

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

OVERVIEW

International arbitration can be an excellent forum for resolving complex commercial disputes, but it comes with its own unique set of challenges and nuances. When there can be huge sums or big issues at stake, you need the very best team at your disposal, made up of experienced lawyers able to handle arbitrations of any kind, and offer you best-in-class advice and representation across the globe.

At BCLP, we have built one of the premier international arbitration teams in the world. Our team of over 100 lawyers sits across the globe, based in our offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Hong Kong SAR, London, Miami, New York and Singapore, meaning we can effectively service our clients' arbitration needs 24 hours a day. We have teams with deep experience of disputes arising from projects in Latin America, Russia and the CIS, the Middle East, Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

Our team covers a variety of specialist areas, including construction and engineering projects, investor-state disputes, energy and natural resources, banking and finance, insurance and reinsurance, commodities, sports and the full range of corporate and commercial matters.

We have recognised market leaders in investment arbitration, construction and engineering disputes and commercial arbitration- our team members take leading roles in the arbitration community, in terms of teaching, writing, speaking and taking leadership positions. They are regularly appointed to sit as arbitrators. Members of the team have previously worked at international courts and tribunals, including the London Court of International Arbitration, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. Several members of our team hold or have held teaching positions in international arbitration and international law at leading law schools around the world, including New York University, Queen Mary University of London, Emory University, Universidad de Navarra and Universidad de San Ignacio de Loyola. Many also are frequent speakers and writers on international dispute resolution issues.

Our team is multicultural – our international arbitration lawyers are qualified in a variety of civil law and common law jurisdictions, and present cases not only in English, but also in Russian, Spanish, French and Italian. In addition, individual members of the team speak a range of other languages.

Forensic accounting – Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner prides itself on being at the forefront of innovation. We can provide instant access to in-house accountancy advice on the financial aspects of arbitration claims. This provides clients with a more complete quantum analysis early on, which can lead to a strong competitive advantage.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION SURVEYS

2024

International Arbitration Survey 2024

This year's survey canvases views on some of those risks and asks whether change is needed to avoid arbitration becoming a safe harbour for corruption.

2023

International Arbitration Survey 2023

Our 2023 survey looks at AI in IA: the rise of machine learning

2022

International Arbitration Survey 2022

Our 2022 survey looks at the reform of the Arbitration Act 1996.

MEET THE TEAM



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RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- Construction Disputes
- Business & Commercial Disputes
- Insurance

EXPERIENCE

- Representing the Bulgarian subsidiary of a global energy company in a high-value UNCITRAL arbitration regarding the failure to properly design and build a lignite-fired power plant in Bulgaria.
- Acting for a subsidiary of a global construction company in a dispute under a joint venture agreement relating to the development of a container terminal in Aqaba, Jordan. The claim, valued at US\$70m, was subject to a tiered dispute resolution clause, which includes ICC arbitration.
- Representing a shareholder in a high-profile LCIA arbitration seated in London. The dispute concerns the management and operation of one of the largest Russian e-commerce companies. The case includes unfair prejudice claims, which are rare in international commercial arbitration.

RELATED INSIGHTS

Insights

Apr 29, 2025

Does “back to back” mean “pay when paid” in construction contracts?

In *Sze Fung Engineering Limited v Trevi Construction Company Limited* [2025] HKCA 278[1], the Hong Kong Court of Appeal (“CA”) ruled that the “back to back” wording in that case was not a “pay when paid” clause, but governed only the timing of payment.

Insights

Apr 28, 2025

Hong Kong Court makes security for costs order against Mainland parties with no assets in Hong Kong

In *Y and Another v GI and Another* [2025] HKCFI 1317[1], the Hong Kong Court of First Instance (“Court”) allowed the defendant’s application for security for costs against the plaintiffs in respect of the plaintiffs’ application to set aside an arbitral award. In doing so, the Court found that the plaintiffs were resident outside Hong Kong, had no assets available in Hong Kong and the setting aside application had little prospect of success.

