
TRANSNATIONAL LITIGATION: A Practitioner's Guide

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Introduction to the June 2026 Edition of Transnational Litigation: A Practitioner's Guide

Transnational Litigation: A Practitioner's Guide is a useful country-by-country reference tool, responsive to a litigator's daily need for a convenient and accurate guide on litigation that crosses international borders – from the beginning to the end of a dispute. The set further provides detailed analysis of cross-border litigation procedure and strategy, as well as strategic advice and insight into the procedural, tactical, and substantive issues of more than 28 major legal systems. Written by litigators with leading reputations internationally and in their respective jurisdictions, this work offers in-depth analysis of important details of cross-border litigation and covers topics such as:

- Jurisdiction
- Choice of forum
- Service of process
- Taking witness evidence abroad
- Taking documentary evidence abroad
- Admissibility of evidence
- Damages
- Appellate review

There is also extensive discussion of international treaties and international arbitration.

Shelving Instructions

- **REMOVE and RECYCLE** current Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 5 from your library.
- **PLACE** the new 2026-1 Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 5 in your library.

The June 2026 Edition contains the following updated or revised chapters:

- Chapter 5, Brazil
- Chapter 13A, Greece
- Chapter 19, South Korea
- Chapter 30, United States
- Chapter 45, United States Cases

Foreword

by

The Right Honourable the Lord Howe of Aberavon, C.H., Q.C.

**Former Foreign Secretary & Deputy Prime Minister
of the United Kingdom**

Oklahoma, Tiananmen, Chernobyl, Intifada, Glasnost, CNN: Increasingly, we all share the same worldwide satellite-borne vocabulary. Trade, travel, tourism, television, technology—all these are competing with each other in the demolition of time and distance. And the most important of these is trade.

In the half century since World War II, politics and technology alike have been boosting rather than obstructing the growth of transnational business. Sometimes the obstacles for trade have been demolished by conscious political decision: in the European Union or in NAFTA, for example. Elsewhere the process has been triggered by near-revolutionary upheaval: with the displacement of Maosim by Deng Zhioping's "socialist" marketplace, for example, or with the disintegration of the Soviet Empire. In most of the Asia Pacific region, however, it has been (in Keynes' words) the "animal spirits" of the entrepreneur that have been the main driving force for change. The ASEAN institutions have accompanied rather than promoted this explosion of economic activity.

The process continues to accelerate, with cross-frontier investment now growing even faster than trade. Victor Halberstadt has presented some of the facts about this astonishing change. In 1995 the worldwide flow of foreign direct investment reached a record high: investment inflow increased by 40% to an unprecedented US\$315 billion, worldwide. Developed countries were the main dynamos (and beneficiaries) of this explosion, themselves investing US\$270 billion and receiving US\$200 billion in 1995. But this spectacular growth of foreign direct investment in developed countries was accompanied by a huge rise in flows into developing countries as well, amounting in 1995 to US\$100 billion.

So we have grown used to the idea of a single world marketplace, not just for goods but for capital and cash as well—whisked across frontiers invisibly and, literally, at the speed of light. We think less often perhaps of the global marketplace of law and legal thinking that must accompany the growth in trade and investment. Yet inevitably there has been a corresponding increase in transnational disputes. So, too, the corresponding need for skill and guidance in avoiding and resolving such disputes has grown. Multinational trade is inevitably

multi-jurisdictional. So the choice of jurisdiction, and the ability to implement that choice, becomes increasingly important. Sometimes one has to create what is in effect a unique jurisdiction, through a tailor-made pattern of alternative dispute resolution. Sometime even, in truly “adventurous” territories, one has almost literally to take one’s own law with one.

Legal practitioners need above all a practical approach to transnational disputes. The business of pursuing, or avoiding, litigation with a foreign component involves indispensable legal and procedural trap-pings and requirements. And that requires practical and practice-oriented experience of the pursuit or avoidance of such disputes. This present work responds to that practical challenge by bringing together for the first time:

- Both the obvious and the inscrutable aspects of transnational civil procedure in a variety of key trading nations and
- The strategic, tactical and practical choices which accompany such procedures.

This emphasis on “choices” reflects a major concern of practicing lawyers, in-house counsel and non-lawyer managerial staff alike, in knowing and anticipating the different paths which the avoidance or pursuit of an international litigation can take at each step of the process. Richard H. Kreindler, by highlighting this concept of choice, does justice not only to the efficient resolution of disputes that are unavoidable but—equally important—to the cost-effective avoidance or cessation of such disputes (and at an early stage wherever that is possible).

This marriage between legal and practical requirements is the central theme and inspiration of this treatise. The totality of Richard Kreindler’s background and experience, as the Coordinator of Jones Day’s Europe/Middle East Dispute Resolution Practice Group, qualifies him ideally to decide exactly what is needed—and all too often missed—by the transnational practitioner. A lawyer who is American educated and trained, French-admitted and who has resided the last five years in Germany, he has had experience not only of these three key jurisdictions, but also of litigation issues in virtually every other region of the global economy.

Along the way he has worked with leading litigation practitioners throughout the world and in many cases with the leading authority on the subject in the country in question. The impressive list of country authors, who have contributed different components of this book, results in large part from Kreindler’s own experience. It reads like a “Who’s Who” of leading dispute-practitioners throughout the world.

