



ARBITRATION POWERLIST 2021
CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

ARBITRATION

POWERLIST 2021 |

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INTRODUCTION |

For 33 years, The Legal 500 has been analysing the capabilities of law firms and sets across the world. In the research team, we constantly track which sections are used most by clients, and this often matches up with an increase in that section from submissions, client referees, requests for interviews and feedback – all of which make up the research process. The international arbitration rankings are consistently one of our most used and read editorial sections and one of the most competitive areas for law firms, sets, lawyers and barristers. This chimes with what we constantly hear anecdotally in the market, with international arbitration frequently cited as the preferred form of dispute resolution.

The Arbitration Powerlist: Central and Eastern Europe showcases the leading practitioners working in a broad sweep of countries, stretching from Austria and Poland to the Baltic nations and down to Serbia and North

Macedonia. As with any publication of this nature, we were faced with the dilemma of including as many worthy candidates as possible without diluting the significance of their listing. After lengthy discussions across the editorial team, we decided that a larger selection was necessary to provide sufficient nuance and balance across so many different markets. We hope that by expanding the selection we have managed to include some surprises.

To collate the list of leading practitioners we have of course drawn on our research team's expertise. We have also approached leading arbitrators, arbitral institutions and general counsel active in the market to help create a definitive list of the leading arbitration counsel in the Central and Eastern Europe region today. As such, we think the listing reflect those practitioners that are deemed the gold standard by business. ■

The Legal 500 – In-house Legal Research Team

Catalin Alexandru	Filip & Company	Zoltán Forgó	Forgó, Damjanovic & Partners
Assen Alexiev	Assen Alexiev	Angel Ganev	Djingov, Gouginski, Kyutchukov & Velichkov
Daniel Alexandru Aragea	STOICA & Asociații		
Ramūnas Audzevičius	Motieka & Audzevicius	Assen Georgiev	CMS
Jozef Bannert	Cerha Hempel	Beata Gessel-Kalinowska vel Kalisz	GESSEL
Metodi Baykushev	Dimitrov, Petrov & Co.		Attorneys at Law
Valentin Berea	RTPR - Radu Taracila Padurari Retevoescu	Carri Ginter	Sorainen
Jelena Bezarević Pajić	Moravčević Vojnović and Partners - in cooperation with Schoenherr	Jola Giuzi	Kalo & Associates
Filip Blagojević	BOPA Bojanovic Partners	Leon Glikman	Gilkman Alvin LEVIN
Filip Boras	Baker McKenzie	Anne-Karin Grill	AKG Advisory
Miklós Boronkay	SzecsKay Attorneys at Law	Dr Heidrun Halbartschlager	Konrad Partners
Marcin Boruc	Radzikowski, Szubielska i Wspólnicy sp.k.	Monika Hartung	Wardynski & Partners
Borislav Boyanov	Boyanov & Partners	Triinu Hiob	NJORD Law Firm
Branco Bulat	Savoric & Partners	František Honsa	BBH
Gheorghe Butra	Musat & Asociatii	Dr Vít Horáček	Legalité
Biljana Cakmakova	Cakmakova Advocates	Karolína Horáková	Skills
Alban Çausi	CR Partners	Ivo Janda	White & Case
Kina Chuturkova	Boyanov & Partners	Marek Jeżewski	Kochański & Partners
Jasminka Čorda Truhar	Hanžeković & Partners	Inga Kačevska	Inga Kačevska Law Office
Rimantas Daujotas	Motieka & Audzevicius	Tomáš Kamenec	Paul Q Law Firm
Ivan Debarliev	DDK	Edin Karakaš	Žurić i Partneri
Pavel Dejl	Kocian Solc Balastik	Daniela Karollus-Bruner	CMS
Marius Devyžis	Derling Primus	Paul Keres	Gilkman Alvin LEVIN
Ana Diculescu-Şova	Nestor Nestor Diculescu Kingston Petersen	Theis Klauberg	Klauberg BALTICS
Tsvetelina Dimitrova	Georgiev, Todorov & Co. Law Offices	Dejan Knezovic	Knezovic & Associates
Dr Vladimir M. Djerić	Mikijelj Jankovic & Bogdanovic	Tijana Kojović	BDK Advokati
Lucie Dolanská Bányaiová	Bányaiová Vožehová	Péter Komáromi	Eversheds Sutherland
Gediminas Dominas	WALLESS	Dr Christian W. Konrad	Konrad Partners
Ion Dragne	Dragne & Asociatii	Leon Kopecký	Schoenherr
Tamás Éless	Oppenheim	Wojciech Kozłowski	Dentons
Sokol Elmazaj	Boga & Associates	Uroš Križanec	Sibinčič Križanec
Emil Emanuilov	Kambourov & Partners	Bartosz Krużewski	Clifford Chance
Eliane Fischer	rothorn legal	Jānis Kubilis	Vilgerts
		Peter Kubina	Dentons
		Nataša Lalatović Đorđević	Moravčević Vojnović and Partners - in cooperation with Schoenherr
		Maciej Łaszczuk	Łaszczuk & Partners
		András Dániel László	LFB - László Fekete Bagaméry

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Ġirts Lejiņš	Cobalt	Marcin Radwan-Röhrenscher	Röhrenscher
Jure Levovnik	Jadek & Pensa	István Réczicza	Dentons
Christoph Lindinger	Schönherr	Stefan Riegler	Wolf Theiss
Liina Linsi	Cobalt	Aleš Rojs	Rojs, Peljhan, Prelesnik & Partners
Josip Madirazza	Madirazza & Partners	Robert Roșu	Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații
Martin Magál	Allen & Overy	Markus Schifferl	Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich
Arno Mamasyan	Georgiev, Todorov & Co	Anton Sigal	Ellex Raidla
Senka Mihaj	Mihaj, Ilić & Milanović	Rimantas Simaitis	Cobalt
Andrzej Miklas	Rymarz Zdort	Andrius Smaliukas	Ellex Valiunas
Agim Muco	Wolf Theiss	Stanisław Sołtysiński	Sołtysiński Kawecki & Szlęzak
Péter P Nagy	Nagy és Trócsányi	Sylvia Steeva	Tomov & Tomov
András Nemescsói	DLA Piper	Cristiana-Irinel Stoica	STOICA & Asociații – Attorneys at Law
Valts Nerets	Sorainen	Petar D. Stojanović	Joksović, Stojanović & Partners
Ivaylo Nikolov	Kambourov & Partners	Michał Subocz	White & Case
Đorđe Novčić	JPM	Kęstutis Švirinas	Sorianen
Dr. Zsolt Okányi	CMS	András Szecskay	Szecskay Attorneys at Law
Marcin Olechowski	Sołtysiński Kawecki & Szlęzak	Justyna Szpara	Łaszczuk & Partners
Miloš Olík	ROWAN LEGAL	Flonia Tashko-Borić	Tashko Pustina
Solveiga Palevičienė	Glimstedt	Oleg Temnikov	Wolf Theiss
Józef Palinka	DZP	Lazar Tomov	Tomov & Tomov
Magdalena Papiernik	Kochański & Partners	Domagoj Truhar	Hanžeković & Partners
László Partos	Partos & Noblet in cooperation with Hogan Lovells	Florentin Țuca	Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații
Rostislav Pekař	Squire Patton Boggs	Ziedonis Udris	Skudra & Udris
Philipp A. Peters	Konrad & Partners	Toomas Vaher	Ellex Raidla
Paweł Pietkiewicz	Greenberg Traurig	Vilija Vaitkute Pavan	Ellex Valiunas
Aivar Pilv	LEADELL (Pilv)	Tadas Varapnickas	TGS Baltic
Sylwia Piotrowska	Baker McKenzie	Paul Varul	TGS Baltic
Pirkka-Marja Pöldvere	LEADELL (Pilv)	Cosmin Vasile	Zamfirescu Racoti Vasile & Partners
Cornel Popa	Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații	Dan Visiou	Bucharest International Arbitration Court/Independent
Luminita Popa	Suciu Popa	Valentina Wong	Wolf Theiss
Tatjana Popovski-Buloski	Popovski & Partners	Calin-Andrei Zamfirescu	Zamfirescu Racoti & Partners
Boris Porobija	Porobija & Porobija	Gerold Zeiler	Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich
Roman Prekop	Barger Prekop Attorneys	Levana Zigmund	Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații
David Premelč	Rojs, Peljhan, Prelesnik and Partners	Daiga Zivtiņa	Ellex Klavins
Tatiana Prokopová	Squire Patton Boggs		
Dragan Psodorov	Joksović, Stojanović & Partners		



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Anne-Karin Grill

AKG ADVISORY

Location: Austria

Number of years in practice: Ten

Number of years as an arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: Austria

Main sectors covered: Commercial, corporate, investment, energy, construction, banking and finance, new technologies

Geographical areas of focus: Europe (Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, UK, Scandinavia), Northern Africa (Morocco), Asia (Hong Kong and Mainland China)

Languages: German, English, French, Swedish

Anne-Karin Grill is an experienced international arbitration lawyer who is well-versed in other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), especially mediation. She has been described as the *'go-to mediation specialist'* in Austria by one client, while another notes her prolific work in this field and says Grill *'stands apart in the Austrian market.'*

Grill advises clients in commercial arbitration proceedings in accordance with the rules of key arbitral institutions and has an excellent track-record in investor-state arbitration. In addition to her advocacy work before international tribunals, she serves as arbitrator and acts as CEDR accredited mediator/conciliator in high-profile international disputes. She also advises in litigation proceedings before the Austrian state courts, in particular in proceedings for the domestic enforcement or setting-aside of international arbitral awards.

Grill is a member of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a member of the Board of the Austrian Arbitration Association (Arb|Aut), and



also serves on the Mediation Advisory Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC). Upon the nomination of the Republic of Austria, Grill was appointed to the Panel of Conciliators of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

She has served as arbitrator on numerous occasions, including in ICC, VIAC and Finnish Arbitration Institute proceedings. Her experience as mediator/conciliator is not limited to commercial matters only. Grill has acted as neutral in a number of disputes involving sovereigns and international organisations. Since 2020, her vision of modern international dispute resolution services supports her own legal advisory business: AKG ADVISORY is an international ADR-focused boutique based in the heart of Europe with a truly global outlook and corporate client-base.

Roman Prekop

Barger Prekop Attorneys

Location: Slovakia

Number of years in practice: 20+

Number of years as an arbitrator: Seven

Current appointments: Two

Admissions: Slovakia, New York

Main sectors covered: Energy, M&A, construction

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Austria, Switzerland, Italy

Languages: English, Slovak, Czech

Roman Prekop has been a partner at Barger Prekop Attorneys since 2010, leading the firm's dispute resolution practice with a particular focus on Slovakia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

Prekop is an accomplished arbitrator, frequently acting in international arbitrations under the rules of the ICC and VIAC for clients across the energy, banking and construction sectors. A fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), he is also co-chair of the Slovak chapter of the New York Bar Association's International Section, and holds an LLM from Cornell Law School.

Martin Magál
Allen & Overy

Location: Slovakia

Number of years in practice: 22

Number of years as an arbitrator: 12

Current appointments as arbitrator: Two as sole arbitrator, two as chair, eight as co-arbitrator

Admissions: Slovak Bar Association

Main sectors covered: M&A, energy, real estate, commercial

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, MENA

Languages: Slovak, English, German (understand French and Russian)

Martin Magál is managing partner and head of Allen & Overy's litigation and arbitration practice in Slovakia. He also co-ordinates the dispute resolution practice in Allen & Overy's Central and Eastern Europe offices. Magál holds law degrees from Comenius University in Bratislava and Cambridge University, and has been a member of the Slovak Bar Association since 2001.

Magál has been practicing law since 1999, advising clients on a wide range of corporate and commercial transactions including acquisitions,

disposals, joint ventures and privatisations. He frequently acts as party representative in numerous arbitrations conducted under the arbitration rules of the ICC, VIAC, SCAI, SCCI (Court of Arbitration of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and PAC SBA (Permanent Arbitration Court of the Slovak Banking Association). He has also acted as an arbitrator in arbitrations conducted under International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), German Institution for Arbitration (DIS), London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) and Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) rules.

Magál is currently serving as a member of the board at the Arbitration Court of the Slovak Bar Association and has been one of the key individuals behind the plan to develop the body into one of Slovakia's most trusted domestic arbitration institutions. He is also a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Additionally, Magál has contributed articles and summaries to several domestic legal journals and international arbitration handbooks, and was the principal drafter of new Slovak legislation on commercial arbitration, in effect since 2015. He is also Slovakia's national correspondent to UNCITRAL on commercial arbitration.

Tijana Kojović
BDK Advokati

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 19

Admissions: Belgrade Bar

Main sectors covered: All sectors

Geographical areas of focus: Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Languages: English, French, Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Bosnian

Tijana Kojović is the founding and managing partner of BDK Advokati, with a particular expertise and experience in international arbitration and litigation. She is active in the firm's strategic transactional, advisory and contentious work, and has recently led the effort to launch a human rights litigation practice within the firm. At the very beginning of her career, Kojović worked at Allen & Overy in Budapest and London, and at Austrian firm Wolf Theiss. Kojović represented Mytilineos in the successful investment arbitration against the Serbian state, and is a board member of the Belgrade Arbitration Centre.

Kojović holds an LLM and PhD in international business law from the Central European University in Budapest. She has published articles in international legal publications on topics including arbitration, competition and commercial law.

František Honsa

BBH

Location: Czech Republic
Number of years in practice: 25
Number of years as an arbitrator: 15
Current appointments as arbitrator: Five
Admissions: Czech Bar Association
Main sectors covered: Dispute resolution with a main focus in commercial and banking law, frequently nominated in construction disputes
Geographical areas of focus: Czech Republic, Slovak Republic
Languages: Czech, English, Russian

A founding partner of the BBH firm, František Honsa has worked on a number of major disputes that have been pivotal for the development and interpretation of Czech laws and regulations. A specialist in commercial and banking law, he has advised on several cases that have set important precedents and standards for banks operating in the Czech Republic. These include the obligations of banks arising from the adoption of ISDA standards, as well as defining banks responsibilities towards their customers' accounts.

Actively employing his specialist knowledge as an arbitration counsel, Honsa is currently acting as lead counsel in a dispute between leading Czech banks surrounding an anti-competitive takeover of a business entity. The compensation being sought in this claim totals billions of Czech crowns. Honsa is also representing one of the largest technology companies in the Czech Republic over a claim in excess of CZK11bn brought by foreign companies over non-existing contracts. Honsa is also currently involved in the largest claim for damages in the history of the Czech Republic, representing Safe Diesel as plaintiff in a class-action lawsuit stemming from the "Dieselgate" scandal, where more than CZK20bn is being sought.

Honsa is an arbitrator and board member of the Czech Arbitration Court attached to the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic and the Agricultural Chamber of the Czech Republic. He is also an arbitrator with the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), and has represented a number of clients including PPF group, KKCG, Komerční banka, Moneta Bank, Česká pojišťovna, Moravské naftové doly, Škoda Transportation and Koh-i-noor.

Sokol Elmazaj

Boga & Associates

Location: Albania
Number of years in practice: 24
Number of years as an arbitrator: Nine
Current appointments as arbitrator: Three
Admissions: Albanian Bar Association
Main sectors covered: Energy, infrastructure, financial institutions, real estate, telecommunications
Geographical areas of focus: Albania and Kosovo
Languages spoken: Albanian, English, Italian

Sokol Elmazaj is a partner at Boga and Associates, joining the firm in 1996.

He is an experienced counsel in international commercial arbitration proceedings involving Albanian law. He is a listed arbitrator for the ADR Centre of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, and serves as chairman of the ADR Steering Council, part of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo.

Elmazaj is an active member of the ICC Albania Commission of Arbitration and the ADR, and is currently involved in the consultation process for new law on arbitration prepared by the Albanian Ministry of Justice.

Metodi Baykushev

Dimitrov, Petrov & Co.