News

Apr 16, 2025

BCLP recognized in Global Arbitration Review 100 2025

Insights

Apr 03, 2025

AI in IA

Ask a trained lawyer what an “LLM” is, and what first will come to mind may be a “Master of Laws”; ask a tech-savvy teenager what an “LLM” is, and they most probably will answer “large language model”. The former may not be a prerequisite to becoming a qualified lawyer, but knowledge of the latter likely will be crucial for legal practitioners in the coming years. LLMs / Generative AI are on the rise. OpenAI ChatGPT. Microsoft Copilot. Anthropic Claude. Meta AI Llama. Perplexity. Google Gemini. xAI Grok. Quora Poe. DeepSeek. And bespoke legal AI tools, of course, also are on the rise. Harvey. Thomson Reuters CoCounsel. LexisNexis Lexis+ AI. Just to name a few. It is timely that the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ciarb) has launched the Ciarb Guideline on the Use of AI in Arbitration (2025) (the “Ciarb AI Guideline”). Issued by the leading arbitration certification organisation in the world, the Ciarb AI Guideline provi...

Insights

Mar 19, 2025

HK Court relies on deemed service clause to dismiss a setting-aside application to enforce an arbitral award

Insights

Mar 07, 2025

“Dividing Line” in Public Policy – Insolvency and Arbitration

A creditor commences winding-up proceedings against a debtor company on the basis that the company is insolvent. The petition debt relates to a dispute within the ambit of the arbitration agreement between the creditor and the debtor. Should the Court either:- Uphold the parties' agreement to arbitrate (and stay / dismiss the winding-up); or Allow the creditor to continue to pursue the debt in winding-up proceedings? In our previous article on the topic in August 2020, we discussed Lasmos approach and the inter-relationship between arbitration and insolvency proceedings through the cases of: (1) the HKCFI case Lasmos (Lasmos Limited v Southwest Pacific Bauxite (HK) Limited [2018] HKCFI 426), (2) the English CA case Salford Estates(Salford Estates (No 2) Ltd v Altormart Ltd (No 2) [2015] Ch 589), (3) the two HK CA cases But Ka Chon (But Ka Chon v Interactive Brokers LLC [2019] HKCA 873) and Sit Kwong Lam (...)

Insights

Mar 06, 2025

Getting the ball rolling: sports disputes resolution in Hong Kong SAR

These are exciting times for sports in Hong Kong. With the Hong Kong team's success at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics and Summer Paralympics, the opening of the Kai Tak Sports Park and the 15th National Games (which Hong Kong is co-hosting together with Guangdong and Macao) in 2025, it is expected that interest in sports and the sports industry in Hong Kong will continue to grow. From the selection of athletes by sports clubs to the determination of the outcome of a game, anti-doping tests and sports-related commercial deals, disputes can arise at many stages along the sports industry chain. Some observers and commentators have suggested that Hong Kong would be assisted by having a comprehensive dispute resolution system to resolve the sports-related disputes which unavoidably arise from the growing sports industry.

Insights

Mar 03, 2025

DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Clauses: Are they enforceable?

The US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has recently upheld the enforceability of a DIFC-LCIA arbitration clause, notwithstanding the fact that the DIFC-LCIA no longer exists. The decision highlights the uncertainty that surrounds the enforceability of DIFC-LCIA arbitration clauses.

Insights

Feb 25, 2025

The Arbitration Act 2025: State of the Art or a Missed Opportunity?

The Arbitration Act 2025 has become law in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The new Act is largely based on the recommendations made in the Law Commission's Final Report, published following a public consultation seeking views on potential areas for reform. The new Act doesn't represent a dramatic change to the arbitration framework in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Feedback from the Law Commission's consultation was that the Arbitration Act 1996 works well and that significant reform was neither needed nor wanted. As a result, the new Act makes a series of discrete amendments to the 1996 Act, delivering incremental improvement as opposed to root and branch reform.