The treatise is given a tight and regimented focus by Kreindler’s imposition of a specific order of issues, which each country author has thus been able to address in greater or lesser detail, depending upon the jurisdiction. This approach, as influenced by Kreindler’s own close

FOREWORD

supervision of style with an emphasis on substance, is not predominantly Anglo-American, continental European, or any other legal or business culture. It has been skilfully designed to bridge real or perceived “divides” in approach between and among Common law, Civil law and other legal traditions. The approach manages at the same time to do justice to the significance of the differences which do arise between one jurisdiction and another.

The reader is not, however, left to pick his or her own way through these complexities. The way is made easier by the extensive general introduction—by Kreindler himself—which serves as a legal and practical overlay to the specific country discussions that follow. Kreindler’s introductory chapter is an indispensable precursor to the benefits of each specific country chapter.

Kreindler’s approach is influenced not simply by his transnational litigation experience, but also by his extensive involvement in international arbitration under various bodies of law and rules and with other forms of “alternative dispute resolution”. The treatise does not attempt to address the intricacies of international arbitration in or affecting the countries covered. But its design and implementation is ever mindful of the lawyer’s and businessman’s need to know in advance what advantages and disadvantages a contractual agreement to litigate disputes, as opposed to arbitration, might have in any given case.

To guide the lawyer’s and businessman’s strategic decisions, the general introduction as well as each country chapter contains a substantive and practical overview of key distinguishing characteristics of the legal system, the structure of the courts, obtaining jurisdiction and choice of forum and the choice of law. Then, service of process domestically to commence a foreign action and service abroad to commence a domestic action receive particular attention. Commencement of suit, summary judgments and equivalent proceedings, and interim and conservatory relief follow next.

Of particular importance to many practitioners are the sections on the taking of witness and documentary evidence domestically in support of foreign actions as well as abroad in support of domestic actions. Here again is the concept of tactical and strategic choice underlies each country discussion. Traditionally, far less attention has been paid to admissibility and presentation at the tribunal of evidence taken domestically or abroad. This treatise makes this problem one of its centrepieces before going on to address appeal and review of transnational judgments. The approach then focuses on damages, recognition and enforcement of foreign civil-commercial judgments, settlement and compromise of proceedings, sovereign immunity, and finally costs and fees.

The first edition of the treatise includes some 20 countries, including many of the largest trading nations with the most significant litigation issues and developments. It is contemplated that a second edition

will appear in the fullness of time, which will include additional such countries, including major trading nations which are not presently represented, along with updates of the current country chapters. Practitioners around the world welcome this skilfully crafted first approach by an accomplished editor and writers of established authority addressing a group of practical legal questions, which ever more frequently arise in the course of multinational trade.

London
September 1997

Avant-Propos

by

**President Roland Dumas
Conseil Constitutionnel, Paris**

The lightning speed in the development and maturity of transnational commercial relations has led to an equally swift and sometimes dizzying increase in the complexity of cross-border contract relationships, and in the disputes arising out of them. It is not surprising that with the growth of the global “neighborhood,” there have been more and more legal differences within that neighborhood.

Of course, the greater complexity and interdependence of transnational litigation have posed challenges for the merchant, the company lawyer and the professional litigator. Individuals and entities seeking to do business across borders must be prepared to lead, or defend against, disputes in the municipal courts, as the case may be, across those borders. Parochial insistence on one’s own court system may or may not be possible, or even desirable. And familiarity with the advantages and disadvantages of litigation in a foreign environment is imperative not just once a dispute arises, but at the beginning of the relationship when the contractual or other relationship is being spawned.

A participant and observer in the field of international relations on a diplomatic and a commercial level must appreciate and admire a bold and successful attempt, such as the present work, to come to grips with the manifold procedural, tactical and substantive issues of several legal systems at the same time. A veteran of the pragmatic side of transnational dealings must be doubly thankful for a successful effort, such as this handbook, to marry the theoretical with the practical, the abstract with the experiential, and according to a uniform set of strategic and substantive principles.

It is just this marriage between theoretical and practical, procedural and tactical which *Transnational Litigation: A Practitioner’s Guide* achieves, and essentially for the first time in the English-language literature. It does so in a way which capitalizes on the Anglo-American roots and strengths of its Editor while deftly recognizing the differences and questions which arise when the Anglo-American litigator seeks to find his way in other court systems. By the same token, its approach also enables the Continental European, the Asian, the Latin American and the Arab alike to orient themselves quickly and practically in each other’s and in the Anglo-American litigation culture. The versatility and appreciation for the practicality of this handbook is to be lauded, and is a true contribution to the field.

I am confident that this handbook should, and will, find its way onto the selective bookshelf of any internationally active business person or lawyer who needs easily accessible—but also thoroughly conceived—background and guidance in the increasingly complex field of transnational litigation.

Paris
September 1997

Preface

The Importance of Transnational Litigation: A Japanese Perspective

by

Professor Norio Higuchi

**Professor of Law
University of Tokyo, Japan**

At the University of Tokyo Law Faculty, 600 out of 700 students typically enroll in my introductory class on Anglo-American law. I would like to believe that this is due to my teaching skill, but the simple, more plausible answer is that students are required to take one of a range of foreign law courses in order to graduate from our Law Department. This requirement in our curriculum is a reflection of Japanese legal history.

The Japanese legal system has developed under the influence of foreign laws. It was in the beginning of the Eighth Century that Japan established its public and penal law system by borrowing from a Chinese model. After the Meiji Restoration in 1867, Japan modernized its legal system by studying European continental laws—German and French laws in particular—and became a Civil Law system. While some aspects of Anglo-American laws were studied at that time, influences from common law countries accelerated dramatically after World War II. Among the laws reformed since then are our Constitution, criminal procedure, labor laws, family law section of the Civil Code, anti-trust laws, corporate laws, securities laws and tax laws. The historical background of this century has resulted in a unique mixture of laws in our legal system. It has also profoundly influenced our legal mind-set; we are accustomed to thinking about any legal issues by taking into account foreign laws.