Location: Bulgaria
Number of years in practice: 15
Admissions: Sofia Bar Association
Main sectors covered: Contract law, international trade, energy, sports, real estate, construction, infrastructure, public procurement and concessions
Geographical areas of focus: Bulgaria, EU
Languages spoken: Bulgarian, English, Macedonian

Metodi Baykushev is a managing partner at Dimitrov, Petrov & Co., leading the firm's dispute resolution practice and co-heading the public procurement practice. With wide experience in commercial litigation and arbitration, he has represented a number of major Bulgarian and international companies in arbitration and complex disputes, both under ICC rules and before the Bulgarian Supreme Court.

Baykushnev is actively involved in the Bulgarian arbitration community, serving as Secretary General of the ICC's Bulgarian National Committee, and has also lectured in business law at the American University in Bulgaria from 2017-18. Additionally, he is co-founder and volunteer at Smoke Free Bulgaria, a pressure group advocating smoking bans in indoor public areas.

Dan Visiou

Bucharest International Arbitration Court/Independent

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 22

Number of years as an arbitrator: Nine

Admissions: Bucharest Bar, Florida Bar

Main sectors covered: International sports law, international construction law including FIDIC contracts, investor-state (ICSID) arbitration, international commercial arbitration

Geographical areas of focus: European Union and North America

Languages: English and Romanian

Dan Visiou is one of the founding members of the Bucharest International Arbitration Court (BIAC), a new arbitral centre in the CEE region of which he is also currently Secretary General. His practice as arbitration counsel has been focused on international arbitration in the English language, seated in North America and Europe. He is on the closed-list of Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) arbitrators (as per the CAS' site, the closed list comprises approximately 300 arbitrators from 87 countries), and one of the few Fellows with The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) based in the CEE region. He is also registered as an arbitrator in the ICC's arbitrator database and was involved in the first ICSID case to hold video hearings at the beginning of April 2020, in lieu of face-to-face hearings in Paris.



Angel Ganev

Djingov, Gouginski, Kyutchukov & Velichkov

Location: Bulgaria

Number of years in practice: 21

Number of years as an arbitrator: 15

Admissions: Sofia Bar

Main sectors covered: International and domestic arbitration, litigation, insolvency, restructuring, competition, international trade, debt collection

Languages: English, Bulgarian

Angel Ganev has been a partner at Sofia-based Djingov, Gouginski, Kyutchukov & Velichkov for the last 16 years, with a particular practice focus on competition, litigation, corporate workouts and insolvency. He and his team handle complex commercial and insolvency disputes for a host of domestic and international clients, with a strong emphasis on cross-border disputes.

Ganev is an accomplished arbitrator, and has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators since 2007, one year after earning a Diploma in International Comparative Commercial Arbitration from the School of International Arbitration in London. For almost a decade he has acted as an arbitrator at the Vienna International Arbitral Centre. Additionally, he frequently authors legal articles on Bulgarian and international arbitration law.

Bartosz Krużewski

Clifford Chance

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: Over 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: Ten (ICC, DIS, ad hoc, Polish Chamber of Commerce)

Admissions: Polish Bar

Sectors covered: Oil & gas, infrastructure, construction, post-M&A, investment

Geographical areas of focus: Continental Europe

Languages: Polish, English

Bartosz Krużewski is one of the leading lawyers in Poland specialising in construction and infrastructure disputes and investment treaty arbitration, in which capacity he typically acts for large international investors. Recently, he was named as the firm's head of litigation and dispute resolution practices for all of Continental Europe – a rare achievement for a partner based in Warsaw and one which shows just how highly he is regarded both as an arbitration and litigation practitioner and as a leader.

Krużewski acts on the largest and most complex commercial and investment treaty cases, often as co-counsel alongside London-based arbitration star Audley Sheppard QC. His recent standout instructions include representing one of the parties in an ICC arbitration related to the construction of the first LNG terminal on the Baltic coast. Other highlights from his illustrious career include representing Manchester Securities Corporation Management Corporation against the Republic of Poland.

This 2015 UNCITRAL case concerned claims arising out of the Polish courts' decision to nullify a mortgage over an unfinished apartment complex in Krakow in southern Poland. Krużewski and his team introduced some novel arguments, establishing that a judgment of the Polish Supreme Court constituted a denial of justice. Such cases are rare and difficult to win, and it is testament to the skill of Krużewski and his team that a favourable result was obtained. More recently, he was involved in a pending Poland-US

bilateral treaty case regarding a renewable energy investment in the region, representing a US investor against the Republic of Poland.

Bartosz Krużewski has been the Chairman of the Arbitration Committee of ICC Poland for several years and a member of the Board of Directors of ICC Poland. He was also chairman of the appointing committee at the Lewiatan Arbitration Court in Warsaw and an officer of the European Forum of the International Bar Association.

In conversation with...

'Like many of the more senior lawyers in this region, I began my career working on corporate and commercial matters and of course on the pioneering privatizations of the 90s. In the late 90s, following the large wave of post-privatisation arbitrations, I gradually began to specialise in disputes, though I have retained my understanding of the ways in which an M&A transaction itself can drive subsequent disputes.

Interestingly, we are seeing a surge of these sorts of issues in arbitration. One of the discernible trends that we have already seen resulting from the global pandemic is in the M&A space. There is already a significant number of disputes where buyers are unhappy about the price they agreed before the pandemic.

In my first investor-state case we defended Poland against Mercuria Energy Group, a multinational commodity trading company. We eventually won this case in what was a rewarding victory for us. Later, I have mainly acted on the investor side of investor-state disputes.

I have built up a record of handling complex cases, many of which have concerned disputes in the energy, construction and infrastructure sectors. About a year ago we won a significant award for our client, a Spanish infrastructure conglomerate, which

we represented in a case regarding the construction of a steam power plant. These cases make up a large proportion of my work.

Central and Eastern Europe has seen a lot of construction work over the past decade, which inevitably means there have been a lot of construction related disputes. There are still large funds going into infrastructure, and when one looks into the new EU budget and the recovery fund there will be funds flowing all over Europe that will go into the transformation of heavy industry and the development of green economy, including renewables. This will ultimately create a number of disputes.

As a leader of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice for Continental Europe I have been recently thinking about what, if anything, might be distinctive of "Central and Eastern European style disputes" vs the types of matters one more typically encounters in Western Europe. Ultimately, there are no significant differences that would prevent someone familiar with Central Europe from practicing in the West. There are, however significant cultural differences.

One of the more notable differences is that a client which originates in this part of the world is typically less familiar with the steps and processes involved in an international arbitration. For many of these clients, the dispute you are assisting them with will be the first large arbitration that they have been a part of, and they will not be familiar with the procedure and process of international arbitration institutions such as ICC or LCIA. As such, dealing with clients requires lawyers to take a different and more hands-on approach. There is also perhaps a greater degree of distrust from the clients towards arbitration that one must overcome when compared to Western European clients.

There is a big concern in this part of the world about the rule of law and the independence of the courts. The upshot of this is that international arbitration is likely to be the beneficiary of the undermined legitimacy of the courts.' ■



Business message

The CMS arbitration practice is known for its geographical breadth combined with its deep sector expertise. Our arbitration group spans the globe: we have the capability to practice arbitration via the entire CMS network of 77 offices in 43 countries and we have extensive experience of representing clients in arbitrations under the rules of the world's leading institutions (ICC, LCIA, CIETAC, ICSID, PCA, WIPO, SIAC, HKIAC, Swiss Rules) and in ad hoc arbitrations. CMS is particularly prominent in the local and international arbitration community across Central and Eastern Europe where CMS arbitration lawyers are actively involved with all the major global, regional and local arbitration institutions and bodies where they act both as counsel and regularly sit as arbitrators.

CMS is regularly instructed in disputes of great strategic or financial importance. Our deeply entrenched technical and local jurisdictional knowledge means we are able to advise clients on their largest and most business critical matters.

CMS is organised into local and international sector groups. This enables our arbitration team to draw on and work alongside market-leading experts in consumer products, financial

services, hotels and leisure, infrastructure and project finance, lifesciences and healthcare, real estate, and technology, media and communications. Our international arbitration group includes many practitioners who have a specialist focus on investment disputes. CMS has extensive experience working with both investors and governments to resolve disputes. We know how disputes arise, what the common commercial objectives for investor claimants are, and how to tailor an effective dispute resolution strategy that can often result in dispute avoidance through strategic negotiation before a fully-fledged arbitration arises.

In addition to the work we perform for clients, our market leading arbitration practice is also demonstrated by the thought leadership projects that we undertake. By way of example, in 2020 we released the *CMS International Disputes Digest*, a bi-annual publication featuring analysis and commentary on the key trends currently shaping the global dispute resolution market. Moreover, we have been progressively releasing updated regional editions of the CMS Expert Guide to International Arbitration, which is a comprehensive, jurisdiction-based reference tool that is reputed as one of the best on the market.





C/M/S

Law . Tax



Zsolt Okányi

CMS

Job title: Partner, global and CEE regional head of dispute resolution

Location: Hungary

Number of years in practice: 19

Number of years as an arbitrator: 14

Admissions: Hungary, New York, Italy

Main sectors covered: Construction, energy, transportation, telecoms, financial, aviation

Geographical areas of focus: Western Europe, Italy, Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: Hungarian, English, German, Italian

Zsolt Okányi is a partner admitted in Hungary, New York and Italy and has been serving as the global head of the disputes practice at CMS. He is based in the firm's Budapest office and is also the acting head of the disputes practice across Central and Eastern Europe. With nearly 20 years of litigation and arbitration practice, Okányi has a great deal of experience in all major segments of the profession: in investment arbitration under ECT and ICSID rules, in commercial arbitration under the ICC, LCIA, VIAC and some local arbitral institutions in CEE jurisdictions as well as in ad hoc arbitration under the UNCITRAL rules, and in corporate / M&A and construction disputes, though his more recent practice has been focused on banking, telecoms and media disputes. Okányi is recognised as one of the leading litigation and arbitration experts in Hungary by all the various directories.

Highlights from his arbitration practice include representing a large German conglomerate in its dispute against the Municipality of Budapest related

to the construction of the city's Metro 4 and Metro 2 underground railway lines, which led to a highly favourable outcome for Okányi's client. A further notable case saw Okányi acting for a large German bank in a successful €168m arbitration related to the development of a new residential area outside Budapest which was followed by a second, related dispute for €520m, which CMS also won.

He is currently representing one of the CEE region's largest oil companies, in its dispute with a regional construction giant in a large and complex ICC arbitration relating to the construction of a gas pipeline in Poland. The case draws heavily on the strengths of CMS's disputes practice across Europe, involving teams from Hungary and Poland alongside assistance from the firm's Vienna and Zurich offices.



In conversation with...

'CMS has an office with an arbitration practice in every single jurisdiction in Europe. As a result, we really show our strength when it comes to international arbitration. It is not uncommon to act on disputes involving parties from three or more jurisdictions, and it is at such times that clients truly appreciate our wide geographical coverage and the closely integrated nature of our offices.'

In Central and Eastern Europe historical, cultural and economic ties between the various jurisdictions remain very strong. This brings a very significant amount of investment, which is in turn, quite naturally, followed also by a good number of

disputes. This is precisely why we have built a disputes practice from native dispute specialists in each jurisdiction that can operate seamlessly and deliver high quality work across the region.

Of course, investments into the CEE region do not only come from the Western world. Investment from Asian nations, particularly Japan and Korea, has been increasingly significant in recent years. Occasionally, these investors find themselves in court against local parties. I must say, cultural differences in the approach to arbitration can be fascinating in such cases, that we learnt and adding our local knowledge we are managing these situations to the benefit of our foreign clients.' ■

Assen Georgiev

CMS

Job title: Partner

Location: Sofia

Number of years in practice: 21

Admissions: Sofia Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Energy, construction, real estate, transportation, telecoms

Geographical areas of focus: Bulgaria

Languages: Bulgarian, English

Assen Georgiev is head of the litigation, arbitration, insurance and employment practice groups at the Sofia office of CMS. He has more than 20 years' of experience in dispute resolution, from litigation to domestic and international arbitration and mediation.

His expertise includes representing clients before various civil, commercial and administrative courts in Bulgaria, including supreme courts, and major domestic arbitration institutions. He represents clients in international arbitration institutions such as tribunals constituted under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Washington DC, USA.

Most recently, he represented the owners of the largest solar power station in the Balkans in an ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Bulgaria arising from violations of the energy charter treaty (ECT) and the Bulgarian state's failure to ensure a stable and predictable operating environment for producers. In late 2020, Georgiev and the CMS team in Bulgaria was engaged by another large renewable energy producer to prepare arbitration proceedings against the Republic of Bulgaria.

Prior to joining CMS, Georgiev served as one of the managing partners of a leading Bulgarian law firm and was involved in many of the largest privatisation deals on behalf of the buyers. He is a certified mediator registered with the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice and an arbitrator with the Arbitration Court at the Bulgarian Industrial Association, the

Confederation of Employers and Industrialists in Bulgaria, as well as with the Arbitration Court at the Bulgarian Football Union.

In conversation with...

'There has been a significant increase in the number of international businesses operating in Bulgaria over the past five years, and while, realistically, Bulgaria will not become an arbitration hub in the near future, this growth in investment will inevitably mean that international arbitration is set to become an increasingly important feature of the country's disputes landscape.

The Bulgarian arbitration system is very well established, being over 120 years old. Naturally, for nearly half of the twentieth century there was almost no arbitration in Bulgaria, and it was not until 1989 that the Bulgarian state allowed - for the first time since 1952 - the arbitration of domestic disputes between commercial entities. Since then, there have been significant improvements in the domestic arbitration laws, and the Bulgarian International Commercial Arbitration Act has adopted most model law provisions. There has also been a proliferation of arbitral institutions in Bulgaria, though it should be noted that newly emergent ones have not yet reached the reputation of older institutions.

While making arbitration more widely available to business is a good thing, we must be cautious that a proliferation of new institutions does not compromise the perceived quality of the process. It is important to note that in Bulgaria, as in many other European countries, the advantages of arbitration (such as speed, cost, and flexibility, to name just a few) are becoming less clear to many businesses.

Navigating cultural differences is often the most amusing, and challenging, aspect of international arbitration. A few years ago, I acted for a major



South Korean investor in arbitration with their local subcontractors involving one of the largest solar parks in Bulgaria. My Korean client was not happy with the performance of the subcontractors – significant delay and poor quality of works. Given my client's dissatisfaction, it came as something of a surprise, in the final hearing, to have my opposing counsel produce a letter, signed by my client, in which the contractor was praised as among the best construction companies ever!

Upon later inquiry, I learned that this arose from the exquisite politeness embedded in the Korean culture. Despite his unhappiness with the contractor, his perfect manners dictated he issues a recommendation letter to any company with which they had worked. My client did not consider it important and necessary to mention the existence of this letter. In the end we won the case, but it is a great example of how important cultural differences are and, being aware of them will always allow us, as lawyers to provide the best protection for our clients in any international arbitration.' ■



Daniela Karollus-Bruner
CMS

Job title: Partner, head of dispute resolution
Location: Vienna

Daniela Karollus-Bruner is a partner at CMS and leads the dispute resolution group as well as the insurance industry team of CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz. She is recognised as one of the leading litigation lawyers in Austria.

Karollus-Bruner has over 20 years of experience in conducting complex litigation and arbitration proceedings in particular in tort, contract, product liability, corporate and competition law.

She regularly acts as counsel in international commercial arbitration cases administered by leading arbitral institutions, most notably ICC, VIAC and in ad hoc arbitrations under the

UNCITRAL Rules. She represents companies in a wide range of industries, in particular construction (FIDIC-based contracts), energy, banking, financial services and insurance.

During and after law school in Vienna and Paris, she held assistant positions with the University of Vienna Law School (eg at the Department of civil law). Karollus-Bruner has over 20 years of experience as a lawyer in Vienna and Linz. In addition, she is a sought-after speaker at executive seminars, as well as author and co-author of various expert articles. She works in German, English and French.



