



Alexander G. Fessas

Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration, France; Director, ICC Dispute Resolution Services

Alexander G. Fessas, a Cypriot national born in Athens, currently serves as Managing Counsel and is the third most senior member of the ICC Court's Secretariat. He started his career with ICC working as Deputy Counsel in the Eastern European team in 2011. He was later promoted to Counsel, first in charge of the North American team and later in charge of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East team. Before joining ICC, Alexander was an associate at Stelios Koussoulis & Partners, an Athens-based law firm until 2007, and a sole practitioner thereafter.

He acted both as counsel and administrative secretary in international and domestic commercial arbitration cases in construction, energy and telecommunications disputes. He had also undertaken other roles including as editor-in-chief of the *Revue hellénique de droit international*. Alexander is admitted to the Athens Bar. He obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from the Faculty of Law of the University of Athens, having specialized in conflict of laws, arbitration and comparative law.

Aside his native Greek, Alexander speaks English and French.



Alina Dumitrascu

Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, PPC Romania, Romania

Alina Dumitrascu is Director of Legal and Corporate Affairs. She is a highly experienced lawyer, bringing extensive experience in leading legal teams across both private and public sectors.

Prior to her current position in PPC Group, Alina held an international position within the Enel Group, where she contributed to global legal projects focused on power distribution technologies and innovation.

Previously, she coordinated the legal teams of Enel Group's electricity distribution companies in Romania for several years, bringing to this role her expertise as Legal Director of the national energy regulator.

Guided by the principle "Do good by doing good", Alina is deeply committed to social impact. She is the author of Romania's first children's book explaining the Constitution and the founder of an NGO dedicated to legal education and the advancement of gender equality.

Passionate about empowering women, Alina actively supports initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion.

Her professional excellence and leadership have been recognized internationally with Alina being awarded as General Counsel of the Year – EMEA at the Women in Business Law Awards 2025, organized by IFLR and Legal Benchmarking Group.



Asli Yilmaz

Managing Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris

Ms Asli Yilmaz is the Managing Counsel of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. She was previously Counsel of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Team at the ICC Secretariat of the Court.

During her time at the ICC as Deputy Counsel, Counsel and Managing Counsel Ms Yilmaz has administered hundreds of arbitration cases from multiple regions including Europe, Northern Africa and the Middle East region.

Prior to joining the ICC, she worked as an arbitration lawyer at international law firms in Istanbul, Paris and New York.

Ms Yilmaz received her law degree from Warwick University and also holds an LL.M. in International Law from London School of Economics.

She is admitted to practice in the State of New York and Istanbul.

Her working languages are English, Turkish and German.



Ayse Yazir

Managing Director, Bench Walk Advisors, United Kingdom

Ayse Yazir joined Bench Walk Advisors in 2018, and is based in London.

She has an outstanding reputation in the litigation funding industry, where she originates, underwrites, and monitors funding in various litigation sectors including international and

commercial arbitration, insolvency, class actions and global litigation matters as well as law firm and corporate portfolio arrangements and defense funding. Prior to joining Bench Walk Advisors, Ayse worked as a Technical Manager in Arthur J Gallagher's dispute resolution team where she worked with international law firms and litigation funders around the world to deliver funding and insurance solutions. She has seven years senior technical underwriting experience with a global funder based in London, where she reviewed over 400 cases a year.

Ayse has been instrumental in drafting rules on third-party funding for both UNCITRAL and ICSID and is currently working at CI Arb's TPF drafting committee. Ayse has been recognised as a 'Thought Leader: Third-Party Funding' by Who's Who Legal for four consecutive years, ranked in Chambers & Partners both in the UK and Europe, Legal500 named as the industry leader, named as one of the top 10 Most Influential Litigation Funders by Business Today and ranked by Lawdragon as the leading funder. Ayse won 'Leading Dispute Resolution Expert' at the Lawyer Monthly Awards 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 and won the "Litigation Funder of the Year" award at Finance Monthly Awards 2021 and 2023. She regularly speaks at key industry conferences, including GAR, Legal 500 GC Summit, IBA and EFILA Annual Conference. She has been named a "Woman Leader in the Legal Industry" (2022) by Vogue and Harper's Bazaar magazines and again in 2023 as a "Role Model in Law" by Vogue. Ayse was chosen as the "Person of the Week" by Green.Org and was the finalist for "Women Leader of 2022" by the Women in Law and Diversity Awards. Ayse was again nominated for this category in 2023.