The relevance of the foregoing to Richard Kreindler's treatise is clear: Until recently our interest in foreign laws was largely restricted to two groups of people. The first were those involved in legislative drafting and interpretation, and the second were legal academics, who researched foreign laws as a matter of course before writing on domestic legal issues. Yet the practical and the academic interests rarely crossed paths.

However, we have seen a dramatic change recently. I will take the issue of punitive damages as an example. Punitive damages used to be a favorite theme for discussion primarily among Anglo-American law scholars and some practitioners who argued that we should introduce

punitive damages into our civil law remedies.

Yet current globalization of law has made punitive damages an interesting topic for a wider group of people. On the one hand, we have seen Japanese exporters and manufacturers face jury verdicts for large awards of punitive damages in American courts. This type of damages is so foreign to them that they have sought some explanation. On the other hand, the Japanese judiciary has itself recently been forced to deliver a judgment on punitive damages. In fact, a Tokyo district court held in 1991 that it would recognize and allow execution of a judgment in California court to the extent that the California decision granted compensatory damages. It denied recognition of the punitive damages element as being contrary to public policy in Japan. The Tokyo High Court reached the same conclusion in 1993, but it grounded its decision on the view that punitive damages judgment could not be classified as a civil judgment under our Code of Civil Procedure. This case is currently on appeal to the Supreme Court and we await its decision.

Transnational litigation thus gives rise to an interesting, unique opportunity to reconsider our own conception of law. As I described earlier, Japan has been proud of its long history of comparative and foreign law interest. I doubt, however, that our tradition of interest in foreign laws has necessarily been checked or examined in a real and practical context. Litigation offers a chance to see how strong our comparative thinking is and to grapple with the role of law in accommodating better understandings of different legal traditions.

This practitioner's guide is therefore a valuable contribution to our thinking of the true meanings of globalization of law. Internationalization of law, however defined, is currently one of the most urgent challenges for Japanese law. With the help of this work, we can pursue our interest in transnational aspects of law in a deeper sense and it is in this spirit that I highly commend it to Japanese and non-Japanese readers alike.

Tokyo
September 1997

Acknowledgments

Transnational Litigation: A Practitioner's Guide posed the stimulating challenge of achieving a different, more comprehensive and more practically oriented guidebook for cross-border litigation. Yet and equally great challenge was crafting such a work in the midst of daily and hourly demands of a cross-border litigation practice. In this context, from the initial conception of the Guide, to the coordination of some three dozen leading litigators worldwide as Country chapter authors, all the way to the editing and rewriting of the work as a whole—the task proved to be a complex, multifaceted and voluminous effort.

This project was buttressed, motivated and assisted along the way by numerous colleagues, assistants and others each of whom made a contribution. Jones Day colleagues throughout the world not only authored certain chapters of the Guide, but also lent support and encouragement. Partners, associates and staff in the Frankfurt office of Jones Day provided assistance and guided the chapter on Germany to successful completion. Highly reputed litigation specialists outside of my firm consented to write particular country chapters, thereby lending the legitimacy and soundness of the experience to the work. Needless to say, my wife and son exhibited supreme patience and understanding throughout the conception and realization of the work, which all told spanned several months of largely weekend and late-evening work.

Ultimately, however, my gratitude is extended most heartily to Judith L. Holdsworth, my Frankfurt colleague. In view of the goal of making this guide accessible to litigators from a wide variety of backgrounds whose primary common trait was an ability to work in English, she combined in one person essential qualities for the completion of this First Edition: American background, English native fluency, German civil-law legal education, and Anglo-German law firm experience. However, it was her patience, professionalism, efficiency, and good humor which I valued most, and I am pleased to share this Guide with her.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that a second release of this work is already underway, which will additionally include, among other countries, Argentina, Belgium, China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Hungary, Kuwait, Mexico, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

Richard H. Kreindler
Frankfurt, July 1997

About the Editors

RICHARD H. KREINDLER General Editor

Partner, Jones Day Reavis & Pogue, Frankfurt, Germany. Admitted New York; Paris Bar as Avocat; registered Germany as Rechtskundiger. Harvard University (B.A. cum laude); Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich (Magister); Columbia University (J.D.).

Coordinator of the European/Middle East Disputes Practice of Jones Day. Prior practice in New York and Paris.

Specializes in commercial and construction arbitration before the International Chamber of Commerce, American Arbitration Association, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and other arbitral institutions, as well as multijurisdictional aspects of U.S., European and Middle Eastern litigation. Languages include English, French, German and Russian.

Recent experience includes responsibility for 1991 Gulf Crisis claims to UN Compensation Commission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and of various corporate entities in U.S., Europe and Arabian Gulf; commercial and construction arbitrations in U.S., Europe, Middle East and Asia and related challenge and enforcement proceedings; municipal court actions in U.S., Germany, France, Switzerland and elsewhere; and service as arbitrator under ICC, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce and *ad hoc* Rules.

Member of various arbitration institution panels.