Nedeljko Velisavljević
CMS

Job title: Partner
Location: Belgrade

Nedeljko Velisavljević is a partner and head of the dispute resolution practice at CMS Belgrade and at CMS Podgorica. He is recognised as one of the leading litigation lawyers in Serbia. He has 20 years of experience in litigation and dispute resolution, arbitrations, compliance matters, white-collar crime and investigation matters, and has advised a number of companies with regard to potential and pending complex disputes.

Velisavljević represents clients operating across a wide range of industry sectors, including real estate, construction, banking and finance, life sciences, consumer products, IT, technology, etc., before the courts of Serbia and Montenegro and other authorities.

As part of his practice, Velisavljević has represented clients in complex arbitration proceedings on the national level in both Serbia and Montenegro, as well as in international arbitrations.



Sandra Lisac
CMS

Job title: Partner
Location: Zagreb

Sandra Lisac has been a partner since 2009 and heads the Zagreb dispute practice. Her focus is dispute resolution and legal matters concerning real estate, physical planning, construction and employment law.

Lisac has more than 15 years of experience representing clients on a full range of corporate and commercial issues, with her initial focus including transactional and development support. She focuses on disputes regarding real estate title, spatial planning and construction, and commercial and financial contracts.

Lisac's industry focus lies in property development, healthcare, insurance and banking. She is native in Croatian, and proficiently fluent in both English and German.



Dunja Jandl
CMS

Job title: Partner
Location: Ljubljana

Dunja Jandl is a legal practitioner with more than ten years of experience, who leads the Slovenian dispute resolution team. She has strong experience in representing clients, domestic and foreign corporates, in litigations and out-of-court disputes. She focuses on construction and IP-related disputes and is regularly leading legal teams performing due diligence and forensic reviews.

As a very experienced litigator, she also represents her clients, who come from a variety of sectors, especially retail, energy and hotel and leisure, in court as well as in alternative dispute resolution proceedings, acting as counsel, mediator and arbitrator.



Malgorzata Surdek
CMS

Job title: Partner

Location: Warsaw

Małgorzata Surdek is a Polish-qualified advocate and a partner in the dispute resolution department at CMS. Małgorzata heads the dispute resolution practice in Poland. She regularly acts as counsel in international commercial arbitration cases administered by leading arbitral institutions, most notably ICC, SCC, LCIA-DIFC, VIAC, in ad hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL Rules, as well as in investment arbitrations.

Her recent cases include representing the Republic of Poland in investment arbitration against an investor in the mining industry; a PPP company in an UNCITRAL arbitrations related to a motorway project in Poland; a Hungarian contractor in an ICC arbitration related to the construction of a gas pipeline in Poland; and a Chinese provider of telecoms services in an LCIA-DIFC arbitration related to termination of a contract in North Africa. Surdek also acts as an arbitrator in proceedings concerning energy, infrastructure, commercial, and post-M&A disputes, administered by various

arbitral institutions including ICC, SAKIG and SA Lewiatan.

On 1 July 2018, Surdek was appointed member of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Paris. She is also a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, the Arbitration Commission at the ICC Polish National Committee, the Arbitration Commission at the Polish Bar. Surdek is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and member of Arbitral Women. In December 2020 she was appointed a member of the Global Steering Committee and the Co-Chair of the EMEA edition of the Delos Remote Online Advocacy Program.

She regularly appears as a speaker at international arbitration conferences and is the author of multiple publications in the field of arbitration.



Arkadiusz Korzeniewski
CMS

Job title: Partner

Location: Warsaw

Arkadiusz Korzeniewski is a Polish-qualified advocate and a partner in the dispute resolution department at CMS. He also leads the CEE corporate crime practice. Korzeniewski has over 20 years' experience representing clients in proceedings before Polish civil and criminal courts as well as domestic and international arbitration tribunals. In addition, he has advised and represented clients in corporate disputes and criminal proceedings.

Korzeniewski has been engaged in many high-profile cases concerning foreign investments in Poland, including representing Eureko in a complex dispute with the State Treasury based on the Netherlands-Poland Bilateral Investment Treaty concerning a leading privatised Polish insurance company. He also has unique experience in arbitration and litigation cases involving the largest infrastructure projects in Poland, particularly in proceedings against public sector representatives (public authorities). He has also represented clients from various sectors, including financial institutions (banks and insurers) in a wide variety of commercial disputes.

Korzeniewski is the author of numerous publications and a frequent speaker at conferences, where he speaks on issues concerning arbitration issues.



Anna Cudna-Wagner
CMS

Job title: Partner
Location: Warsaw

Anna Cudna-Wagner is a partner and an attorney-at-law in the dispute resolution department at CMS.

She also has many years of experience in representing business clients in civil and commercial disputes before common courts and arbitration tribunals. She specialises primarily in disputes relating to the banking sector and competition law.

Cudna-Wagner has represented entities from the financial services sector in collective actions and individual client actions. She also represented clients before the Court of Competition and Consumer Protection in competition law and consumer protection cases, practices that violate collective consumer interests and practices restricting competition. She also advised on disputes concerning the protection of intellectual property.

Cudna-Wagner is an arbitrator entered in the list of arbitrators of the Lewiatan Court of Arbitration.

International legal directories Chambers and The Legal 500 recommend Cudna-Wagner in the area of dispute resolution.



Tomas Matejovsky
CMS

Job title: Partner
Location: Prague

Tomáš Matějovský is a partner and head of the commercial, regulatory and disputes practice at CMS Prague.

He focuses on litigation and arbitration, compliance matters and white-collar crime, and on commercial law, including employment, IP and competition. As part of his practice, he represents clients in various types of litigation and arbitration proceedings at all levels, such as commercial, unfair competition and damage claim disputes before regional courts, superior courts, the Supreme Court, and the Constitutional Court and local and international arbitration bodies.

In recent years, Matějovský has represented clients in arbitration proceedings related to M&A transactions, cross-border investments, product liability and commercial disputes before national and international courts, as well as at local and international arbitration tribunals.



Horia Drăghici
CMS

Job title: Partner
Location: Bucharest

Horia Drăghici is the partner coordinating the commercial and dispute resolution team at CMS in Romania. With over 16 years' dispute resolution practice, he has a great deal of experience in commercial litigation and arbitration, for both multinational clients and significant domestic companies in Romania, including experience with the ICC, VIAC, LCIA, ICSID and the Court of International Commercial Arbitration in Bucharest. Drăghici has a particular focus on disputes in the energy and infrastructure sectors and has advised a number of global energy businesses on disputes in Romania. His practice deals extensively with arbitration (both international and national) and commercial litigation, including insolvency, disputes with public authorities and international investment disputes. Drăghici is qualified to plead before all national courts (including the Supreme Court of Romania) and is a skilled negotiator, familiar with several alternative dispute resolution techniques.



Olga Shenk
CMS

Job title: Senior counsel
Location: Kyiv

Olga Shenk is a counsel in the commercial, regulatory and disputes practice group in Kyiv office of CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang. Olga's expertise includes representation of local and international clients in the areas of dispute resolution and litigation, investment and international commercial arbitration, bankruptcy, criminal proceedings and compliance.

Shenk has more than 13 years of experience in highly complex litigation and arbitration proceedings in Ukraine and abroad, including in international investment and commercial arbitrations (under ICSID, UNCITRAL, LCIA, ICC, SCC, VIAC, ICAC rules), enforcement of arbitral awards in Ukraine and abroad and cross-border litigations. She also advises clients across a wide variety of sectors, including IT, agribusiness, pharmaceuticals, insurance, energy and banking.

Shenk's practice covers tax and compliance. She has conducted numerous compliance investigations of the alleged/reported corrupt practices and regularly delivers anti-corruption trainings for management and compliance officers of top-ranked international businesses.



Oleksandr Protsiuk
CMS

Job title: Counsel

Location: Kyiv

Oleksandr Protsiuk is a counsel at CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz focusing on the dispute resolution practice of the firm. He has almost ten years of professional experience in consulting and prior to joining CMS in late 2017 Protsiuk worked as head of the dispute resolution practice in an international consulting firm. Overall, he has more than 16 years of professional experience in litigation, arbitration and supporting criminal proceedings, including tax and commercial disputes, alternative dispute resolution, and representing clients in courts of all levels.

Protsiuk has provided full-scope support to a number of international companies and their representative offices in administrative (pre-trial) appeal, tax (customs), arbitration and commercial litigation. He also has broad experience in supporting clients during pre-trial criminal investigation of economic crimes.



Nedžida Salihović-Whalen
CMS

Job title: Partner

Location: Sarajevo

Nedžida Salihović-Whalen is a partner at CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz in Sarajevo. She is admitted to the Bosnian bar and has worked as a corporate lawyer for local and international companies in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 20 years. She has an LLM from a US university and has been continuously selected as a leading lawyer in BiH by *The Legal 500*, *IFLR 1000* and *Chambers & Partners* with excellent client feedback.

Salihović-Whalen represents local and international clients in various types of litigation proceedings at all levels, such as commercial litigation including insolvency, disputes with public authorities and international investment disputes before regional courts, superior courts, the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court as well as advising the clients together with the team in connection with arbitration proceedings. She has been engaged in many high-profile cases concerning foreign investments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Anton Sigal

Ellex Raidla

Location: Estonia

Number of years in practice: 21

Number of years as an arbitrator: 15

Admissions: Estonian Bar

Main sectors covered: Construction, energy, M&A, real estate

Geographical areas of focus: Estonia, Latvia

Languages: Estonian, English, Russian

Anton Sigal is a partner at Ellex Raidla in Tallinn, and a key figure in the firm's dispute resolution department. He represents a variety of private and state actors in major arbitration proceedings dealing with a broad range of issues – from telecoms and energy to construction and consumer goods – under the rules of the PCA, the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, the Estonian Chamber of Commerce, and the LCIA.

Prior to joining Ellex Raidla, Sigal had an in-house career as head of legal at Alta Capital Partners, a private equity firm operating in the Baltics and Central and Eastern Europe region, representing the firm in complex M&A transactions.

Beata Gessel-Kalinowska vel Kalisz

GESSEL Attorneys at Law

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: 30

Number of years as an arbitrator: 25

Current appointments as arbitrator: Four as sole arbitrator, one as chair, nine as co-arbitrator

Admissions: Warsaw Bar Association

Main sectors covered: M&A, energy, construction, commercial

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: Polish, English, Russian

Beata Gessel-Kalinowska vel Kalisz is an expert practitioner in arbitration, M&A, private equity and commercial law. A renowned arbitrator, she has participated in around 150 arbitration cases, both domestic and international, conducted according to rules of the ICC, UNCITRAL, FCC, IAA, SCAI, SCC, Lewiatan, Polish National Chamber of Commerce, SIDiR, and the National Depository for Securities.

The majority of the arbitral proceedings she is involved in concern M&A transactions and construction law, including FIDIC regulations, and she is also a member of the ICC International Arbitration Court.

She is also a respected figure in the academic field, as adjunct professor at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University and visiting academic at Oxford University, Cambridge and Wolfson College from 2015 to 2018, where she conducted comparative law research on M&A. Her recent book "Legal, Real and Converged Interest in Declaratory Relief" published by Kluwer Law International, focuses on declaratory relief in litigation and arbitration.

Paweł Pietkiewicz

Greenberg Traurig

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: 25

Number of years as an arbitrator: 15

Current appointments: Three

Admissions: Warsaw Bar Association

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, United States, Asia

Languages: Polish, English, French, Russian

Paweł Pietkiewicz is a partner at Greenberg Traurig, heading up the firm's Warsaw dispute resolution practice since November 2015.

Pietkiewicz has been involved in a number of group actions, representing banks, insurers, and developers, and also has extensive experience in product liability cases. He has led a number of dispute and resolution teams and represented hundreds of clients in some of the most complex litigations and arbitrations before Polish and international courts.

Pietkiewicz has successfully acted for clients in many arbitration disputes, including under the rules of the Lewiatan Court of Arbitration, the Polish Chamber of Commerce's Court of Arbitration, and the ICC in Paris.

Solveiga Palevičienė
Glimstedt

Location: Lithuania

Number of years in practice: 22

Number of years as an arbitrator: 12

Admissions: Lithuanian Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Contracts, investments, insurance, shareholder disputes, construction

Geographical areas of focus: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, EU

Languages: Lithuanian, English, Russian, French

Solveiga Palevičienė has been managing partner at Glimstedt since January 2020, after heading the firm's dispute resolution practice. Joining Glimstedt in 2014, she has extensive arbitration experience, acting in corporate and commercial disputes at both domestic and international level representing financial institutions and corporations. She is a recommended arbitrator of the Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration, and was appointed to the ICSID Panel of Conciliators by the Lithuanian government.

She has also served in a number of chief advisory roles, firstly to the chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Court from 2006 to 2008, and then to the president of Lithuania from 2009 to 2013 as head of the administration's legal department.

Outside of her practice, Palevičienė is a professor at Mykolas Romeris University in Vilnius, where she teaches comparative contract law and investment law at Masters level, and heads the Study Programme Committee. She also regularly speaks at local and international conferences, and publishes articles on international investment law as well as arbitration related topics in prominent legal journals across Europe.

Jure Levovnik
Jadek & Pensa

Location: Slovenia

Number of years in practice: 14

Admissions: Slovenian Bar

Main sectors covered: Construction, infrastructure, energy, electronic communications

Geographical areas of focus: Slovenia, European Union

Languages: Slovenian, English, Croatian, Serbian, German, French and Spanish

Since 2015, Jure Levovnik has been head of the dispute resolution department at Jadek & Pensa. He also heads both the energy and electronic communications practices at the firm.

Levovnik possesses extensive experience in representing foreign and domestic clients in complex commercial litigation and arbitration cases. He has experience in representing and/or advising clients in international arbitration cases before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) and ICSID. In a number of cases that make up Levovnik's portfolio, the value in dispute has exceeded €20m, €50m and €100m.

Levovnik is also active in sports law arbitration, and currently serves as a member of the Slovenian Handball Association's arbitration board.

Jasminka Čorda Truhar
Hanžeković & Partners

Location: Croatia

Number of years in practice: 30

Number of years as an arbitrator: One

Admissions: Croatian Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Construction law, contract law, infrastructure

Geographical areas of focus: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania

Languages: Croatian, English, German

A Legal 500 ranked leading individual in Croatia's dispute resolution space, Jasminka Čorda Truhar advises on cases across a range of different practice areas including commercial law, construction and infrastructure, contract law, public procurement public law and EU law. She is also heavily involved in litigation, arbitration and dispute resolution matters, including as a counsel on UNCITRAL arbitration cases.

Truhar is actively involved in the arbitration sphere, sitting as chair of the ICC Croatian national committee's Commission on Arbitration and ADR. She is a counsel and Arbitral Tribunal member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Croatian Chamber of Economy.

Inga Kačevska

Inga Kačevska Law Office

Location: Latvia

Number of years in practice: 25

Number of years as an arbitrator: 18

Current appointments as arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Latvia

Main sectors covered: International trade law, private international law

Geographical areas of focus: Europe

Languages: Latvian, English and Russian

Inga Kačevska is regularly enlisted as an expert in international arbitrations, and can boast over two decades of legal practice in which she has developed specialisations in international trade, international litigation and corporate and commercial law.

Her practice covers state aid and investments, and she has been working on some of the most important recent cases covering the Baltic region. This includes the largest international investment project in the Baltic States to build a pulp mill. Kačevska is confident dealing with several different international and multicultural clients helping them establish and sustain business - as well as protect their interests - in Latvia.

Kačevska is well-recognised as being at the forefront of Latvia's arbitration community; she was appointed to the ICSID list of arbitrators by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia in 2014, and is a member of the drafting group for the new Latvian Arbitration Act. She is often appointed as an arbitrator dealing with international and national cases, as well as serving as an expert witness on Latvian law in litigations taking place in foreign jurisdictions. She has an expert knowledge of the arbitration process and alternative dispute resolution, having accrued a deep level of experience while working at the Arbitration Court of Chamber of Commerce.

Currently, she is an associate professor at the University of Latvia and as the supervisor training the team of the University of Latvia for the Willem C. Vis. International Commercial Arbitration moot, as well as the author of various publications.