Ayse was instrumental in founding Istanbul Arbitration Week, which attracted over 1,200 attendees in only its second year. She has published various articles on litigation funding and teaches funding at leading global universities such as Georgetown, Queen Mary, Paris Bar Association and Stockholm University. Ayse is the General Editor of Chambers & Partners Litigation Funding publication and sits on the Advisory Board for the Thought Leader's Funding Circle Group.

Ayse was awarded the Turkish National State Scholarship to study Turkish Law at Başkent University, where she won various academic prizes and graduated third in her year group. She studied English Law at Nottingham Law School where she graduated with distinction and she holds a Master's degree in International Relations and is a Chartered Insurer.



Carole Malinvaud

Partner, Gide, France

Carole Malinvaud is a partner at Gide Paris, where she coordinates the firm's international arbitration activities and chairs Gide's Pro Bono endowment fund.

She practises international commercial law, with a particular focus on international arbitration. Carole has recently concentrated on construction, energy and defence arbitrations under ICC and ICSID rules. She also acts as arbitrator in a number of ICC and ICSID

arbitrations.

Carole is a lecturer at the University of Paris II as part of the Master 2 in International Business Law and at Sciences Po Paris as part of the LLM in Transnational Arbitration. She has been Vice-Chair of the ICC Court of Arbitration since 2021 and an elected member of the ICCA Board since 2017. She has also been an elected member of the International Council of Arbitration for Sport (ICAS) since 2015, President of the Ordinary Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) since 2016 and President of the ad hoc Division of the Paris Olympic Games (2024).

Carole is a graduate of the University of Paris II (DEA in private law - 1986) and Harvard (LL.M., Harvard Law School, Lavoisier and Fulbright scholarships - 1988). She was admitted to the Paris Bar in 1986 and to the New York Bar in 1990.



Claudia Salomon

President, ICC International Court of Arbitration, France

Claudia Salomon is the President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. She is the first woman to lead the world's most preferred arbitral institution in its almost 100-year history.

Ms. Salomon is also an independent arbitrator, specialising in international, investor-state and complex commercial disputes. She is widely recognised as one of the leading arbitration practitioners of her generation.

Ms. Salomon has experience as arbitrator and counsel in some of the most complex, high value and

significant disputes. Her cases span a broad range of industry sectors, including construction, energy and natural resources (oil and gas, hydroelectric, solar, wind farm), financial services, hospitality, life sciences, technology, and telecommunications. She is particularly adept at multi-party, multi-contract claims involving complex financial agreements, post-M&A disputes and intellectual property rights.

Additionally, Ms. Salomon is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She is a sought-after speaker and writer on international arbitration and the co-editor of *Choice of Venue in International Arbitration*, published by Oxford University Press.

Ms. Salomon is a member of the New York Bar and a solicitor in England and Wales. She graduated from Harvard Law School, cum laude, and Brandeis University, summa cum laude with honours. She also studied at Somerville College, Oxford University.



Erica Stein

Independent Arbitrator, Stein Arbitration, Belgium

Erica has over 20 years of experience in international arbitration. Before founding Stein Arbitration, Erica was a Partner in the international arbitration group of Dechert LLP in Brussels and Paris. Before joining Dechert, Erica was Counsel at the international arbitration boutique Hanotiau & van den Berg in Brussels.

Erica's work has focused on disputes arising under investment treaties, as well as complex cross-border commercial, post-M&A and shareholder disputes. She has been particularly active in the life sciences (biotech, medtech, pharma), energy, mining, transport, food and beverage, and telecommunications sectors. Other sectors in which Erica has experience are aerospace, chemicals, engineering and construction, finance and banking, gaming, heavy industry, maritime, real estate, and tourism. Erica also has expertise in the recognition and enforcement of arbitration agreements and awards, on which subject she lectures, writes, and has trained judges.

Before entering private practice, Erica served as Counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris, where she oversaw hundreds of arbitrations pending under the ICC Rules of Arbitration worldwide.

A national of the United States and Belgium, Erica is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and German, and can run proceedings in each of those languages. She is also conversant in Dutch and Italian.

Erica is a member of the New York and Brussels bars.



Fabiano Robalinho Cavalcanti

Partner in Litigation and Arbitration, Bermudes Advogados, Brazil; Professor of Conflicts of Laws and Arbitration, Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV), Brazil; Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration

Fabiano Robalinho Cavalcanti is a litigation and arbitration partner at Bermudes Advogados, and previously served as a foreign associate at Debevoise & Plimpton in New York.

He holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) from Harvard Law School, a Bachelor of Laws from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC/RJ), and is a professor of Arbitration and Private International Law at the Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) Law School.