Corresponding Member, ICC Institute of International Business Law; Advisory Board, *World Arbitration and Mediation Report*; Editorial Board, *International Commercial Litigation*; International Correspondent for Middle East/Arabian Gulf, *Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Law Journal*; Germany Country Co-Correspondent, *International Litigation Quarterly*; Advisory Board, Institute for Transnational Arbitration; Arbitration Practice Subcommittee, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; Arbitration Committee and Working Group on ICC Rules Revision, U.S. Council for International Business; European Advisory Committee, Center for Public Resources.

Numerous other publications and lectures on international dispute avoidance and resolution in English, French and German.

JUDITH L. HOLDSWORTH
Assistant Editor

Rechtsanwältin, Jones Day Reavis & Pogue, Frankfurt, Germany. Admitted Frankfurt, Germany. Heidelberg College (B.A.); University of the Saarland (First State Law Examinations); Law Clerk, Ministry of Justice, Saarbrücken, Germany (Second State Law Examinations).

Specializes in German private international law, international procedural law and arbitration, and German commercial law. Languages include English and German.

Recent experience includes participation in the submission of 1991 Gulf Crisis claims of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to UN Compensation Commission; labor and commercial agency disputes before German courts; international disputes involving bank guarantees; research and assistance for arbitration before the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to joining Jones Day, Lecturer (English legal language programs for German and European law students) and Research Assistant for Anglo-American and Commercial Law at the University of the Saarland and the University of Trier; Organizational Assistant for American law introductory courses in Saarbrücken and Trier.

Publications on significant developments in case law in the areas of international procedural law and private international law.

About the Authors

Argentina

Enrique M. Stile, Santiago Soria, Rodrigo Fermín García, Guillermo Osorio, Ricardo A. Ostrower, and Manuela Díaz

Marval, O'Farrell & Mairal

Av. Leandro N. Alem 928

C1001AAQ Buenos Aires

Argentina

Tel: (54 11 43100100)

Fax: (54 11 43100200)

Email: EMS@marval.com; SLS@marval.com; rfg@marval.com;
GMO@marval.com; RAO@marval.com

Enrique M. Stile joined Marval O'Farrell Mairal in 1997 and has been a partner since 2006. He specializes in labor and employment law. His practice in the firm focuses on advising international clients, particularly in relation to top executives, complex compensation structures, hiring, terminations, and cross-border matters. He advises on strategies related to employment costs, prevention of employment litigation and risks, union relations, rightsizing and launching businesses in Argentina. He provides compliance training courses in matters such as mobbing, harassment, discrimination and outsourcing. He also has a strong background in negotiating employment conditions and termination agreements with expatriates and key employees and in multi-jurisdictional labor advice. Ranked in Band 1 in Chambers & Partners Latin America, he is listed as a "Leading Lawyer" in Legal 500 and recommended in the Argentina Labor Section of Who's Who Legal & LL250. He was also the exclusive winner of the Client Choice Award 2015 for the Employment & Benefits category for Argentina.

Santiago Soria is a partner at Marval O'Farrell Mairal in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is experienced in complex litigations and corporate disputes. Currently, his practice focuses in arbitration disputes in main international and domestic centers such as the International Chamber of Commerce, UNCITRAL, Arbitral Tribunal of the Stock Exchange, and the CEMA.

He graduated with honors in 1996 from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata with a law degree and was a recipient of the Joaquín V. González Award. He continued his postgraduate studies at the Institute of International & Comparative Law at Cornell University; followed the PIDA Training in International Commercial Arbitration before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC); and completed the "Academy of Advanced Arbitration for Latin America" of the ICC.

Santiago is the director of the Argentine Committee of National and Transnational Arbitration (CARAT), and a Board Member of Directors of the Steering Committee of the Mediation and Arbitration Center (CEMA).

Australia

Paul Hughes and Mark Wilks

Corrs Chambers, Westgarth, Sydney, Australia
GPO Box 9925
Sydney NSW 2001
Tel: (61 2) 9210 6500
Fax: (61 2) 9210 6611

Austria

Wolfgang Hahnkamper

Neudorfer Rechtsanwälte
Vienna
Austria

Belgium

Lucien Simont, Marc Wagemans and Francine Messinne

Stibbe
25 Rue de Loxum
1000 Brussels
Belgium
T. (32 2) 533 52 11
F. (32 2) 533 52 12

Brazil

Manoel Vargas and Daniela T. Vargas

Manoel Vargas Advogados
Rua Engenheiro Pires do Rio
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil
Tel: (5521 981623780)
Email: m.vargas@manoelvargas.com

Manoel Vargas is a law professor at Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro – PUC-Rio) and a partner working in the Rio de Janeiro office of Manoel Vargas Advogados. He acts as an arbitrator and advises clients on corporate and commercial law. He has written several articles and is a frequent conference speaker for such topics. He received his law degree in 1980 from PUC-Rio and obtained his Master's degree from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (MCL-1984). He is a member of the Rio de Janeiro and the São Paulo Bar. He is fluent in Portuguese and English.

The remaining co-authors of the Brazilian chapter, José-Ricardo Pereira Lira, Ricardo Almeida, and Natalie Sequerra, are former partners of Manoel Vargas at Lobo & Ibeas Advogados in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo.

Bulgaria

Philip Kiossev, Eleonora Mateina, and Martina Dimitrova

Tsvetkova Bebov & Partners
Bulgarian member firm of
Eversheds Sutherland

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

9-11 Maria Luiza Blvd, Floor 4
1000 Sofia,
BULGARIA
Tel: +359 2 439 0707
Email: office@eversheds-sutherland.bg

Philip Kiossev is a principal associate at Eversheds Sutherland's Bulgarian member firm (Tsvetkova Bebov & Partners). Philip is member of the Litigation, IP & IT, and Life Sciences practices at Eversheds Sutherland in Bulgaria. He is a member of the Sofia Bar Association, Bulgaria.