Dragan Psodorov

Joksović, Stojanović & Partners

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 17

Number of years as an arbitrator: Five

Current appointments as arbitrator: One

Admissions: Belgrade and Serbian Bar

Main sectors covered: Construction, distribution, sales, pharmaceutical, contracts

Geographical areas of focus: Serbia and other countries of the former Yugoslavia

Languages: Serbian, Bosnia, Montenegrin, Croatian, English

An arbitration specialist, Dragan Psodorov has expertise in the fields of private international law, commercial law, arbitration, competition law, intellectual property and pharmaceutical law. Ranked as a leading individual in The Legal 500's rankings for dispute resolution in Serbia, Psodorov is a figure at the forefront of the Serbian arbitration community, and is a member of the Serbian Arbitration Association as well as other arbitration initiatives run by the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and American Arbitration Association. Having practiced for almost two decades at Joksović, Stojanović & Partners, Psodorov is on the list of the arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of the Serbian Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration.

Petar D. Stojanović
Joksović, Stojanović & Partners

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 26

Admissions: State Bar and Belgrade Bar Association

Main sectors covered: International commercial disputes, telecommunications law, energy law, capital markets

Languages: English, Serbian/Serbo-Croat

Petar Stojanović is a named partner with Joksović, Stojanović & Partners, a full-service law office serving international and domestic clients. He began his career by working on some of the first privatisations in Serbia and Montenegro and has represented many well-known international companies on corporate and commercial matters in the region, including in large-scale tenders in a range of sectors.

This strong background in cross-border M&A served as the foundations of his later arbitration practice, which has focused on commercial cases in sectors ranging from telecoms and pharmaceuticals to sports. He has particular expertise in infrastructure-related arbitrations and FIDIC agreement disputes.

Stojanović has acted for dozens of international clients in high-value commercial disputes, including representing the minority shareholders in their shareholder rights dispute against a majority state-owned telecoms company in Serbia. He has also acted for government parties, most recently representing the Government of Montenegro in an ongoing arbitration related to the largest infrastructure project in Montenegro. He is a founding member of the Belgrade Arbitration Centre of the Serbian Arbitration Association.

In conversation with...

‘Serbia is a very exciting legal market and an attractive one to foreign investors. While the laws of the country are robust and fair, arbitration certainly remains a more pragmatic and efficient option than local courts. In any commercial matter, parties must anticipate adverse outcomes and appreciate the subtle and often complex issues of the local market. It is here that reliable local counsel adds tremendous value. I spent part of my education in the US and Australia, which has been very helpful in explaining the specificities of the Western Balkans to international lawyers.

There is much that can be overlooked by international counsel when it comes to domestic-seated arbitrations, but the appointment or choice of arbitrators is often key. It is, of course, prudent to consider an arbitrator who is versed in local laws; otherwise, it is likely that parties will dissipate time and resources seeking expert opinions on such laws. I have seen many hearings where the acting arbitrators spend a large part of the trial deciding not on factual or expert matters but on purely legal issues. The simplest advice to international counsel is this: always look to appoint at least one arbitrator who is at least conversant with local law.

Arbitrations are always hugely important times in the life of counsel, but the most personally rewarding matter for me was representing the biggest football club in Serbia – Red Star Belgrade. After a very heated hearing, I was approached by the opposing client who said that it was clear from my performance that I was a supporter of Red Star!’ ■



Dorđe Novčić

JPM

Location: Serbia

Admissions: Belgrade Bar

Sectors covered: Financial services, insurance, IT, retail and professional services

Geographical areas of focus: Serbia

Languages: English

Dorđe Novčić is a partner in the dispute resolution practice of JPM, representing clients in all types of national and cross-border disputes before state and arbitration courts. He regularly acts for national and international companies operating in the financial services, insurance, IT, retail and professional services sectors.

In terms of arbitration, Novčić has experience in conducting cases subject to many different systems of law and under many of the major institutional rules, including ICC, UNCITRAL and VIAC Rules, as well as before local arbitral tribunals. Novčić works through all stages of the arbitration process, from providing the initial advice to clients and settlement negotiations up to advocacy during hearings and enforcement (or opposing enforcement) of an award. He regularly speaks at arbitration conferences and authors articles in legal journals across Serbia and the Central and Eastern Europe region.

He is recognised as a leading expert for dispute resolution in legal directories, and comes recommended in *The Legal 500 EMEA* for all kinds of dispute resolution.

In conversation with...

‘Serbia is an arbitration-friendly country, with local arbitration based on some of the best practices from Europe and worldwide as well as local cases. Rules are in-line with decisions and procedures enacted around the world, so any international counsel can easily conduct proceedings here. The arbitration community of Serbia is not large, but

is made up of highly-skilled law professors and lawyers. There are regular arbitration association meetings on a monthly basis to try and attract more parties to enter into arbitration proceedings in Serbia.

One key issue regarding arbitration in Serbia is the relatively low volume of cases administered. This is if we were to compare it to the volume of cases in Austria, which is a regional centre for arbitration here in Central and Eastern Europe. Users opting to settle disputes before the Serbian courts is indicative of the mentality of Serbian businesspeople, but this is slowly changing.

There are already results emerging thanks to efforts made to promote arbitration in Serbia, especially during the pandemic year. In March 2020, we had a state of emergency lasting around two months where no one could approach the courts without an interim relief or an injunction for urgent proceedings. This meant very long waiting times to see a judge, but arbitrations continued to work.

The pandemic has also sped up the trend of paperless proceedings which is the ultimate goal for this region, and clients have been pleased with the results of proceedings conducted in this method. Since the start of the pandemic all international arbitration instructions have issued orders on how to conduct proceedings in these new circumstances, which has led to virtual hearings and paperless proceedings being conducted with positive feedback.

I have been practicing arbitration for around 15 years as a counsel, there is no particular sector I am focused on and there is a real mixture in terms of cases; construction is always present [and] privatisations still take up a lot of my time. M&A deals also feature, and an energy project concerning a gas pipeline through Serbia has once again been activated.

One career highlight came in a case about the unilateral termination of an IT contract, held under UNICTRAL Rules, where I faced serious obstructions

from the very start of proceedings. We had to work with a client [with] no experience in these kinds of proceedings. Finally we were granted with the relief and our client received recognition for their work on the project.

Another career highlight came during important privatisations that took place in Serbia, after the Serbian political landscape changed in 2000. In accordance with the Serbian privatisation acts and agreements, the seller (the state or public agency) issued no reps and warranted about offered companies, and deficiencies or problems often went undisclosed. These types of deals are considered public transactions and there is special care for the state in these kind of proceedings, so contracts were drafted by the state and the buying party had no other option but to “accept” or “reject” them without recourse to make suggestions or apply for changes.

The appetite amongst buyers to undertake legal proceedings in these cases was very low, so it was an important task to convince clients to actually proceed with their claims. Due to this reason it can be very difficult to win cases like this. I however, helped clients win these cases, and these victories became a starting precedent in Serbia.

[In Serbia] we need to educate legal entities, owners of companies, managing directors and their in-house counsel about the benefits of dispute resolution by arbitration. commercial courts are very busy in Serbia, and parties are waiting to receive final binding judgments in two to three years. The timeline of arbitration however, is between six and nine months here, which provides a great benefit to clients, the legal system as well as investors who want to put money into Serbia. The local arbitration scene must work on promoting this.

Another trend in the Serbian arbitration scene concerns paperless and virtual proceedings as mentioned earlier. This has had evident results in the pandemic period, and as Serbia prepares for one more wave of COVID-19, these types of hearings will allow parties to continue proceedings come what may.

Thirdly, Serbia is a member candidate for the EU, so at the moment internal regulations are being adjusted with this in mind. Serbian counsel and legal entities will have to take additional time and effort to understand and implement these.

There is a lot of work to be done in Serbia regarding promoting arbitration, in order for Serbia to be the next arbitration hotspot in the next five to ten years. First of all we must make arbitration rules familiar to all end users which apply to all kinds of disputes (local and international). New regulations and virtual proceedings could therefore be a future model for Serbia.

Since 2010 there has been an interesting change where Chinese capital and capital from Arab countries entered Serbia; Chinese companies have invested large sums in infrastructure and energy projects in the country and Arab countries have invested in agriculture and real estate. At first it was hard to adjust to a different way of thinking. Not that there were any bad aspects to this new mentality, but the ways of doing business were something we needed time to wrap our heads around.

To give an amusing example, I worked on an arbitration case with a company from one of these regions, who would communicate with us through Viber or WhatsApp messages. We are of course adjusted to all sorts of tech, but the timing of the messages was interesting; we would receive replies at 7 or 8pm without anything from them during the day. In one particular arbitration, we were agreeing on a time for the hearing, and a general manager wanted 6, 7 or 8pm which is very unusual as cases are usually heard in the morning or early afternoon. We finally agreed on a time of 3pm, but I wanted to investigate reasons as to why this was proving so difficult. I went to their headquarters one day at 2pm, completely unannounced, and received information that the staff were all sleeping! Apparently after their lunch break, they all take a nap at 2pm. I suppose the prevailing point of this story is – you have to know your client! ■



Emil Emanuilov

Kambourov & Partners

Location: Bulgaria

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: Four

Admissions: Sofia Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Finance, banking, insurance, energy, construction, public procurement, commerce, corporate and telecommunications.

Geographical areas of focus: Bulgaria and Central and Eastern European

Languages: English, Italian, Russian

Emil Emanuilov is head of the litigation, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution practice of Kambourov & Partners, and has acquired a tremendous amount of experience in domestic and international arbitration proceedings.

Emanuilov represents clients in a wide range of individual claims covering all areas of business law. He has advised on matters regarding banking and finance, corporate and commercial litigation, unfair competition, energy and project finance disputes, insurance disputes, IP litigation, procedures for recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards. He has years of expertise advising on multijurisdictional litigation and international arbitration cases, securitisation of claims, and exequatur procedures.

Emanuilov represents clients in all types of domestic and international arbitration proceedings, and is an arbitrator at the Arbitration Court with the Bulgarian Football Union. He is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and was recently included on the list of arbitrators of the Court of Arbitration at the Bulgarian Industrial Association.

Milan Lazić

Karanovic & Partners

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 16

Number of years as an arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Serbian and Belgrade Bar Association; International Bar Association

Main sectors covered: International commercial arbitration, investment treaty arbitration

Geographical areas of focus: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Kosovo

Languages: English, Croatian, Montenegrin, Bosnian

Milan Lazić is the head of regional arbitration and litigation practice of Karanovic & Partners. With over 16 years of professional experience, he has represented clients in a number of high profile court cases as well as in a number of major international arbitration cases, both investor-state arbitrations and commercial arbitrations. Lazić acts as counsel in arbitrations under ICSID, ICC and UNCITRAL arbitration rules, and arbitrations before the Permanent Arbitration with the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other arbitral institutions in the region.

Theis Klauberg

Klauberg BALTICS

Location: Latvia

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: 15

Admissions: Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Germany

Main sectors covered: Commerce and trade, industrials and construction

Geographical areas of focus: Baltics, Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: English, German, Latvian

Theis Klauberg is partner and CEO at Klauberg BALTICS, a Riga-based firm offering services across Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. His focus lies mainly in corporate law and M&A, finance, life sciences and commercial arbitration, and was partner at BNT attorneys for 16 years before joining his present firm in January 2019.

Klauberg regularly speaks and lectures at international conferences, and is lead organiser of Baltic Arbitration Days, a series of annual arbitration conferences in Riga. He holds degrees from Hamburg, Heidelberg and Humboldt universities, as well as at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, and completed an MBA from the Baltic Management Institute. For the last 15 years, he has been a visiting lecturer at Riga Graduate School of Law, teaching corporate, EU, and intellectual property law.

Dr Christian W. Konrad
Konrad Partners

Location: Austria, Macedonia and United Kingdom

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: 20

Current appointments as arbitrator: Seven

Admissions: Austria, England and Wales, Slovak Republic and Czech Republic

Main sectors covered: Company, corporate, M&A, construction, transport, energy, ISDS, foreign Investment

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, Africa

Languages: German, English

Dr Christian Konrad is the founding and managing partner of Konrad Partners, providing counsel in the fields of international arbitration, international litigation and public international law. He has extensive experience with arbitral practice, procedure and advocacy both in civil and common law systems. His practice covers inter-state, international and commercial disputes.

Konrad has represented international organisations and private commercial parties in a broad range of cases involving inter alia long-term energy contracts, complex construction contracts, concession agreements, entitlement to natural resources, immunities from jurisdiction, infrastructure projects, M&As, and failed investments in Central and Eastern Europe and Africa. He also advises clients in contract negotiations, public tender proceedings, on the protection of their investment and enforcement of arbitration awards and state court judgements throughout the world.

He frequently acts as arbitrator and is a member of panels of various arbitration institutions worldwide. He is also a chartered arbitrator and serves as vice president of the Kosovo Permanent Tribunal of Arbitration.

Konrad also holds a number of academic posts, including as a permanent lecturer on international arbitration at the University of Vienna's Austrian Arbitration Academy since 2014. He is a visiting professor and an academic advisor on the international dispute resolution Masters programme at the Danube University Krems, and lectures on the international arbitration law and procedure postgraduate course at the same institution.

Dr Heidrun Halbartschlager
Konrad Partners

Location: Austria

Number of years in practice: 13

Admissions: Austria (Rechtsanwalt)

Main sectors covered: Construction, energy, telecommunications, company, corporate, M&A

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: German, English

Heidrun Halbartschlager focuses her practice on international commercial arbitration. She has represented clients in disputes governed by various substantive and procedural laws, and has acted as senior counsel in institutional as well as ad hoc arbitrations. She has advised companies across a broad range of commercial and industrial sectors including energy, construction and telecommunications.

First joining Konrad Partners 2013, Halbartschlager advises clients on the enforcement of arbitral awards in a variety of jurisdictions. She is a regular lecturer at the Danube University Krems and has authored numerous publications in the field of dispute resolution. Prior to joining Konrad Partners, she practiced at various international law firms in Austria and the United Kingdom.

Business message

Investor-State arbitration provides a remedy to foreign investors allowing them to have their injury repaired by the independent international tribunal.

Commercial arbitration is the most business-friendly solution for the resolution of commercial disputes. The advantages of arbitration include: privacy, flexibility, speed and effectiveness.

Kochanski & Partners is most known for its experience in investor-State arbitration and provides services in commercial arbitration before both international and local arbitration courts and institutions.

We also provide "ad hoc" arbitration services, based on local or international rules including the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and Arbitration Rules of the ICSID Additional Facility.

Apart from investment arbitration, we offer a broad range of services in all areas of arbitration, including FIDIC arbitration, commercial arbitration, contractual arbitration, corporate arbitration, energy law arbitration and competition law arbitration.

We provide the following services:

- Drafting arbitration agreements including arbitration clauses in contracts
- Pre-arbitration case assessment and collection of evidence
- Evaluating the costs of proceedings in order to find the most cost-efficient option
- Assisting with the selection of the arbitration court and forum
- Assisting with the selection of the most suitable arbitrators
- Drafting and filing procedural documents
- Representation during the course of proceedings, including hearings
- Assistance with any arbitration-related court proceedings
- Assistance with the recognition and enforcement of arbitration awards



Marek Jeżewski

Kochański & Partners

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: Ten

Number of years as an arbitrator: Ten

Current appointments as arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: The Toruń Bar of Advocates

Main sectors covered: Investor-state arbitration, M&A disputes, construction

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Middle East, United States

Languages: English, Polish

Marek Jeżewski heads Kochański & Partners' dispute resolution team, one of the largest and most recognised dispute resolution teams in Poland specialising in commercial arbitration, investment arbitration and international law, as well as the resolution of complex business disputes.

Jeżewski's arrival at Kochański & Partners in 2011 marked the birth of the firm's arbitration practice. At the time, he was serving as vice chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and worked as advisor to the Treaty and Legal Department at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He represented Poland in UNCITRAL for several years, participating in works, inter alia, on the rules of transparency in international investment arbitration.