Fabiano is recommended as a 'Global Leader in Arbitration' by Who's Who Legal, and is recognised in the area of dispute resolution (Litigation and Arbitration) by leading legal rankings, including Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500, Leaders League, Benchmark Litigation, LACCA Approved, Latin Lawyer 250, Análise Advocacia 500, among others.

He has extensive experience in domestic and international arbitration, as well as in court proceedings. He represents large companies in some of the most important disputes in Brazil, often with developments in other jurisdictions. He also frequently acts in transnational litigation, with parallel proceedings in different jurisdictions and in the enforcement of foreign decisions.

He is constantly appointed as an arbitrator in domestic and international disputes by parties and arbitral institutions such as the ICC. His name is listed in the main Brazilian arbitration institutions (CCBC, CBMA, FGV and CAMARB).

He is a member of the ICC Latin-American Group and a member of the board of CBAR - Brazilian Arbitration Committee.



Hilary Heilbron, KC

**Barrister and Independent Arbitrator, Brick
Court Chambers, United Kingdom**

Hilary Heilbron's primary focus is now sitting as an international arbitrator in a variety of jurisdictions following a distinguished career as a commercial barrister and King's Counsel.

She has accepted in excess of 130 appointments as party nominated arbitrator, presiding arbitrator and sole arbitrator as well as an emergency arbitrator. She has also chaired many tribunals of leading international arbitrators. Her appointments include both institutional appointments under ICC, LCIA, SCC,

SIAC, HKIAC and ICDR as well as ad hoc appointments. Many of these relate to substantial claims including in excess of US\$1 billion. She also has experience of arbitrations in many foreign laws: both civil and common law and disputes covering and many industrial sectors in a variety of types of claim including, but not limited to, energy (oil, gas, water), solar and nuclear power, telecommunications and media, joint ventures and share purchase agreements, insurance and banking.

She has recently been a member of several international arbitration task forces, namely the ICCA-ASIL Task Force on Damages; the ICCA/IBA Joint Task Force on Data Protection in International Arbitration Proceedings; and remains a member of the ICDR Working Group on Arbitration of Technology and Life Sciences Disputes. She is a former member of the LCIA Court and of the ICC UK Arbitration and ADR Committee.

She speaks regularly to international audiences and writes on the subject. Past prestigious lectures include the keynote lecture at Fordham University School of Law, New York, the annual Clayton Utz lecture in Sydney, Australia, and the Annual Unidroit/University of Roma lecture.

She is the author of a book on international arbitration in London.

She has been described recently as having a "stellar reputation" and being an "amazing arbitrator".



Juan Fernández-Armesto

Partner, Armesto Dispute Resolution, Spain

Juan Fernández-Armesto is a partner at Armesto Dispute Resolution, an arbitration boutique that handles complex disputes in various sectors, jurisdictions and languages.

Juan is a professional arbitrator. He has been President of the Spanish Securities and Exchange Commission (CNMV) (1996-2000), partner of Uría Menéndez (1983-1996) and Chaired Professor of Commercial Law (1988-2009).

Juan Fernández-Armesto has acted as arbitrator in more than 125 commercial arbitrations, involving a very wide array of disputes affecting sales of enterprises, shareholders' agreements and joint venture contracts, agency and distributorship agreements, finance and banking agreements, gas pricing and other commercial contracts.

He has also been designated arbitrator in various construction disputes relating to dams, bridges, power plants, refineries, oil and gas pipelines, turnkey plant construction agreements and other infrastructure projects.

The commercial and construction arbitrations in which he participated include almost 100 cases administered by the ICC, plus cases administered by AAA, LCIA, VIAC, DIAC and ad hoc procedures under UNCITRAL Rules.

Spanish national, born in New York in 1953, he lived for 10 years in Germany, obtained the Abitur at the German School in Madrid (1972), and then received Degrees in Law (ICADE, Madrid, 1977) and in Business Administration (ICADE, Madrid, 1978) and an Iuris Doctor (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 1983 summa cum laude).

Bilingual: Spanish-German; English; Portuguese and working knowledge of French.



Melanie Van Leeuwen

Founding Partner, Vanguard International Dispute Resolution, France

Melanie Van Leeuwen is a founding partner of Vanguard International Dispute Resolution.

Since 1996, Melanie has been practising international arbitration exclusively. She has solid experience as counsel and arbitrator in both commercial and investment arbitration, conducted under all major sets of arbitration rules (ICC, LCIA, LCIA-MIAC, ICSID, SCC, ICDR, UNCITRAL, PCA, DIAC, NAI, SIAC, CEPANI and Swiss Rules) and governed by various procedural and substantive laws. She has handled over 150 arbitrations as counsel and arbitrator concerning disputes arising out of international commercial contracts, cross-border investment, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, construction projects and investment protection under international law. She has been particularly active in the sectors of energy, mining, media, information and communication technology, construction and engineering, real estate, aviation and infrastructural and defence projects. She also regularly represents clients in annulment, enforcement and consolidation proceedings before the Netherlands state courts.