Philip has some ten years of experience in civil, administrative, and commercial litigation and has represented clients before civil courts, arbitration tribunals, as well as with complex insolvency proceedings. Philip has authored multiple publications in the field of litigation, such as articles on the fundamental principles of the enforcement of foreign judgments and interim and precautionary measures in Bulgaria (e.g., respective sections in Multilaw's Compendium of Worldwide Enforcement of Foreign Judgments; in CEE Legal Matter's Comparative Legal Guide on Restructuring for 2022).

Philip graduated with honors, with an LL.M. degree, from the Sofia University, Bulgaria. He speaks Bulgarian, English and German, and is conversant in Russian.

Eleonora Mateina is a principal associate at Eversheds Sutherland's Bulgarian member firm (Tsvetkova Bebov & Partners). Eleonora is an knowledgeable litigator with more than ten years of experience in the court room. As head of the firm's Bulgarian Competition and Pharma & Life Sciences departments, she represents clients in complex competition and regulatory cases. Her recent experience includes administrative cases on pharmaceutical pricing and cases on state aid and abuse of dominance. Eleonora also has experience in investment and commercial arbitration, as well as in investment arbitration before the ICSID. Furthermore, she represents clients in commercial disputes and private damages claims.

Eleonora is fluent in English and Italian and is conversant in Russian and French. She holds an LL.M. degree, from the Sofia University, Bulgaria, and is a member of the Sofia Bar Association.

Martina Dimitrova is a senior associate at Eversheds Sutherland's Bulgarian member firm (Tsvetkova Bebov & Partners). Martina has significant experience in advising multinational companies and their local divisions in Bulgaria on matters related to corporate, commercial, personal data protection and employment law, and contentious issues.

Martina advises clients in commercial and corporate matters, including incorporation and winding-up of companies, M&A, and drafting complex commercial contracts. She is also an experienced employment lawyer. Martina advises local and international companies, including on complex matters such as employee transfers and mass dismissals, disciplinary measures, and employment disputes. Martina also specializes in personal data, including the GDPR requirements and the relevant documentation in companies from different business sectors (banks, energy companies, pharmaceuticals companies, and others).

Martina is fluent in English and Bulgarian. She holds an LL.M. degree, from the Sofia University, Bulgaria, and is a member of the Sofia Bar Association.

Canada

Laurent Lacas, Anna Norwood, Laura Sullivan

Clyde & Co

401 Bay Street, Suite 2500, PO Box 25

M5H 2Y4 Toronto Ontario

Canada

Tel: (1 416 3664555)

Fax: (1 416 3666110)

Email: laurent.lacas@clydeco.ca; Anna-Catherine.Norwood@clydeco.ca

Chile

Florencio Bernales, Raimundo Moreno, Juan Pablo Labbé, Lorena Avendaño, and Marcelo Moreno

Cariola Díez Pérez Cotapos

Av. Andrés Bello 2711, piso 19, Las Condes

Santiago, Chile

Tel: +56223683568

www.cariola.cl

Florencio Bernales is a partner at Cariola Díez Pérez Cotapos, and earned his law degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and leads the disputes resolution team at Cariola Díez Pérez-Cotapos.

He has extensive experience in administrative and court litigation, as well as in domestic and international arbitration proceedings, acting as counsel or arbitrator. Florencio teaches Civil Procedure at Universidad de los Andes and has been recognized by Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, among others. Also, he is a board member of the Chilean Bar Association.

Raimundo Moreno is a partner at Cariola Díez Pérez Cotapos, and earned his law degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds an LLM from Duke University.

He has wide experience advising clients in court litigation and arbitration proceedings, both domestic and international. Raimundo worked at Arnold & Porter from 2011 to 2012. He teaches Civil Procedure at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and Legal Ethics at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez. He has been recognized by Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, among others, and serves as member of the Ethics Tribunal of the Chilean Bar Association.

Juan Pablo Labbé is a senior associate at Cariola Díez Pérez Cotapos, and earned his law degree from Universidad de los Andes and holds an LLM from Harvard Law School.

He has experience advising clients in court litigation and administrative proceedings and focuses his practice in domestic and international arbitration. Juan Pablo worked at Three Crowns LLP (London) from 2019 to 2020.

He has experience advising clients in court litigation and administrative proceedings and focuses his practice in domestic and international arbitration. Juan Pablo worked at Three Crowns LLP (London) from 2019 to 2020.

He teaches Civil Procedure at Universidad del Desarrollo and has authored several articles and book chapters on matters related to arbitration and has acted as arbitrator in international moot court competitions.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Lorena Avendaño is an associate at Cariola Díez Pérez Cotapos, and earned her Law Degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

She has experience advising clients in arbitration, court litigation and administrative proceedings. She is teaching assistant of Civil Procedure and Constitutional Law at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Marcelo Moreno is an associate at Cariola Díez Pérez Cotapos, and earned his Law Degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

He has experience advising clients in court litigation and administrative proceedings.