Jeżewski and his team now advise and represent clients in cases connected with international investment treaties to both private investors and governments as well as investment agreements between investors and states. In recent years he has represented clients in institutional arbitration administered by ICC, SCAI, LCIA, SCC and the Polish Chamber of Commerce. He has also acted for clients in ad hoc arbitrations, based on local or international rules including the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and Arbitration Rules of the ICSID Additional Facility.

His range of appointments as arbitrator has also increased recently, as he has been appointed in cases before the Polish Chamber of Commerce, Arbitration Court "Lewiatan" and ICC.

His recent work includes advising and representing a client in a dispute concerning an investment made in a leading retail-chain company, as well as advising on obtaining third-party funding from a US-based fund. He has also advised and represented another client in an unprecedented investment dispute with the Slovak Republic, under the Bilateral Investment Treaty between Poland and Slovakia of 1994 concerning cross-border infrastructure. The team is also engaged in complex disputes that involve litigation before the common courts, most recently representing a US fund against a Polish high-net-worth individual and associated holding companies. Jeżewski's team is also engaged in a number of cases before the Court of Justice of the European Union, including working for LOT Polish Airlines against the EU Commission on Lufthansa's takeover of AirBerlin assets.

Jeżewski has given lectures on international economic law, international investment law and EU economic law at Polish and foreign universities. He is the author of the leading Polish comprehensive guide on international investment arbitration. He is also the author of numerous publications, published both in Poland and abroad.

In conversation with...

'Very few Central and Eastern European law firms have specialised international arbitration practices. To the extent that arbitration is practiced, it is usually a complement to court litigation. Kochański & Partners is unique in this region for having

developed its own specialised practice staffed with a deep pool of arbitration experts. No other firm in this market can match our combination of regional insight and expertise in public international law, and we are the only Poland-based independent law firm that has the capacity to run big international arbitrations without the support of a foreign firm.

In arbitration, a settlement is almost always a good result for clients. We try to encourage our clients to settle in many cases. Especially in disputes concerning regulatory activities of a state we have managed to amend local rules to protect our clients from discrimination based on nationality. For instance, in one of our cases we managed to obtain a significant change in the wood delivery system from local forest authorities.

The disputes team at Kochański & Partners is a pioneer of third-party funding in the Polish market. To my knowledge, we were the first Polish law firm engaged in the first third-party funding of an investor-state case involving Polish parties back in 2014. Since then we have continued to break new ground, and recently acted before the Polish common courts on the first ever Poland-based dispute to be third-party funded.

The decision rendered by the Court of Justice of the European Union in the Achmea case will have significant implications for investor-state arbitration. We have turned to innovative solutions to protect our clients from the still unknown consequences of this decision. For example, in several ongoing matters we have immunised clients from potential fallout by moving the seat of arbitration to non-EU jurisdictions such as Switzerland. This has proved to be extremely prescient, and I am very proud of my team's ability to deliver creative solutions that are setting EU-wide precedents'. ■



Magdalena Papiernik

Kochański & Partners

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: Ten

Admissions: Warsaw Bar Association

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Middle East, United States

Languages: English, Polish

Magdalena Papiernik is a senior associate in the dispute resolution practice at Kochański & Partners, where she specialises in investment treaty arbitration, international commercial arbitration, infrastructure and energy disputes and public international law.

She has ten years' experience advising and representing clients in connection with disputes arising in various industry sectors, including energy and natural resources, trade, construction and cross-border production activity. In recent years she has handled high-profile commercial and investment treaty arbitrations under all major institutional rules, seated in both civil and common law jurisdictions. Her experience spans representing clients in negotiations with governments leading to successful settlements in investment treaty arbitrations.

Her recent work includes acting for an investor in an unprecedented investment case concerning cross-border production within the EU and addressing jurisdictional objections based on the Achmea judgment.

In addition to her arbitration practice, Papiernik has considerable expertise in commercial litigation, especially in aid or support of arbitration.

In conversation with...

'Kochański & Partners has an incredibly vibrant and exciting culture. When I first joined the firm, I immediately started working on high-value,



complex arbitration matters. Since then I have been involved in every stage of the arbitral process, from fact finding to evidence gathering and preparation of procedural strategy, right through to making representations before international investment tribunals. I really know the ins and outs of this job. For me, there are not many things in life as exciting and thrilling as speaking live in the hearing room.

Last year we had an investment arbitration hearing, where a well-known international law firm was representing the opposing party. However, the only women conducting the cross-examinations, or even taking the floor for that matter, were myself and my colleague from Kochański & Partners. The faces of the opposing counsel were stunned when they realised that I would be cross-examining a minister of the respondent-state. In that sense, I think that our arbitration team in Kochański &

Partners is contributing to the enhancement of diversity in the field of international arbitration. By no means are we trailblazers - but in this team women are given equal opportunity for professional growth.

Our team combines people with expertise in public international law and commercial law, all of whom have worked in other European countries. That insight into different cultures of dispute resolution allows us to seamlessly handle large cross-border cases. There is such a vast array of problems investors can stumble on when they enter into a foreign country that no two investment treaty arbitration matters are ever the same, and a successful team needs to consider things from a rich cross-cultural perspective' ■



Michał König
Kochański & Partners

Michał König is a partner and head of commercial disputes who specialises in disputes having international character, including in particular investment arbitration and commercial arbitration, as well as in commercial litigation.

He advises clients on the pre-trial stage and is involved in conducting disputes before common courts and arbitral tribunals. König is experienced in conducting arbitral proceedings governed by UNCITRAL, SAKIG and Lewiatan rules, as well as proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

His area of expertise involves alongside infrastructure and construction disputes, proceedings concerning execution and enforcement of arbitral awards, as well as corporate disputes.



Dominika Durchowska
Kochański & Partners

Dominika Durchowska is a senior associate specialising in arbitration. She has a wealth of experience in investment and commercial arbitration, gained from her involvement at the highest international levels.

Dominika's recent work includes acting for an investor in an unprecedented investment case concerning a cross-border production facility within the EU and addressing jurisdictional objections based on the Achmea judgment. Dominika's involvement was pivotal, successfully concluding direct and cross-examinations throughout the hearing. She is also experienced in investment disputes in the energy sector. Dominika regularly advises foreign investors on how to structure their ongoing and future investments in order for them to be protected by international investment agreements. Dominika has worked on cases under arbitration rules such as: ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA and SCC.

Dominika's expertise goes beyond arbitration. Dominika is also a tough hands-on litigator with experience in high-profile disputes, often of an international character, and advises foreign contractors in construction disputes (including FIDIC based). She has particular interest in FMCG disputes.



Natalia Godula
Kochański & Partners

Natalia Godula is an associate who specialises in commercial and investment arbitration as well as court disputes. She has extensive experience in international disputes, particularly in cases involving violations of bilateral agreements on investment promotion and protection, and in international commercial disputes. Natalia has worked on cases under arbitration rules such as: ICC, UNCITRAL, SCC and SAKIG in Warsaw. She also has broad experience in commercial disputes before common courts, particularly those related to construction investments, including those based on FIDIC terms.



Business message

Łaszczuk & Partners is an independent Polish law firm providing legal services to Polish and international clients since 1989.

The firm's lawyers combine knowledge and experience with creativity and understanding of business needs to provide comprehensive and innovative yet practical solutions ensuring its clients' stability and legal security in a rapidly changing world. The firm's over 30-year experience and the success it has achieved have secured its recognition as one of the leading law firms in Poland.

Łaszczuk & Partners has one of Poland's leading arbitration practices. Its experience includes domestic and international arbitral proceedings under various sets of rules, including the Rules of the Arbitration Court at the Polish Chamber of Commerce, the

UNCITRAL Rules, the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Vienna Rules (VIAC), the Rules of the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) and the Swiss Rules (ASA); arbitration disputes concerning construction contracts, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, commercial contracts, companies, and investment projects, as well as advice and representation in international investment treaty arbitrations. The practice involves also representation in proceedings before state courts in arbitration-related cases.

The firm is based in Warsaw but cooperates on a permanent basis with lawyers in all major Polish cities as well as in many European countries.

Łaszczuk & Partners' expertise has been confirmed by recommendations in international legal directories.





Justyna Szpara

Łaszczyk & Partners

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: 15

Number of years as an arbitrator: Ten

Current appointments as an arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: Warsaw Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Construction and engineering, contracts, corporate and commercial, M&A, professional negligence, real estate, shareholder disputes

Geographical areas of focus: Europe, Asia

Languages spoken: Polish, English

Justyna Szpara leads Łaszczyk & Partners' dispute resolution practice group. She advises and represents clients in state court litigations as well as in domestic and international arbitrations, especially regarding construction contracts, investment projects, M&A, real estate and commercial contracts. Her proficiency in strategic thinking, an analytical approach as well as an ability to learn technical aspects of the matter in short time has seen Szpara succeed in a number of cases involving questions of technical expertise.

As counsel, she has been involved in high-profile domestic and international arbitrations and litigations, as well as in investment treaty arbitrations and high-profile post-arbitration litigations. She has also been co-counselling in investment arbitrations. Szpara is a listed arbitrator for several permanent

arbitration institutions, including the largest in Poland, the Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce. Her experience includes serving as an arbitrator or the chair of the arbitral tribunal in about 100 proceedings held under the rules of the Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce, ICC Rules, UNCITRAL Rules, SCC Rules and others. She is admitted as Fellow to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Szpara is the author or co-author of numerous publications on arbitration, as well as a lecturer on arbitration-related topics. She began working with Łaszczyk & Partners in 1999 and became a partner in the firm in 2005. She was the firm's managing partner between 2010 and 2019. She is an advocate and a member of the Warsaw Bar.

She has been recommended by The Legal 500 EMEA among five leading individuals in the field of dispute resolution. She is recommended by Who's Who Legal: Arbitration. In 2012, she was placed in the top position in Rising Stars, a ranking of young Polish lawyers organised by the largest Polish legal daily, Dziennik Gazeta Prawna.

For many years she has served as a board member of the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA), where she is currently appointed as the honorary member. Szpara is a member of the Inter-Pacific Bar Association and since 2018, has been the vice-president of the Polish National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Poland).

In her free time, she is an accomplished Argentinian tango dancer.

In conversation with...

'In terms of value, the most impressive arbitration I worked on as co-counsel was the investment treaty arbitration against Poland brought by Vivendi, a French media conglomerate. The most exotic one to date was the ad hoc arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules, located in New Delhi and with the laws of India as applicable substantive law.

I believe the most important qualities you can have as an arbitrator are strategic thinking and an analytical approach. Furthermore, I do enjoy cases involving technical expertise and I believe I have the ability to learn technical aspects of the matter in a short time.

Online hearings that have become the new standard during the pandemic are an endless source of funny stories. One of them includes a fact witness lighting a cigarette during his cross-examination, another involves the counsel of the opposing party being accidentally assigned to the wrong digital break-out room and refusing to disconnect.' ■



Maciej Łaszczuk

Łaszczuk & Partners

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: 33

Number of years as an arbitrator: 26

Admissions: Warsaw Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Construction and engineering, contracts, corporate and commercial, energy, M&A, professional negligence, real estate, shareholder disputes

Geographical areas of focus: Europe

Languages spoken: Polish, English

Maciej Łaszczuk is founding partner of Łaszczuk & Partners, a counsel and arbitrator. For over 30 years he has been advising and representing domestic and international clients in arbitration and litigation. He has participated in over 300 arbitrations as either the chairman of the arbitral tribunal or an arbitrator under the rules of the Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce, ICC, UNCITRAL, and others. He is a listed arbitrator for several permanent arbitration courts, including the major arbitration court in Poland, the Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce, where until September 2018 he was the president of the Court's Arbitral Council. He also serves as an arbitrator of the Sports Arbitration Court at the Polish Olympic Committee, as well as a member of its council, and as of 2020, the vice president of the court.

As a counsel, he has represented clients in high-profile commercial arbitrations, among others in the fields of infrastructure, construction, M&A, real estate and civil contracts. His experience includes co-counselling in ICC arbitration proceeding with seat in London concerning real estate investments with the amount in dispute of over €100m, as well as in an international arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules seated in New Delhi, India, on a basis of a joint venture agreement between a Polish and an Indian company, with the amount in dispute exceeding US\$30m. Łaszczuk's experience includes also counselling in an investment arbitration dispute brought against the Polish government by a Dutch investor with the amount in dispute totalling €60m. He was also co-counselling in a series of post-arbitration litigations regarding the ownership of shares in one of the largest companies in Poland

in the telecommunications sector, with amount in dispute reaching €2bn.

Łaszczuk is a member of the Polish Bar Council, where he serves as the chairman of the Arbitration Committee and the chairman of the Legal Practice Committee. He is a member of the board of the Polish Arbitration Association and a member of the Polish National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC Poland), International Association of Lawyers (UIA), International Commercial Arbitration Committee of the International Law Association (ILA), the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), the Austrian Arbitration Association (ArbAut) and the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA). He is the author or co-author of a number of publications on arbitration, and a lecturer on arbitration related topics. He is also vice chairman of the editorial board of *Palestra*, the official publication of the Polish Bar. He has created www.arbitration.pl, a comprehensive source of information on arbitration in Poland.

For many years, Łaszczuk has been repeatedly recommended among the top lawyers in the field of dispute resolution in Poland. For many years, he has been ranked by The Legal 500 EMEA among the leading specialists in the field of dispute resolution in Poland. He has been recommended by the Best Lawyers® in Poland ranking in the field of arbitration and mediation and in the field of litigation, where he was named Lawyer of the Year in the ranking for the years 2014–2015. He has also been listed by the Expert Guides to Commercial Arbitration. In annual rankings by the largest Polish legal daily *Rzeczpospolita* he has been recognised among the top lawyers in Poland in the fields of litigation and arbitration every year since 2005.

In conversation with...

'The most impressive matter I have worked on is the conglomerate of commercial arbitration, post-arbitration litigation and investment arbitration cases regarding the ownership of shares in one of the largest telecommunications companies in Poland, with the amount in dispute reaching €2bn.

The entire dispute lasted 11 years and engaged over 20 law firms from five countries across Europe. This was one of the biggest, longest and most complicated disputes in Europe of the time and the awarded amount was, at the time, the highest amount awarded by any court. The proceedings comprised over 100 litigation and arbitration cases and spanned several jurisdictions in Europe and the United States. It isn't every day one gets to be involved in a case of this calibre.

The most important qualities a counsel can bring is a combination of the experience I acquired while actively working as counsel on various cases in both arbitration and litigation, and the experience I gained while serving as judge at the District Court for the Capital City of Warsaw and the Regional Court in Warsaw in the 1980's.

Then all these many years of my entire practical experience (first as an in-house lawyer and then as an advocate) combined with my achievements as lecturer, as author, and - I don't mean to boast - an authority on arbitral proceedings, are what I believe the qualities and skills I bring to an arbitration.

It has always been my goal not only to sit as arbitrator, whether as chair or co-arbitrator, but also to promote arbitration, to guide and coach the inexperienced parties and counsel through the proceedings, to show them the merits and advantages of arbitration and to encourage them to pursue settling disputes through arbitration in the future.

To relax and keep in shape I play tennis and, though not on any professional level, it gives me a great amount of satisfaction. I am also an avid Shakespearean enthusiast and am proud and honoured to be a patron of the Shakespearean Theatre in Gdańsk, where on an annual basis every summer I attend the Shakespearean Festival. This is one of the biggest international events and every year hosts the best Shakespeare productions and the most eminent theatre artists from all over the world. In 2018 the Festival received the very prestigious EFFE Award 2017-2018 granted by the European Festivals Association, as the only festival in Poland and one of five of that kind in Europe. ■



Marek Korcz Łaszczuk & Partners

Marek Korcz is the managing partner of the law firm. He specialises in privacy protection, telecommunications and aviation law. He advises clients in litigation and arbitration and represents them before Polish courts and administrative bodies.

His experience includes representing clients from a group of affiliated companies in the construction products sector brought by an immediate competitor, alleging acts of unfair competition. He has advised and represented a client from the construction sector in two related arbitration disputes regarding defective construction works and representing a client from the FMCG sector in court cases brought by commercial representatives seeking to establish employment relationships. His experience extends to ongoing advice and representation of telecommunications service providers in judicial and administrative proceedings and in proceedings before regulatory bodies, including cases regarding practices infringing the collective interests of consumers and concerning allocation of radio frequencies.

