an LCIA arbitration in relation to a dispute against a global energy company in

relation to a shareholders' agreement governing their joint venture relationship in Latin America. The proceedings began in November 2017 and remain ongoing.

- Advising a Korean ship builder in two related LCIA arbitrations in London against three Nigerian companies arising from a USD300 million project in Nigeria for the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning for a greenfield floating production storage and offloading vessel (FPSO). The proceedings concluded in 2015.
- Advising a Nigerian company in a LCIA arbitration in London against two Nigerian companies for works done under a letter of intent in anticipation of the entry into an EPC contract. The proceedings concluded in 2015.
- Advising a Middle Eastern telecommunications services company in an ICC arbitration concerning a contract for the provision of the technical infrastructure for IP and wireless networks involving claims totalling USD300 million. The award was issued in 2012, although enforcement proceedings continued until 2019.
- Advising a US based IT services company in relation to a dispute with a customer concerning allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation leading to a mediation and arbitration under the AAA ICDR Rules. The case concluded in 2015.
- Advising a Balkan telecommunications company in relation to USD100 million ICC arbitration proceedings arising out of a dispute concerning an interconnection agreement. The proceedings concluded in 2013.
- Advising a leading UK bank in relation to the investigation and pursuit of claims valued at USD135 million against other European banking groups and a European state arising from complex and high profile acquisitions during the 2008 financial crisis, and acting for the bank in two related ICC arbitrations and court proceedings in Belgium. An award was issued in 2018.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Education

- University of York, BA, English and Related Literature, 2002
- Diploma in Law, Legal Practice Course, 2004-05
- Queen Mary University of London, Postgraduate Diploma in International Dispute Resolution (Arbitration), 2015