China

Guojian Xu

Boss & Young
12-15th Floors, 100 Bund Square
100 South Zhongshan Road
Huangpu District
200010 Shanghai
China
Tel: (86 21 23169090)
Fax: (86 21 23169000)
Email: drxugj@boss-young.com

Guojian Xu is the Distinguished Dean and Professor of International Law School, Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, as well as Senior Partner of Boss & Young, Attorneys at Law, Shanghai. He studied law in Chongqing and Wuhan, China, before pursuing further legal education in Lausanne, Switzerland; The Hague, Netherlands; and Hamburg, Germany. He was awarded the title Dr. Juris by Hamburg University in 1994. He advises clients on foreign investment in China, mergers and acquisitions, and international settlement of commercial disputes. He has been a member of the Chinese delegations to negotiate the 2005 HCCH Choice of Court Convention and the 2019 HCCH Judgment Convention. He has also published a number of academic articles and books in Chinese, English, and German.

Cuba

Kevin Tuininga

Law Clerk, the Honorable Gary A. Fenner, United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri.

Czech Republic

Dr. Ludmilla Neustupna

Balcar, Polanský & Spol. Advokátní kancelář
Revolucní 15
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic
Tel: (420) 251 009 111
Fax: (420) 251 009 112

Denmark

Dan Terkildsen

Lundgrens Law Firm P/S
Tuborg Boulevard 12
2900 Hellerup
Denmark
Tel: (45 35252535)
Email: dat@lundgrens.dk

Dan Terkildsen is a partner at Lundgrens and is engaged in all aspects of litigation and arbitration. He is highly experienced in domestic as well as international arbitration and litigation matters. In addition, Dan is frequently appointed as an arbitrator and has experience with many leading arbitration institutes. Furthermore, he has acted as an expert witness on Danish law before different international courts, primarily in the United States.

He was admitted to The Danish Supreme Court in 1998. He was formerly an Assistant Professor in International Arbitration Law at the University of Copenhagen and is now teaching International Arbitration Law at Copenhagen Business School. He is a member of The International Bar Association (Board Member of the Litigation Committee), The Group 73 in the Danish Management Society, The Danish Arbitration Association, The Association of Litigators Appearing Before The Supreme Court (a Danish association of experienced Supreme Court litigators), and The Danish Bar and Law Society.

Ecuador

Patricia Ponce and José Francisco Mejía

Bustamante & Bustamante
Av. Amazonas y Patria, Edificio COFIEC, Piso 10
Quito
Ecuador
Tel: (593 2 2562680)
Fax: (593 2 2564069)

José Francisco Mejía is an associate lawyer at Bustamante & Bustamante Law Firm. He joined Bustamante & Bustamante Law Firm in 2008 as a paralegal in the litigation department with specializing in criminal, civil, tenant, and labor law, as well as arbitration and mediation. As of October 2011, he joined the firm as a litigation attorney. He studied at the School of Law of Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador in Quito, and he is a Procedural Law Expert at Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, Quito. He is a member of the Forum of Attorneys of the Judicature Council in Ecuador. He is fluent in Spanish and English.

Finland

Antti Heikinheimo and Pekka Inkeroinen

Hannes Snellman Attorneys Ltd
P.O.Box 333
00131 Helsinki
Finland

France

Thierry Bernard and Hedwige Vlasto

BERNARDS Law firm

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

33 rue d'Artois
75008 Paris
France
Tel: (33 1) 53 53 82 82
Fax: (33 1) 53 53 82 80
Thierry Bernard, Attorney at Law

Attorney at law at the Paris Bar since 1978, founder and chairman of BERNARDS Law firm, Bar exam (Paris II University—Assas), Master Business Administration (MBA—Haute Ecole de Commerce—1989). He has a specific expertise in litigation and in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), particularly in arbitration. He is the author of several publications in arbitration including *L'arbitrage*, *Droit Interne Et Droit International*, (Delmas-Masson—1993).

Hedwige Vlasto, Attorney at Law

Attorney at law at the Paris Bar since 1997, she has a Master Degree (DEA) in General Private Law (University of Paris II—Assas). She has practiced since 2001 at BERNARDS, a French law firm, where she became a partner in 2004. She has expertise in legal risks related to industrial activity and insurance through advising clients and handling resolution and litigation.

Germany

Andrea Leufgen

Gleiss Lutz
Taunusanlage 11
60329 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Tel: (49 69 955140)
Fax: (49 69 95514198)
Email: andrea.leufgen@gleisslutz.com

Greece

Constantinos N. Klissouras

KP Law Firm
Kanari 5
10671 Athens
Greece
Tel: (30 210 7297800)
Email: cklissouras@kp-lf.com

Constantinos Klissouras heads the disputes and restructuring team at KP Law Firm, an Athens-based wide-niche law partnership specializing in disputes, finance and restructuring. He has extensive experience with cross-border disputes and proceedings, and acts for domestic and foreign financial institutions and industrials from a variety of sectors. He has authored and co-authored in English materials on disputes, finance, restructuring, security interests, cash pooling, the HR Privatization Programme, financing domestic and cross-border group restructurings, and resolving private sector insolvency. He is a Senior Vice-Chair of the Insolvency Section of the IBA, a Fellow of the Centre for International Legal Studies, a Gerson Lehrman Educator, and a member of the Hellenic Procedural Law Association. He is a member of the Athens Bar, and admitted to the Supreme Court.