Korcz is a member of Ecomlex – the association of leading lawyers with expertise in IT and e-commerce, data protection and privacy. He is also recommended in the Legal 500 EMEA rankings in the field of dispute resolution.



Jan Rysiński

Łaszczuk & Partners

Jan Rysiński specialises in litigation and arbitration. His experience includes advising on complex disputes between partners and shareholders in joint-stock companies, including public companies, as well as disputes arising from investment agreements, M&A or supply agreements. He has experience in developing strategies aimed at solving commercial disputes and handling cross-border proceedings.

His experience includes representing a client in a set of cases connected with a dispute between shareholders of a public company, with a total value of tens of millions of PLN, and participation in the team representing a client from the real estate industry in an arbitration dispute with an international investment fund involving share purchase options worth over €100m. Rysiński represented a client from the transport industry in a multi-million dispute involving claims under a promissory note, as well as a client in a set of cases concerning unfair competition involving hindering competitors' access to the market.

Another focus of Rysiński's practice is criminal law, especially advising on business crime aspects. His experience includes representing Polish and international clients in investigations and court proceedings, advising clients harmed by fraud and theft, including fraud based on social engineering methods. His experience also includes cooperation with law enforcement authorities in criminal proceedings regarding cross-border white-collar crime involving coordination of actions across multiple jurisdictions.

He has represented Polish and international clients in a number of criminal fraud cases, helping the clients to recover multiple millions of damages. He also represents individual clients in criminal proceedings and advises on criminal liability of board members, including criminal tax liability.

Jan Rysiński is recommended by Legal 500 EMEA ranking in the field of white-collar-crime, and is a member of the European Criminal Bar Association and European Fraud and Compliance Lawyers. He is also the author of several press articles on cyber and business crime.



Krzysztof Riedl

Łaszczyk & Partners

Krzysztof Riedl specialises in civil law, privacy law and constitutional law. He advises and represents Polish and international clients in litigation, arbitration and administrative proceedings. He also handles matters involving data protection, including implementation of the EU's General Data Protection Regulation.

His experience includes representing a client operating in the real estate market in civil proceedings, participation in the team representing a client in a litigation regarding breach of the supply contract for meat products, as well as participation in the team representing a client in several post-M&A disputes, covering both state court litigations as well as arbitrations. He has represented airlines in dozens of judicial cases seeking compensation for flight delays and cancellations, advised clients in disputes over breach of the civil contracts and worked as part of the team representing clients in dozens of administrative proceedings seeking compensation for land expropriated under the special roads act. He also has experience serving as secretary for arbitral tribunals.

He defended with distinction a PhD dissertation from the field of civil law at the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw (he is presently waiting to be conferred a doctoral degree). He is also a co-worker of the Institute of Law and Society INPRIS, a legal think tank, and a scholarship holder of the Max-Planck Institute in Hamburg and the Polish National Science Centre. He organises the biggest arbitration moot court for legal trainees in Poland.

He is one of ten winners, as well as the youngest, of the sixth edition of the Rising Stars Lawyers - Leaders of Tomorrow 2017 ranking organised by Dziennik Gazeta Prawna and Wolters Kluwer. He is also the author of numerous publications from the field of civil and constitutional law.





Andrzej Maciejewski
Łaszczuk & Partners

Andrzej Maciejewski specialises in dispute resolution. His practice includes advising and representing clients in litigation and arbitration, especially with regard to corporate law, the construction process, including guarantee claims pertaining to faulty performance of construction works, disputes over options to acquire shares in SPV companies, a dispute between a legal firm and its partner over exclusion from the firm, and disputes for payments under a joint-venture agreement and day-to-day operations of companies.

He supports clients at every stage of the dispute, from strategy to current issues. His clients include companies from the construction, energy, insurance, retail, payment services and medical sectors. Maciejewski is the author or co-author of numerous publications on arbitration.



Patrycja Piotrowska
Łaszczuk & Partners

Patrycja Piotrowska specialises in arbitration, construction law and white-collar-crime. She supports clients at every stage of disputes, from the negotiations stage, through advice on procedural strategy to the representation of the client in court.

Her professional experience includes litigation in the fields of intellectual property, unfair competition and employment. She has been involved in several complex proceedings including construction disputes under UNCITRAL Rules, high-value litigation concerning unfair competition and trade secret theft, as well as employment disputes regarding unfair dismissals.

She also has experience in advising clients on investment and construction processes, including advising on construction works contracts and EPC contract.

Piotrowska has advised on a number of projects related to a wide range of employment law matters, supporting clients with employee issues arising from mergers and acquisitions, and employment restructurings.



Jan Ciaptacz
Łaszczuk & Partners

Jan Ciaptacz specialises in litigation and arbitration. He is an advocate trainee at the Warsaw Bar Association. He has completed legal studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków with distinction. He has been on scholarships in the Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, at the Heidelberg University and in the China-EU School of Law in Beijing.

Ciaptacz was awarded the scholarship of the Minister of Science and Higher Education for outstanding achievements. Before joining the team of Łaszczuk & Partners, he gained experience in the Hague Conference on Private International Law, as well as in the litigation department of an international law firm. He was also a member of the Jagiellonian University team in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Ciaptacz is a member of the Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (Young ICCA) and the Chinese Law Association.

Dr Vít Horáček

Legalité

Location: Czech Republic
Number of years in practice: 30
Number of years as an arbitrator: 20
Admissions: Czech Bar Association
Geographical areas of focus: Europe
Languages: Czech, English, French, German, Russian, Slovak

One of the Czech Republic's foremost lawyers and arbitrators, Dr Vít Horáček's practice sees him advise on Czech and international disputes according to Czech arbitration rules, as well as the rules of the ICC, UNCITRAL and arbitration centres in Zurich and Vienna. Evincing his dispute resolution skills further, he is a mediator for commercial and international disputes, utilising his knowledge of IT law to mediate on ADR proceedings regarding internet domain names. As well as his expertise in IT law, Horáček also provides counsel on disputes concerning public procurement, IP, energy law and telecommunications.

Josip Madirazza

Madirazza & Partners

Location: Croatia
Number of years in practice: 29
Admissions: Croatian Bar
Main sectors covered: Banking and finance, M&A, energy, privatisation, restructuring
Geographical areas of focus: Croatia, SEE
Languages spoken: English, Croatian

Josip Madirazza is managing partner of Madirazza & Partners, founding the Zagreb-based firm just over two decades ago. With almost 30 years' legal experience, Madirazza advises on a wide range of complex matters, ranging from foreign investments and banking to energy and real estate law.

Senka Mihaj

Mihaj, Ilić & Milanović

Location: Serbia
Number of years in practice: 15
Admissions: Belgrade Bar
Main sectors covered: Commercial, investments, privatisation, construction, industrials, banking and finance
Geographical areas of focus: The Former Yugoslavia, particularly Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro
Languages: English, Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Bosnian

Senka Mihaj is a partner at Belgrade-based boutique firm, Mihaj, Ilić & Milanović, co-founding the firm in 2015 after almost eight years at Karanović & Nikolić. Specialising in arbitration, litigation, enforcement, labour disputes, constitutional appeals and human rights, Mihaj represents clients across a broad spectrum including banking, pharmaceuticals and agriculture. She has brought significant awards for her clients in a range of complex disputes under arbitration rules of the ICC, ICSID, LCIA, SCAI and UNCITRAL.

András Dániel László

LFB - László Fekete Bagaméry

Location: Hungary

Number of years in practice: 18

Number of years as an arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Hungary and New York

Sectors covered: M&A, manufacturing, construction, real property, energy, media, IT

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, North America, Asia

Languages: English, French, Hungarian

András Dániel László is an attorney-at-law based in Budapest. He is founding partner of LFB – László Fekete Bagaméry, the first dispute resolution boutique with international scope to be founded in Hungary. He has almost 20 years of experience in the field of complex, high value international disputes. He has advised and represented multinational and regional companies in litigations as well as in domestic and international arbitrations, including both commercial and investment arbitrations, under ICC, LCIA, VIAC (Vienna), Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry HCCI (Budapest), CCIR (Bucharest), UNCITRAL and ICSID rules. László is an arbitrator listed on the roll of arbitrators of the HCCI.

His typical client base is composed of Hungarian businesses engaged in arbitration worldwide and international businesses engaged in arbitration related to Hungary. Geographically, this means the matters he handles typically involve European clients or counterparties, and occasionally entities in North America and Asia.

He holds a J.D. from ELTE, an LLM from Columbia University and has also pursued studies at University Paris X and at CEU. He is admitted to the New York and Budapest Bars. Before founding LFB, he was partner and head of dispute resolution of a leading full-service firm.

In conversation with...

'I have had the chance to work on some truly impressive investment arbitrations, such as Emmis, Sodexo, Magyar Farming, etc. The complexity of these cases impresses me every time. Besides, I am a great fan of English style cross examination (when done well). I consider myself lucky for having had the chance to watch some of the best in action.

There are many excellent arbitration lawyers who know the rules, understand the cultural and legal differences, excel in written and oral arguments. I would like to think that I possess these skills, but I also happen to be a very curious person. I am truly interested about the parties' businesses, history, the people involved in the matter and their cultural background. Getting to know new businesses and new people, learning about why and how they ended up in an arbitration, fascinates me every time. I deeply believe that the counsel who digs deeper and knows their case better will win.

Hungary has a long history of arbitration. The Civil Procedure Codes of 1868 and 1911 recognised and rendered enforceable arbitration awards. Our country is party to every major international instrument in the field, UNCITRAL was established upon a Hungarian proposal and Hungarians, such as professor Iván Szász, were instrumental in the development of the ad hoc rules and the model law. The Commercial Arbitration Court attached to the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was 70 years old in 2019, its yearly case numbers fluctuate between 100 and 300, with more than 15% international cases. It is no surprise that there is a vibrant and active local arbitration scene with more and more real international experience, especially amongst the relatively younger and internationally exposed generations.



International arbitration generally involves large corporate entities. I have recently had the opportunity to represent claimants in an investment arbitration, where the person behind the claimants was affected directly (also physically) by the respondent state's action. He was a wonderful person, who suffered a real injustice, and had been fighting for his rights for years. It was moving to witness him being finally heard when the tribunal engaged with him during his witness examination. It was one of those cases when not only a decision was rendered but justice was done and being part of it was a huge satisfaction, professionally and personally'. ■

Dr Vladimir M. Djerić
Mikijelj Jankovic & Bogdanovic

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 15

Number of years as an arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: Belgrade Bar

Main sectors covered: International investments and commercial transactions, energy, mining, construction, privatisation

Geographical areas of focus: Southern and Eastern Europe

Languages: Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin, English, Slovenian, German

Dr Vladimir M. Djerić is partner at Belgrade-based Mikijelj Jankovic & Bogdanovic, specialising in company, commercial and arbitration law, advertising, public international law, and human rights. His 15-year private practice career began in 2005 after serving as advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro from 2000 to 2004. During his service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was co-agent of the state in 11 cases before the ICJ.

Djerić has acted as counsel in international arbitrations under ICSID, ICC and UNCITRAL Rules, and before international courts and tribunals including the ICJ and ECtHR. He also acted as a legal expert on Serbian law in an LCIA arbitration, as well as in proceedings before the UK High Court.

Jelena Bezarević Pajić
Moravčević Vojnović and Partners
- in cooperation with Schoenherr

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 13

Admissions: Serbia and Montenegro

Main sectors covered: Construction, real estate development, media, telecoms, energy, oil and gas, mining and metals, financial services, automotive, insurance

Geographical areas of focus: Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, EU

Languages: Serbian, English

Jelena Bezarević Pajić is a partner at Moravčević Vojnović and Partners in cooperation with Schoenherr, and co-head of firm's dispute resolution practice. Her primary focus lies in international commercial and investment arbitration, and she has been involved in arbitrations under ICSID, ICSID Additional Facility, ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, the Permanent Arbitration at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and other sets of arbitration rules. She is also on the list of arbitrators of the Permanent Arbitration at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.

Natasa Lalatović Đorđević
Moravčević Vojnović and Partners
- in cooperation with Schoenherr

Location: Serbia

Number of years in practice: 11

Admissions: Serbia and Montenegro

Main sectors covered: Financial institutions, automotive, construction, energy, retail, real estate development, IT, telecoms, insurance

Geographical areas of focus: Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, EU

Languages: Serbian, English

Natasa Lalatović Đorđević is a partner at Belgrade-based Moravčević Vojnović and Partners who work in cooperation with Schoenherr, and is co-head of the firm's dispute resolution practice. She specialises in complex commercial and corporate litigation, investments, and commercial arbitration. She has acted as counsel in arbitrations conducted under ICSID, ICC, DIS, UNCITRAL rules, and is on the list of arbitrators of the Permanent Arbitration at the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and the Bucharest International Arbitration Court.

Ramūnas Audzevičius
Motieka & Audzevičius

Location: Lithuania

Number of years in practice: 22

Number of years as an arbitrator: 12

Main sectors covered: Aviation and transport, energy, food, pharmaceuticals, biotech, TMT

Geographical areas of focus: Baltics, Central and Eastern Europe, CIS

Languages: English, Russian, Lithuanian

Ramūnas Audzevičius is a partner and the co-head of the dispute resolution practice at Vilnius-based firm Motieka & Audzevičius. He is a well-known arbitrator in the region with many years of experience.

In addition to a successful litigation career, Audzevičius was involved both as counsel and expert in some of the largest arbitration cases in the Baltics. He has acted in multiple cases heard by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania, most notably advising Gazprom in the famous “anti-suit injunction” dispute in the Lithuanian Supreme Court, and, subsequently, before the Grand Chamber of the CJEU.

Audzevičius has an extensive résumé of representing clients under the UNCITRAL, ICC, SCC, LCIA, MKAS, MAS, GAFTA, FOSFA and Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration Rules. He also regularly sits as an arbitrator in SCC, LCIA, ICC arbitrations that involve a CIS element, with seats in London, Paris, Stockholm, Moscow, Minsk and Almaty. Audzevičius was educated at Harvard, Oxford, London and Vilnius, as well as the Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences.



Triinu Hiob

NJORD Law Firm

Location: Estonia
Number of years in practice: 15
Admissions: Estonian Bar
Main sectors covered: Energy, M&A, construction
Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, Balkans, Austria, Switzerland, Italy
Languages: English, Slovak, Czech

Triinu Hiob is partner and head of NJORD Law Firm's dispute resolution practice in Tallinn, with additional expertise in employment and labour law, insurance and reinsurance, and commercial lease law. She has served as an arbitrator for the ICC, and since July 2018 has been a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration.

With almost two decades of litigation experience, Hiob has advised and represented a wide variety of domestic and international companies, as well as state authorities. The Estonian government has appointed Hiob a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and also member of the ICSID Arbitration Court, focusing on investment protection in particular. For the last five years, she has also acted as a conciliator for the Estonian Insurance Association, and is an arbitrator of the Estonian insurance arbitration board.

Since 2009, Hiob has been a guest lecturer at the University of Tartu, teaching advanced employment law, participating in LLM final oral defence committees, and supervising student theses. She also speaks frequently at conferences on matters surrounding dispute resolution, and both edits and publishes academic articles on a regular basis.

Tatjana Popovski-Buloski

Popovski & Partners

Location: Republic of North Macedonia
Number of years in practice: 21
Main sectors covered: Energy, metals, mining, retail and distribution
Languages: Macedonian, English, French

Tatjana Popovski Buloski is the founding partner of Popovski & Partners. With 20 years of experience in the North Macedonian legal sector, she is widely regarded as a leading domestic counsel on a range of matters, including M&A, securities, energy, telecommunications, insurance, concessions and PPP, equity investments, and project finance.

A hugely experienced litigator, she has also carved out a unique niche as one of the few Macedonian legal experts advising on international arbitrations. To date she has acted as local counsel on a number of bi-lateral investment treaty cases, typically representing international investors against the government. Her representations have also included commercial arbitrations under ICSID and ICC rules, often involving challenging issues related to the implementation of North Macedonian law.