Melanie has been appointed to the ICSID panel of arbitrators by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. At present, she is serving as chair of the ICC Commission on Arbitration, as co-chair of the ICCA-IBA Joint Task Force on Data Protection in International Arbitration, and as a board member of the Swiss Arbitration Association.



Mihael Jeklic

**Director of Professional Skills, King's College London,
United Kingdom**

Mihael Jeklic is a Lecturer and the Director of Professional Skills at The Dickson Poon School of Law at King's College London. Before joining academia, Mihael was a principal banker with a development bank in London, and a teaching assistant at the Program on Negotiation at Harvard. His academic research focuses on (social) cognition in negotiation and strategic decision making with special emphasis on optimization strategies in negotiation, (social) cognitive biases and debiasing techniques in negotiation and decision making relevant to litigation and arbitration. Mihael has a law degree from Harvard and a PhD in psychology from UCL.



Noradèle Radjai

Partner, Lalive, Switzerland

Noradèle specialises in international commercial arbitration and investment arbitration across a number of sectors including energy, construction and infrastructure, and mining. She routinely advises and represents clients from the Middle East and on disputes relating to Middle Eastern projects and contracts. Hailed as “exceptional”, Noradèle is renowned for being “highly skilled in written and oral advocacy” and for her “superb cross-examination skills”, Chambers Global, Arbitration International, 2023. She has acted as counsel and arbitrator in about 100 international arbitration proceedings, both ad hoc and institutional (under the ICC, LCIA, SCC, ICSID, AAA/ICDR, UNCITRAL and Swiss Rules), including disputes arising from share sales and acquisitions, joint ventures, and large projects, governed by a variety of procedural and substantive laws



Stella Leptourgou

Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris

Stella Leptourgou is a distinguished legal professional currently serving as Counsel at the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris. With a robust background in international arbitration, she has made significant contributions to the field, particularly in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean regions.

Stella joined the ICC in July 2017 as a Deputy Counsel and quickly rose through the ranks due to her expertise and dedication. By 2021, she had assumed the role of Counsel for her team, where she continues to oversee complex arbitration cases and ensure the smooth administration of justice.

In addition to her role at the ICC, Stella is a Co-Chair of the ICC Young Arbitration and ADR Forum (YAAF). In this capacity, she plays a pivotal role in fostering the development of young practitioners in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution, promoting diversity, and encouraging innovative practices within the field.

Stella's academic background is equally impressive. She holds a law degree and has pursued advanced studies in international arbitration, equipping her with a deep understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of the discipline.

Her contributions to the launch of the ICC 2021 Rules of Arbitration highlight her commitment to advancing the field. The revised rules, which aim to increase efficiency, transparency, and diversity in arbitration, reflect Stella's forward-thinking approach and dedication to maintaining the highest standards of ethics in the profession.

Stella Leptourgou's career is marked by her unwavering commitment to excellence, her leadership in promoting young talent, and her significant impact on the practice of international arbitration.



Stephen Ruttle KC

Commercial Mediator, Brick Court Chambers, United Kingdom

Stephen has been in practice at Brick Court Chambers since 1978. For the past 21 years he has worked full-time as a commercial mediator. By June 2022 he had mediated over 1,700 business, legal and governmental disputes of every legal type including many of the largest and most sensitive in the UK and across the world. Over the course of lockdown in 2020/2021 he conducted nearly 100 virtual mediations. He practises mainly in London but mediates regularly in other parts of the UK and in many jurisdictions abroad.

Stephen has consistently featured in The Legal 500 and Chambers as a top-ranked commercial mediator. For three years he was listed as one of the top 10 commercial mediators in the world by WWL, which in 2018 also listed him as one of seven UK, and one of 15 worldwide “Thought Leaders” in mediation.