Hungary

Péter Nógrádi

Nógrádi Law Office
3/A Montevideo Street
1037 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: (36 1 2406354)
Email: nogradi.peter@nogradilaw.hu
Fax: (36 1 2406353)

India

Jai S. Pathak

Niti Dixit, H.R. Saviprasad, Pathak & Associates, New Delhi, Mumbai
and

Talwant Singh

District & Sessions Judge, Delhi (India) contributed the article at Appendix 15F, Jurisdictional Issues In Internet Disputes

Indonesia

Sahat A.M. Siahaan, Bilal Anwari, Ulyarta Naibaho, Bilal Anwari, and Ridzky Firmansyah Amin

Ali Budiardjo, Nugroho, Reksodiputro
Graha Niaga, 24th Floor, Jalan Jenderal Sudirman Kav. 58
12190 Jakarta
Indonesia
Tel: (62 21 2505125)
Fax: (62 21 2505001)
Email: ssiahaan@abnrlaw.com; unaibaho@abnrlaw.com; tamin@abnrlaw.com; dRutvikasari@abnrlaw.com; banwari@abnrlaw.com

Ireland

John P. Gaffney

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

40 Bank Street, Canary Wharf
London, E14 5DS
England

Anthony M. Collins, SC & Paul Anthony McDermott, BL

Law Library

Dublin
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Italy

Vincenzo Sinisi and Annamaria Sculli

WELAW - Legal Advisors Worldwide
Via della Mercede 11
00187 Rome
Italy
Tel: (39 06 699 40 843)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Fax: (39 06 699 40 744)
Email: v.sinisi@welaw.it; a.sculli@welaw.it

Japan

Masatami Otsuka

Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue

Tokyo
Japan

Kuwait

Hameed Al Sarraf

Al Sarraf & Al Ruwayeh Law Bureau

Kuwait

Mexico

Marco Tulio Venegas

Litredi Legal

Paseo de los Tamarindos 60, Piso 4, Col. Bosques de las Lomas
Santa Fe, Alvaro Obregon
05120 Mexico, D.F.
Mexico
Tel: (55 55 52581000)
Fax: (52 55 52581098)
Email: mtvenegas@vwys.com.mx

Nigeria

Gbenga Bamodu

Barrister and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Nigeria Lecturer in Law, University of Essex (U.K).
LLM (London), PhD (Nottingham)

Pakistan

Saqid Majeed and Talha Mushtaq

Majeed & Partners

Advocates & Counsellors at Law
3rd Floor, Icon Center
48 Shahrah-e-Quaid-e-Azam (The Mall)
Lahore-54000, Pakistan
Pakistan
Landline: +92 (42) 3636-7007 | 3636-7008
Email: contactus@mplaw.com.pk
Website: www.mplaw.com.pk

Saqib Majeed is a partner and has more than 20 years of experience in the legal services industry. He carries out both contentious and non-contentious work. He specializes in banking and finance, corporate, regulatory, public procurement, and employment laws. He also is a specialist in cross-border commercial transactions, including restructurings, acquisitions, joint ventures, and business alliances. He has worked on several preeminent and

high-profile transactions in Pakistan.

He has significant litigation experience. He frequently acts for foreign clients in litigation before local courts, domestic arbitration proceedings, and arbitration proceedings abroad on matters governed by Pakistani law.

Saqib is a frequent author and has contributed to magazines and international publications on a wide range of topics including mergers and acquisitions, commercial litigation, enforcement of foreign arbitral awards, employment law, and doing business in Pakistan.

Talha Mushtaq is an associate and a member of the firm's intellectual property practice group. He is also involved in corporate, Internet, e-commerce, cyber-security, data privacy, data protection, and litigation practice groups. He has considerable specialist litigation experience in patent, copyright, trademarks, designs, and confidential information matters.

Philippines

Philip Sigfrid Fortun, Princess Ann T. de Jesus, Juliben Lugtu, Ricca Pearl Sulit, Vince Paolo Ramos, and Katrina Crista M. Artiaga

Fortun Narvasa & Salazar
23rd Floor, Multinational Bancorporation Centre,
6805 Ayala Avenue
1227 Makati City
Philippines
Tel: (63 2 8128670)
Fax: (63 2 8127199)
Email: psafortun@fnslaw.com.ph; ptdejesus@fnslaw.com.ph

Russian Federation

Sergey A. Treshchev, Elena Malevich, and Nikita Beylin

Squire Patton Boggs Moscow LLC

4 Romanov Pereulok, Bldg. 2
125009 Moscow
Russia
Tel: (7 495 2585250)
Fax: (7 495 2585251)
Email: sergey.treshchev@squirepb.com; nikita.beylin@squirepb.com;
elena.malevich@squirepb.com

Sergey Treshchev is the head of IDR Practice and managing partner of the Squire Patton Boggs Moscow office. For 25 years, he has advised and represented clients in dispute resolution matters in Russia and abroad at international arbitration, courts of general jurisdiction and commercial courts, including the Russian IP Court and the Court of the Eurasian Economic Community.

He has written numerous articles and lectured at conferences on such topics. He received his law degree in 1995 from the Moscow State University and a special degree in American law in 1997 from Emory University.

He is a member of IBA, the Association of Russian Lawyers, INSOL EUROPE and Russian Arbitration Association. Since 2000, he has been a member of the Moscow Bar of Advocates.

Over 10 years, Best Lawyers has included Sergey among the best legal

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

experts in Russia. He is fluent in Russian, English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Nikita Beylin is a senior associate of the IDR Practice of the Squire Patton Boggs Moscow office, focusing on dispute resolution, including international arbitration, and insolvency matters. He has extensive experience in representing claimants and defendants in public courts and handling arbitrations, including specific types of controversies such as IP, labor, bankruptcy and public law disputes. Nikita also represents clients before various governmental authorities.

He also has extensive experience in commercial and corporate matters and provides regulatory advice to clients including financial, antimonopoly and pharmaceutical matters.

Nikita graduated from the Faculty of Law at the Higher School of Economics in 2016. Nikita speaks Russian and English.