One nominator comments, '*[Tatjana Popovski Buloski] is one of the few North Macedonian lawyers to truly appreciate international legal issues. She is invaluable in helping clients navigate local business culture while also building a winning strategy.*' She has published more than 30 articles in domestic and international editions on topics related to competition law, energy law, employment law, and dispute resolution.



In conversation with...

'I have always loved litigation but international arbitration is an even greater high. These disputes are not just about legal skills – you need to have in-depth knowledge of a particular industry and an appreciation of the wider social and economic circumstances in the country. One must also have a good deal of creativity to provide a winning strategy for the client.' ■

Tomáš Kamenec
Paul Q Law Firm

Location: Slovak Republic
 Number of years in practice: 21
 Number of years as an arbitrator: Three
 Admissions: Slovak Bar
 Main sectors covered: Intellectual property, media
 Languages spoken: English, German, Czech, Russian

Tomáš Kamenec is recognised as one of the leading IP experts in Slovakia. He actively participates in the preparation and consultation of legislation, specifically legislation related to copyright and broadcasting regulations. Kamenec provides legal advisory services to a number of prominent clients including the Association of Television Broadcasters of Slovakia, MARKÍZA – SLOVAKIA and Slovak Press Publishers' Association. He has been also ranked by The Legal 500 as a leading individual in dispute resolution for several consecutive years. Since 2017 he has been a member of the Arbitration Court of the Slovak Bar Association.

Eliane Fischer
rothorn legal

Location: Switzerland
 Number of years in practice: Ten
 Number of years as an arbitrator: Five
 Current appointments as arbitrator: Two
 Admissions: Switzerland
 Main sectors covered: Construction and engineering, oil and gas, sales, supply and distribution, joint ventures, post-M&A
 Geographical areas of focus: Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Central and Eastern Europe
 Languages: English, German, French

A founding partner of rothorn legal, an international dispute resolution boutique with offices in Zurich and Frankfurt, Eliane Fischer acts as counsel in cases involving complex international construction and engineering projects, oil and gas disputes, sales, supply and distribution contracts, joint ventures and post-M&A disputes.

Fischer has provided legal advice to parties in a number of noteworthy disputes, including in a case concerning the force majeure termination of a major construction project due to the Coronavirus pandemic. She has also represented a joint venture in arbitration proceedings concerning delays and disruption incurred in the expansion of an oil field, and represented a pure precious metals company in proceedings relating to a post-acquisition dispute concerning tax related reps and warranties.

Fischer represents parties and acts as an arbitrator in cases under various arbitration rules, and advises applicants in cases before the European Court of Human Rights. She speaks regularly at conferences and teaches the International Commercial Arbitration class at the Lille Catholic University. Before joining rothorn legal as founding partner, she worked from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's Vienna office, and was previously an associate at Schellenberg Wittmer in Zurich and a case lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Miloš Olík

ROWAN LEGAL

Location: Czech Republic

Number of years in practice: 18

Number of years as an arbitrator: Ten

Admissions: Czech Bar Association, Slovak Bar Association

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: Czech, English, Russian, Slovak

Miloš Olík covers a wide range of sectors in his practice, including commercial and investment arbitration, construction and engineering, banking and finance, IT and IP, sports law, international trade and transportation. He has represented a number of high-profile national institutions throughout his career as an arbitration counsel, including the Republic of Croatia, the City of Prague and the Slovak Republic on more than one occasion.

Olík has made several contributions to the body of resources available to arbitration professionals, having authored or been the co-author of many publications. He has been published in works such as commentaries on the Law on Arbitration Proceedings and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards, the New York Convention, an addition to notable chapters covering the Czech Republic in the ICCA Handbook of Commercial Arbitration, Commentaries on the Mediation Law and a prestigious chapter focused on the Czech Republic in the ICCA Handbook on Commercial Arbitration.



Aleš Rojs

Rojs, Peljhan, Prelesnik & Partners

Location: Slovenia

Number of years in practice: 30+

Admissions: Slovenian Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Energy, M&A, telecoms, construction

Geographical areas of focus: Slovenia, Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo

Languages spoken: Slovenian, English, German, Serbian, Croatian

Aleš Rojs is co-founder of Rojs, Peljhan, Prelesnik & Partners, managing the Slovenian firm since 1989. Specialising in corporate, commercial and M&A, Rojs has represented major Slovenian companies and multinational giants alike in court and arbitration proceedings, with a cumulative awards value totalling over €1bn. Rojs has also acted as a bankruptcy administrator, and is the co-founder of Top-tier Legal Adriatic, an association comprised of the foremost business law firms in the region.

Leon Kopecký

Schoenherr

Location: Austria

Number of years in practice: Ten

Number of years as an arbitrator: Five

Current appointments as arbitrator: Two as sole arbitrator

Admissions: Austrian Bar, Austrian Supreme Court

Main sectors covered: Shareholder disputes, post-M&S, production and shipping, textiles

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, SEE, CIS

Languages: German, English, Czech, Slovak (with an understanding of Russian, Italian, Macedonian, Serbian)

Leon Kopecký has over ten years of experience in international commercial and investment arbitrations, litigations, and investigations. In 2017, Kopecký acted as lead advocate in the first ICSID hearing held in Vienna, in which he represented the Republic of Moldova. Also in 2017, Kopecký acted in numerous publicised commercial arbitrations, including representing Montenegro in a case under UNCITRAL Rules as well as Kosovar mobile operator ZMobile in the London High Court.

In 2018, he helped secure victories in ICSID cases for Kunsttrans in claims arising out of a contract signed in 2006 with the National Museum of Serbia, as well as Mera Investment Fund Limited in a high-profile, several hundred million Euro ICSID investment arbitration against the Republic of Serbia. Also in 2018, he acted as lead advocate in a London-seated construction arbitration where Schoenherr's client won the case. In 2019, he represented a Cypriot investor in its dispute with Serbia (ICSID), VPE in its construction dispute with Turkish companies Adularya and Naksan (ICC), and Tele2 in its dispute with Hutchison (VIAC).

Kopecký regularly publishes papers, speaks at conferences, and teaches arbitration courses, especially in CEE, SEE and the CIS, focusing mainly on investor-state disputes and litigation funding. He is also the editor of Mondaq's Comparative Guide to International Arbitration in 14 CEE States.

Karolína Horáková

Skills

Location: Czech Republic

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: 12

Admissions: Czech Bar

Main sectors covered: Finance and energy

Geographical areas of focus: EU

Languages: Czech, English, Russian,
Slovak

Karolína Horakova is a partner at Skills, a Prague-based firm specialising in corporate, regulatory and dispute resolution work at both domestic and international level. Between 1994 and 2018 the firm was part of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, where Horáková was a partner specialising in disputes resolution from 1999 to 2018.

Horáková has been predominantly active in the field of investor-state arbitrations, having successfully represented the Czech Republic on numerous occasions. She has also represented investors in investor-state disputes across the Central and Eastern Europe region.

She also acts in Czech courts in matters relating to the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, and has litigated in high-stakes corporate disputes in finance, energy and telecommunications.



Most recently, Horáková successfully defended the Czech Republic in a case against WNC Factoring Limited, an UNCITRAL ad hoc arbitration brought under the UK-Czech BIT. She has also acted in a number of parallel cases brought under various BITs, as well as the Energy Charter Treaty by investors into solar installations in the wake of changes adopted by the Czech Republic to its renewable energy support scheme.

Carri Ginter
Sorainen

Location: Estonia

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: Four

Current appointments as arbitrator: One as chair

Admissions: Estonian Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Industrials, trade and consumer goods, energy, international trade, construction, EU law, intellectual property, civil law

Geographical areas of focus: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Finland, Sweden, Denmark

Languages: Estonia, English, French, German and Russian

Dr Carri Ginter is the head of Sorainen's dispute resolution and risk management practice in the Baltics and Belarus. Sorainen handles some of the most high-profile, high-revenue cases on the market, and Ginter has litigated hundreds of matters in the interest of clients.

Ginter has a civil law background, combined with in-depth knowledge of EU law and international law. He has served as a member of the management board of Port of Tallinn - the biggest port authority in Estonia with a turnover of over €100m, and as far as both cargo and passenger traffic are taken into account, the biggest port on the Baltic Sea. Ginter is also a member of the supervisory board of Estonian Railways, which provides him with specific skills in various areas including international trade, regulated sectors, real estate, procurement and anti-corruption matters. In addition, he has been involved in arbitrations in trade and energy (construction and grid).

Ginter holds the Jean Monnet chair for EU law at the University of Tartu, running the UproEU project together with his team. As a renowned expert on EU law, Ginter served as an expert witness in a historic hearing before the Estonian Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the European Stability Mechanism. In 2020, he has been invited by the Government Office of Estonia to provide a legal analysis of the consistency of the EU recovery plan with primary EU law.

Valts Nerets
Sorainen

Location: Latvia

Number of years in practice: Nine

Admissions: Latvian Bar Association

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, CIS, Baltics

Languages: Latvian, English, Russian, Spanish

A respected partner at Sorainen, Valts Nerets has made a name for himself in his experience handling international commercial and BIT arbitrations in the corporate, commercial, trade, energy, and transport and shipping sectors.

Most recently, Nerets represented one of the largest international insurance groups in Central and Eastern Europe in a post-MNA dispute in a Stockholm-seated arbitration, and also a Lithuanian investor E energija in the first ICSID case against Latvia, an arbitration lasting eight years. He regularly counsels clients on private international law issues and litigates enforcement proceedings of arbitral awards and court judgments in high-scale cases, as well as advising parties on planning and protection of foreign investments.

Luminița Popa

Suciu Popa

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: Bucharest Bar

Main sectors covered: Energy, oil and gas, natural resources, infrastructure and construction

Geographical areas of focus: Europe (with particular emphasis on CEE region)

Languages: Romanian, English, French

Luminița Popa is one of the founders and managing partner of Suciu Popa and is recognised as one of the most experienced lawyers specialised in international dispute resolution, with a focus on commercial arbitration, both institutional and ad-hoc. Her portfolio comprises sophisticated clients and highly demanding projects in various business sectors such as energy, natural resources, infrastructure and construction.

Her main geographical area of focus is Europe, with particular emphasis on the CEE region. She was also involved in several arbitrations and pre-arbitral proceedings involving extra-EU jurisdictions, such as the Republic of Moldova. She constantly acts as counsel in proceedings under the rules of the main arbitration institutions and dispute resolution bodies in Paris, Vienna and Bucharest, with an emphasis on ICC matters.

The clients she typically advises are global players (consortia, joint ventures, groups of companies) handling major international projects that require cross-border and interdisciplinary capabilities. They come from diverse industries, such as civil engineering, constructions, energy and natural resources.

One of her most representative recent successes was the coordination of the team of lawyers who acted as lead counsel to Enel Investment Holding BV, one of the largest international energy companies, in an ICC arbitration arisen from a privatisation agreement with claims amounting over €130m. The disputes revolved around complex issues pertaining to corporate law, regulatory and financial matters. This matter was a full success, with all claims rejected. She also successfully coordinated another very high-profile case for Enel, the largest commercial arbitration case ever in Romania (over €1bn), completed in July 2016.

Other remarkable achievements were obtained in several complex construction arbitration cases. Among them, an ICC case in the course of which the Swiss Federal Supreme Court issued a landmark decision upholding the position put forward by Popa and her team regarding the arbitral tribunal's jurisdiction in the absence of the mandatory pre-arbitral procedures being performed.

Popa is constantly included in prestigious international guides to specialist international arbitration and dispute resolution practices and has been praised by clients as *'extremely involved and hands-on'* and *'a real force in the profession'* who impresses with her *'outstanding understanding of commercial and technical matters'*. She has been hailed by clients as *'a great strategist'* and *'the best in Romania for international arbitration'*.

Popa is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) and a member of numerous international associations, including the ICC institute of world business law and International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA). She is a Court Member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and a member of the ICC commission on arbitration and ADR.



Miklós Boronkay

Szecskay Attorneys at Law

Location: Hungary

Number of years in practice: 14

Number of years as an arbitrator: Four

Admissions: Hungary

Main sectors covered: Contracts and commercial, real estate, competition, damages claims

Geographical areas of focus: EU, with special focus on CEE

Languages: Hungarian, English, German

Miklós Boronkay is the head of Szecskay Attorneys at Law's Dispute Resolution Practice. He specialises in complex commercial litigation and arbitration cases, as well as in competition law matters. He has advised and represented clients in major international (ICC, UNCITRAL) and Hungarian arbitrations and in court proceedings.

Boronkay has a 'deep knowledge of almost anything one could hope to know about international arbitration' coupled with 'a strong practical and strategic approach' to winning cases. He has special expertise in tort and contract law, and has written for a number of publications and taught various graduate and postgraduate university courses that cover these areas.

His first major arbitration was *Richter Gedeon Plc. v. Genefar BV*, a 2009 ICC case concerning a failed M&A transaction. Boronkay conducted his first cross-examination here as a trainee lawyer, when he had to suddenly step in to substitute a senior colleague. 'It happened so abruptly that I did not even have time to develop any stage fright (which I surely would have done had I known in advance that I have to do the cross-examination)', he comments. 'After I concluded the questioning, the chairman of the tribunal noted that "many conductors get an incredible career because they had to replace a famous conductor who took ill." It remains to be seen whether this flattering metaphor will turn out to be accurate.'

He most recently represented Sodexo Pass International in its bi-lateral investment treaty

dispute against Hungary, a matter in which Boronkay and the Szecskay team worked with the Paris office of Simmons & Simmons. This ICSID arbitration, one of the first significant cases to follow the Achmea judgement, was the first case in which the European Commission intervened to file an amicus brief alleging the tribunal did not have jurisdiction (the brief was subsequently dismissed by the tribunal). The arbitration was decided in favour of Szecskay's client and is pending annulment proceedings.

In conversation with...

'As an arbitrator, I always try to pay attention to all details while not losing sight of the overall picture. I consider this to be the "Scylla and Charybdis" of the work as arbitrator. If the arbitrator is lost in details, there is a risk that the award, while precise, will be unfair and commercially unreasonable. If however the arbitrator only looks at the big picture, the award could lack a solid foundation on both facts and the law.

I also consider it important to remain flexible and carry out the arbitration in a way that all parties involved have a feeling that the procedure was fair and they had the opportunity to properly present their case. As far as my awards are concerned, I try to draft them in a way that the losing party can see that I read, understood and genuinely considered all of their arguments. The reason for them losing is not that I failed to listen, but the fact that I did not agree with their position.

As a counsel, I always try to identify the core or essence of the case, and express it as clearly and concisely as possible. Details are important, but the main messages are crucial. Otherwise: preparation, preparation, preparation.

I have been on the roll of arbitrators of the HCCI Arbitration Court since 2018 and have been appointed in 17 cases as an arbitrator. Together with colleagues from major law firms in Hungary, we established the Hungarian Arbitration Association



(HAA), which is now actively promoting arbitration and organizing events. I am one of the six Board Members at the HAA.

In Hungary the main arbitration centre is the Permanent Arbitration Court attached to the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI). This arbitral institution was founded in 1949 and has about a 100 cases per year. Its Rules of Procedure are modern and flexible, without anything surprising for seasoned international arbitrators. We have had a new Arbitration Act since 2017, which is based on the UNCITRAL Model Law. Most cases are domestic but there are quite a number of international arbitrations as well, with internationally renowned arbitrators sitting on the panel.

I have been teaching at Hungarian law faculties for over a decade now, and it is a pleasure to see my former students as counsel in proceedings. While I am at the early stage of my career as an arbitrator, I have already had the opportunity to act as a sole arbitrator in a VIAC arbitration and more than a dozen international and domestic cases in front of the HCCI Arbitration Court and very much look forward to new cases and opportunities.' ■

András Szecskay

Szecskay Attorneys at Law

Location: Hungary

Admissions: Hungary

Languages: Hungarian, English

Dr Andras Szecskay founded Szecskay Attorneys at Law in 1992 and currently serves as managing partner. One of the leading figures in the Hungarian legal market, he was presented with Hungary's highest legal accolade, "In Service of Justice", by the Hungarian Bar Association in 2019 to honour his role in shaping the country's legal environment.