Sébastien Bonnard

**Managing Partner, Hughes Hubbard & Reed,
France**

Sébastien Bonnard is the Managing Partner of Hughes Hubbard's Paris office and Head of the firm's Europe, Africa and the Middle East International Arbitration practice. As an experienced International Arbitration attorney, Sébastien has served as counsel for private and public operators, and as arbitrator in numerous arbitration proceedings, both institutional (ICC, ICSID, ADCCAC, LCIA, LMAA, etc.), and ad hoc. Sébastien is registered on the list of arbitrators for ICC France. He also represents his clients in post-

arbitral disputes (annulment and enforcement of awards). Sébastien's practice extends to litigation of commercial disputes, liability and industrial risk and alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

Sébastien is particularly active in complex disputes relating to construction, mining, oil & gas, telecommunications, joint ventures, defense, transport and distribution agreements in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Sébastien also has significant experience in the negotiation and monitoring of construction contracts (including FIDIC contracts), and the settlement of related disputes via adjudication or other forms of ADR. He is Chairperson of a dispute adjudication board appointed in the context of a project for the construction of a nuclear fusion reactor in Europe valued at over €20 billion. He is co-author of "Construction Arbitration: France" in Global Arbitration Review's (GAR) Know-how Guide (2022 and 2023 editions) and was author of the "Country Q&A: France" in Practical Law Company's (PLC) Cross-border Constructions and Projects Handbook between 2011 and 2015.

In addition to his active practice, Sébastien has been a lecturer since 2009 for the International Business Law Master 2 program at the University of Paris Saclay.

Sébastien is a native French speaker and is also fluent in English.

Todd Wetmore

Founding Partner, Three Crowns, France



Todd Wetmore, a founding partner of Three Crowns, is based in Paris, where he has handled complex international commercial arbitration cases for over 25 years. As counsel, he represents clients in high-stakes disputes around the world in diverse sectors including high-tech manufacturing, automobile distribution, aviation, oil and gas, electricity, and mining.

He has deep experience with disputes presenting challenging financial and technical issues, such as those arising from banking operations, teaming arrangements, supply and M&A deals, and gas pricing, under both common law and civil law systems. Todd is also

a recognised specialist in infrastructure and construction disputes and has led teams handling some of the largest construction disputes in arbitration.

Todd regularly sits as an arbitrator under the ICC, LCIA, Swiss, and UNCITRAL Rules. One prominent appointment includes the much-publicised *van der Garde v. Sauber* arbitration, which had an impact on the 2015 Formula 1 motor-racing season.

Lexology Index recognises him as a “Thought Leader” in arbitration and a “Recommended Global Leader” in construction and energy law and describe him as “a very brilliant advocate”. Chambers, which ranks him as a Band 1 lawyer, notes that Todd is “furiously bright, gets very deep into the case details and is very passionate about his work” and is “outstanding counsel” whilst The Legal 500 describes him as “tireless, very intelligent and pragmatic”.

He co-authored the France chapter in *Construction & Engineering Laws and Regulations* (ICLG) and the Construction Disputes chapter of *International Arbitration and the COVID-19 Revolution* (Kluwer Law).

Todd is a past Vice-President of the ICC Court and is qualified as an *avocat* in France and a solicitor in England.



Ulrich Kopetzki

Acting Director, Arbitration and ADR, Europe, ICC Dispute Resolution Services, Paris

Ulrich Kopetzki is an Austrian lawyer specialising in conflict resolution and dispute prevention, with a particular focus on international arbitration. Ulrich currently acts as the Director for Europe for ICC Dispute Resolution Services. Ulrich graduated from the law school of the University of Vienna (2012). He worked in the arbitration department of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP before starting his first position at the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris. At the ICC, he worked as Deputy Counsel (2014-2016) and as Counsel of the German-speaking case management team and the Eastern European case management team (2017-2018). He re-joined the ICC in his current role in 2022. As Counsel at the ICC, Ulrich mainly dealt with cases from Eastern Europe, Austria, Switzerland, Germany and Nordic countries. He gained extensive experience in international arbitration proceedings, in particular in post-M&A disputes, joint venture, licensing and distribution agreements as well as in engineering and construction disputes, including especially FIDIC disputes. He supervised over 500 arbitrations, including several investment treaty and emergency arbitrator cases and was involved in the review of some 100 awards as part of the ICC Court's scrutiny process. As an arbitration practitioner since 2018, Ulrich has acted as counsel and independent arbitrator under various institutional rules.

His track record includes cases under the ICC, DIS, VIAC and KCAB Rules. Ulrich has been described as a "rising star among Austrian arbitration practitioners" and is recommended for bringing "a wealth of experience from his tenure at the ICC Secretariat" and being "very knowledgeable" (LEGAL 500). Furthermore, he is listed as a "Future Leader" in Arbitration by Who's Who Legal. Finally, Ulrich teaches at various European universities and was a Visiting Scholar at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago (2016), where he conducted negotiation research and completed the DRRC Negotiation and Mediation Research and Teaching Certificate Program.