He began his career in general practice with SBG&K Patent Law Office, then the leading Hungarian firm for intellectual property matters, before joining Paris-based Moquet Borde & Associés (which has since merged with Paul Hastings).

'The early 90s was an exciting and challenging time to be a lawyer in Hungary' says Szecskay. 'Of course, privatisation and foreign investment were new to the country, but we also had all sorts of new legal concepts entering the market. It was a time where Hungarian lawyers were thrown into the deep end and had to learn by doing, and one of the rare times where younger lawyers were at an advantage.'

'It was also the perfect training for my later work in arbitration. A good colleague of mine once told me there is no good arbitration counsel who does not have a background in M&A. To be a good arbitrator you need to know how deals are conducted, how negotiations work in practice and how important issues often get overlooked in the rush to close a transaction.'

He has since become one of Hungary's most sought-after arbitration counsels. Since 2000, he has been listed on the Roll of Arbitrators of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has sat on over 200 arbitrations, including UNCITRAL and ICC cases.

Dr Szecskay's practice focuses on high-value and complex commercial, corporate, IP and foreign investment related litigation and arbitration matters, as well as judicial review proceedings. His experience spans a number of industries and sectors, including life sciences, banking, energy, environment, oil and gas, power and telecommunications. He is, says a

senior arbitration counsel with much experience in CEE disputes, *'a figure who deserves to be listed among the international leaders in the field – a lawyer who has developed an unparalleled expertise in many areas of law and who serves as a guiding light for younger practitioners.'*



Daniel Alexandru Aragea
STOICA & Asociații

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 11

Admissions: Bucharest Bar

Main sectors covered: Construction, commercial contracts, EU and domestic competition law

Geographical areas of focus: Romania, Europe

Languages spoken: English, Romanian

Daniel Alexandru Aragea has been a partner at STOICA & Asociații in Bucharest since January 2020 after four years at the firm as managing associate and a further two as an associate. He holds an LLB and LLM in business law from the University of Bucharest.

Specialising in a wide range of practice areas, Aragea has advised both domestic and international clients in civil contract and property rights disputes before the Competition Council, as well as challenges arising from rulings by the Council. He has also acted for clients in a number of arbitration disputes, both domestic and international, including under the rules of the ICC in Paris.

Aragea has further expertise in competition law and state aid, banking law, insurance, capital markets, and financing.

Tadas Varapnickas
TGS Baltic

Location: Lithuania

Number of years in practice: Nine

Admissions: Lithuanian Bar

Main sectors covered: Construction, energy, transport

Geographical areas of focus: Baltics, Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: Lithuanian, English

Tadas Varapnickas is a senior associate at TGS Baltic, with a practice focus on dispute resolution and international commercial arbitration. He has acted for clients in high-value property development and investments disputes under SCC, ICC, and VCCA arbitration rules. Most recently, he successfully represented a major Italian infrastructure company in proceedings under Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration Rules, where he is also listed as a recommended arbitrator. Before joining TGS, he worked as an advisor to the President of Lithuania as part of the administration's legal affairs group.

Varapnickas studied at Gent and Vilnius universities, completing a PhD at the latter in 2018 on international commercial arbitration and arbitrator's civil liability. Since 2015 he has been a lecturer in private law at Vilnius University, where he was recognised as lecturer of the year in 2018. He frequently publishes papers on arbitration, specifically from a European point of view, and since 2019 is general editor of the Vilnius Court of Commercial Arbitration's journal, Arbitration: Law and Practice.

Sylvia Steeva
Tomov & Tomov

Location: Bulgaria

Number of years in practice: 17

Admissions: Bulgarian Bar Association

Languages: Bulgarian, English, French

Sylvia Steeva is a partner at Bulgarian boutique firm Tomov & Tomov, which provides bespoke legal services in the fields of arbitration and litigation, commercial, corporate and financial transactions, European Union law and public international law.

Steeva has substantial experience advising parties in complex arbitration proceedings, many of them ICSID cases brought against the Bulgarian state. In 2011, she was part of a legal team that successfully represented the state during a dispute arising under the Energy Charter Treaty and a bilateral investment treaty, with a claim of more than US\$300m. She also represented the Republic of Bulgaria during disputes arising out of a waste management concession, electricity distribution and supply, as well as a case filed by an Omani sovereign wealth fund concerning an investment in Bulgaria's Corporate Commercial Bank (CCB), a dispute that was ruled in Bulgaria's favour.

A true specialist regarding arbitration in the country, Steeva has authored several chapters on the Bulgarian arbitration environment across various print and online publications.

Anca Pușcașu

Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 20

Geographical areas of focus: Romania

Languages: Romanian, English

Anca Pușcașu, a partner at Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, specialises in international arbitration and dispute resolution. Pușcașu represents clients in arbitrations before important arbitral forums including ICSID, ICC, GAFTA and VIAC. In a legal career of more than 20 years, she has experience managing claims arising out of privatisations, sale and purchase agreements, natural resource concessions, contracts with states and state entities. With her significant knowledge in international public arbitration, Pușcașu was part of the team representing the Romanian Government in three international arbitration cases brought by foreign investors against Romania to the ICSID. She is currently advising Gabriel Resources in relation to Romania's largest international arbitration case, regarding damages amounting to US\$4.4bn.

Prior to joining Tuca Zbârcea & Asociații as a senior associate in January 2006, she worked at Romanian law firms Babiuc, Sulica & Asociații and Metea & Asociații, as well as in a legal consultant role at one of Romania's top brokerage companies.

Cornel Popa

Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 25

Number of years as an arbitrator: Four

Main sectors covered: Oil and gas, construction/FIDIC, IT&C, energy and healthcare

Geographical areas of focus: Romania

Languages: Romanian, English, French

Highly active on the arbitration front, Cornel Popa is a partner at Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, and has 25 years of expertise in dealing with domestic and international arbitration, civil litigation and mediation. He is one of the main coordinators of the firm's international arbitration practice group, and in addition to ad-hoc arbitrations, he has participated in numerous proceedings under the rules of many of the leading international arbitration institutions including ICSID, ICC, UNCITRAL and GAFTA. He has also taken part in hearings before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

Popa regularly acts as arbitrator in cases administered under the Rules of the Court of International Commercial Arbitration (attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania). In 2016, he was appointed as a member of the board of the Court of International Commercial Arbitration (attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania); since then, he no longer acts as party representative before arbitral tribunals constituted under the rules of this arbitration court. He is also a member of the ICC Institute of World Business Law.

A further focus of Popa's practice concerns legal advice and representation in construction and engineering disputes. Other areas of practice include corporate law, M&A, oil and gas, as well as competition law.

Florentin Țuca

Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 27

Geographical areas of focus: Romania

Languages: Romanian, English, French

Florentin Țuca is managing partner of Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, and specialises in dispute resolution. He is recognised as one of Romania's most proficient practitioners in dispute resolution, especially international arbitration. For the past 27 years, he has dealt with matters related to cross-border disputes, mainly arising out of investment treaty arbitrations. He has coordinated the team of lawyers representing Romania in various international arbitration proceedings under the auspices of leading institutions, such as ICSID, ICC and UNCITRAL. In particular, he is acknowledged as one of the main practice partners having contributed to Romania winning four ICSID cases and thus seeing off claims against Romania worth a collective €700m. Țuca is also a member of the IBA Arbitration Committee and a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the College of the Court of International Commercial Arbitration (attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania). He is currently advising Gabriel Resources in relation to Romania's largest international arbitration case, regarding damages amounting to US\$4.4bn. Țuca has been managing partner of Tuca Zbârcea & Asociații since 2005, joining the firm after a decade spent as a partner and managing partner with Mușat & Asociații.

Levana Zigmund
 Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 22

Geographical areas of focus: Romania

Languages: Romanian, English, French

Levana Zigmund, partner at Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, co-heads the firm's international arbitration practice group, and is widely regarded as a prominent practitioner with impressive advocacy skills. Her expertise encompasses arbitration under the leading institution rules, such as ICC, UNCITRAL, ICSID, as well as ad-hoc arbitration proceedings under various national laws. More significantly, she has been very active in investment treaty arbitration in relation to the Romanian state, and has built up a solid and successful practice in this area. She has contributed to Romania's success in winning four ICSID cases, seeing off claims against the country worth a collective €700m.

A practicing lawyer with 22 years of expertise, Zigmund also has acted in complex commercial, real estate, fiscal and administrative disputes. She is currently leading the team of lawyers advising Gabriel Resources in relation to Romania's largest international arbitration case regarding damages amounting to US\$4.4bn.

Zigmund has been a partner of Tuca Zbârcea & Asociații since 2008, having begun her time at the firm in 2005. She joined Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații after a stint as a senior associate at Mușat & Asociații between 2003 and 2005.

Robert Roșu
 Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 20

Geographical areas of focus: Romania

Languages: Romanian, English, French

Robert Roșu is a partner at Romanian law firm Țuca Zbârcea & Asociații, and co-heads the firm's litigation and domestic arbitration practice group, the largest department within the firm. Roșu has a wealth of experience in the field spanning 20 years of practice, having handled contentious matters in various practice areas and represented clients at all levels of the judicial system.

His strengths are commercial litigation, usually involving company law and shareholder disputes, administrative, competition, employment, intellectual property, taxation, as well as insolvency and debt recovery procedures. He is highly skilled in enforcement procedures, criminal litigation and white-collar crime.

A Legal 500 Hall of Fame recommend lawyer, Roșu has published a range of articles on insolvency, litigation and corporate law, and is noted for a professional, efficient and integrity-led approach to his practice.

Monika Hartung

Wardynski & Partners

Location: Poland

Number of years in practice: 27

Number of years as an arbitrator: Two

Current appointments as arbitrator: Two

Admissions: Warsaw Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Building and construction, energy, infrastructure, FMCG, investment funds, finance, banking, food, industrial production, steel, insurance, real estate, antitrust law

Geographical areas of focus: Poland, Germany, Austria, England, Czech Republic, Russia, Spain, Portugal, France, Denmark, Israel, Switzerland, United States, China, Ukraine
Languages spoken: Polish, English, German, Russian

Monika Hartung is a partner at Wardynski & Partners, joining the firm in 1993. She is co-head of the dispute resolution and arbitration practice groups, with additional responsibilities in the firm's insurance practice and German desk.

Hartung has vast arbitration experience, representing commercial clients across a broad range of sectors in arbitration and state courts, both domestic and international. Additionally, she is Vice-President of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the German-Polish Chamber of Industry and Commerce, and regularly publishes papers on arbitration and litigation in Poland.



Oleg Temnikov

Wolf Theiss

Location: Bulgaria

Number of years in practice: 11

Admissions: Sofia Bar Association

Main sectors covered: Commercial disputes, sale of goods, energy, construction, M&A

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, Bulgaria, Russia, North Macedonia

Languages spoken: Bulgarian, Russian, English, French, Italian

Oleg Temnikov is a counsel at Wolf Theiss's Sofia office, joining the firm in 2011 as an associate. He holds a Masters in international economic law from the Sorbonne, and regularly publishes articles on EU law, with particular regard to how it affects Bulgarian commercial and investment law.

Temnikov has a deep interest in mooting, serving as both a judge and coach in world-renowned student competitions including the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot. For the last decade he has also arbitrated memorandums and oral rounds at the Vienna-based Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

Stefan Riegler

Wolf Theiss

Location: Austria

Number of years in practice: 20

Number of years as an arbitrator: 15

Admissions: Austrian Bar

Main sectors covered: Banking, M&A, commercial, construction, energy, infrastructure

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe, SEE

Languages: German, English

Stefan Riegler is an international arbitration partner at Vienna-based Wolf Theiss, heading the firm's dispute resolution team since 2018 after 12 years at Baker McKenzie. A highly experienced arbitrator, he has acted under key arbitration rules including the ICC, VIAC, DIS and Swiss Rules, and also in various ad hoc proceedings. Additionally, he is vice president of the Board of the Austrian Arbitration Association, a board member at Vienna International Arbitration Centre, and a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration.

Educated to doctorate level at Vienna and LSE, Riegler has contributed to major arbitration journals, both as an author and editorial board member.

Cosmin Vasile

Zamfirescu Racoti Vasile & Partners

Location: Romania

Number of years in practice: 19

Number of years as an arbitrator: Nine

Current appointments: One as chair, two as sole arbitrator

Admissions: Bucharest Bar

Main sectors covered: Energy and environment, privatisation, construction and engineering, real estate, international sale of goods

Geographical areas of focus: Central and Eastern Europe

Languages: English, Romanian

Dr Cosmin Vasile is managing partner of Zamfirescu Racoti Vasile & Partners and head of the firm's arbitration practice group. He has extensive experience of more than 16 years handling cross-border disputes, and boasts a track record of around 100 international arbitration proceedings as counsel and arbitrator under various laws and arbitration rules. These include the ICC, LCIA, CAM, SCC, VIAC, UNCITRAL, ICSID and CICA.

Vasile has successfully coordinated a number of significant disputes for his clients, often under media scrutiny. Winning ground-breaking awards for his clients in Romania has brought him international recognition and a place among the best arbitration practitioners worldwide. As one of the leading experts in construction, capital markets, privatisation and energy arbitrations in Romania, Vasile is frequently called upon to provide legal counsel to both government institutions and private companies. Outside these areas of specialisation, he has acted in cases concerning a wide range of

commercial contracts in various industry sectors. Vasile regularly sits as arbitrator in domestic and international proceedings. Since 2011, he has joined the group of arbitrators of the Bucharest Court of International Commercial Arbitration, attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania. Since 2015, he has been a member of the Court College in the same institution.

In court, Vasile has an impressive record, being popular among major domestic and international corporations for advice in high-profile commercial, administrative-contentious, public procurement and capital markets disputes. In recent years, he has focused on cross-border litigation, international private law matters, and a wide range of commercial disputes in various industry sectors. He also acts for a significant client roster in intellectual property matters, including patent and trademarks. Vasile was the ICC YAF Regional Representative for the Europe and Russia chapter for the 2017–2019 mandate, where he was responsible for the promotion and development of a global network for young arbitration talent.

Vasile regularly speaks and publishes on topics related to arbitration, and is a member of the Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Committees of the IBA. He holds a doctorate degree from the University of Bucharest and completed a doctoral thesis on the ad hoc commercial arbitration in 2011. He has been a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in London since 2012, and holds a diploma in international arbitration from the same body. He has also been awarded the Certificate of the ICC Advanced Arbitration Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, and the Certificate of the International Academy for Arbitration Law.

Markus Schifferl
Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich

Location: Austria

Number of years in practice: 15

Number of years as an arbitrator: Nine

Current appointments as arbitrator: Three

Admissions: Austrian Bar

Main sectors covered: Technology, plant engineering, construction, energy, corporate, joint venture and M&A disputes, competition law

Geographical areas of focus: Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Germany, Switzerland, France, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

Languages spoken: German, English, French

Markus Schifferl is a partner at Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich's Vienna office, specialising in international arbitration as well as commercial and corporate litigation.

Gerold Zeiler
Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich

Location: Austria

Number of years in practice: 33

Number of years as an arbitrator: 20

Current appointments as arbitrator: Eight

Admissions: Austrian Bar, California Bar

Main sectors covered: Corporate and post-M&A, construction, energy, IP

Geographical areas of focus: Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Central and Eastern Europe, SEE including Romania, New York and California

Languages spoken: German, English, Italian, Spanish

After 16 years as partner and head of international arbitration at Schoenherr, in 2014 Gerold Zeiler co-founded Austrian firm Zeiler Floyd Zadkovich, where he leads on international commercial arbitration and complex litigation.

Zeiler is an experienced arbitrator, listed on arbitration panels in courts across Asia and the SEE region. He was appointed as the Austrian member of the ICC Court in 2018, and is a former president of the Austrian Arbitration Association. He regularly edits and publishes journal articles on international arbitration, and is a frequent guest lecturer and conference speaker.

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