Elena Malevich is an associate of the IDR Practice of the Squire Patton Boggs Moscow office. She has represented leading Russian and foreign companies in legal proceedings before Russian commercial courts and courts of a general jurisdiction in various regions, in a wide range of matters. Elena has extensive experience in bankruptcy cases, debt recovery, antimonopoly, pharmaceutical cases and disputes with state authorities. She is also involved in dispute resolution related to IP rights infringement and registration of trademarks.

Elena has participated in representing clients' interests in international arbitration under ICC rules and preparing expert reports under Russian law for foreign courts.

Elena graduated with a master's in law from MGIMO University.

She has frequently been listed among the leading litigation lawyers in Russia by Best Lawyers. Elena speaks Russian and English.

Serbia

Žarko Popović, Vasilije Bošković, Nikola Ivković, Bojan Tutić, and Marko Jović

Gecic Law

Nikole Spasića 2
11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 (11) 4043 570
+381 (63) 824 36 60
Email: office@geciclawn.com
miodrag.jektiv@geciclawn.com

Žarko Popović is a Senior Associate at Gecić Law in Belgrade. His practice focuses on Dispute Resolution, Corporate M&A, and Environmental Law.

Žarko earned his LL.M. (International law) at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law and received his LL.B. (with honor “the best in class”) from the University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Law (2015-2019).

Before joining the firm, Žarko initiated the foundation of the Legal Clinic in Kragujevac and was its active member for three years (for civil & real estate law, discrimination, and labor & social law). He participated in the “Big Deal” regional company law competition and in the Regional Moot Court Competition in Human Rights before the European Court of Human Rights.

Žarko is the recipient of numerous honors, including a scholarship from the University of Kragujevac Foundation for top students and young scientists. For two years in a row (2019, 2020), Žarko was awarded a top national scholarship - “Dositeja” from the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia (Foundation for Young Talents).

Žarko is fluent in English and Serbian (Montenegrin, Bosnian, Croatian).

Vasilije Bošković is an associate at Gecić Law, specializing in Environmental Law, EU Law, Competition Law, and State Aid.

Before joining the firm, Vasilije graduated from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law. He is pursuing a master’s degree in Contract Law at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law.

During his studies, Vasilije completed specialist courses in international law (University of Pittsburgh) and European private law (University of Salzburg). He was the best student in the Council of Europe’s course on combating human trafficking.

As part of a team of two, he won First Place at the National Moot Court in the Field of Anti-Discrimination Law, organized by the Commissioner for Protection of Equality. Simultaneously, he received an individual award for the best speaker of the entire competition.

Vasilije took part in numerous legal clinics, study groups, and conferences on various topics, including International Law, Law of Obligations, Civil Law, Tax Law, and Refugee Law, as well as Law and Economics and Sociology of Law.

He has received various honors for his exceptional achievements, such as the Laureate of the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law for Outstanding Success at the National Moot Court Competition, and the Best Students Award

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

issued by the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law for each year of study. He is also a two-time recipient of the City of Belgrade Scholarship for students with the highest average grade at the University of Belgrade, as well as the prestigious “Dositeja” scholarship awarded by the Foundation for Young Talents of the Ministry of Youth and Sport.

Vasilije is fluent in English, Serbian, and related languages (Montenegrin, Bosnian and Croatian) and has an intermediate level of French.

Nikola Ivković is an associate at Gecić Law, specializing in Competition Law, State Aid, and EU Law.

Before joining the firm, Nikola graduated law from the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade. Nikola is pursuing a master’s degree in Sociology of Law at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law.

During his studies, Nikola completed specialization courses in EU Law and the European Monetary Union at the University of Vienna and Social Market Economy at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Also, he was part of a two-person team that won First Place in the National Moot Court in the Field of Anti-Discrimination, organized by the Commissioner for Protection of Equality.

Nikola took part in numerous legal clinics, study groups, and conferences on various topics, including International Law, Law and Economics, Tax Law, Intellectual Property Law, and Refugee & Immigration Law.

Nikola was recognized numerous times for his exceptional achievements. He was one of the recipients of the Best Students Award awarded by the Faculty of Law, the University of Belgrade, for every year of his studies and Laureate of the Faculty of Law, the University of Belgrade, for outstanding success at the national moot court. He received the prestigious “Dositeja” scholarship from the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Serbia (Foundation for Young Talents).

Nikola is fluent in English, Serbian, Montenegrin, Bosnian, and Croatian and has intermediate knowledge of French.

Marko Jović is an associate at Gecić Law, specializing in Corporate/M&A, Labor, and Dispute Resolution.

He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Law, where he is now working towards his master’s degree in labor and social law.

During his studies, Marko participated in numerous legal clinics, workshops, and conferences in various areas of law and completed a specialist course in international law (University of Pittsburgh). He was part of the University of Belgrade team in the International Competition in Sports Arbitration, qualifying among the top five teams worldwide for the final rounds of the competition.

Before joining Gecić Law, Marko completed his internship at a reputable regional law firm, where he gained knowledge and experience in commercial and labor disputes, white-collar crime, and contract law.

Marko received numerous awards for his achievements, including the University of Belgrade award for the best student thesis in the school year 2022/2023. He has also received scholarships from the Faculty of Law and one of the University of Belgrade’s endowments.

Marko is fluent in English, Serbian, and related languages (Montenegrin, Bosnian, and Croatian) and has an intermediate level of French.

Singapore

Alvin Yeo, Senior Counsel, Chou Sean Yu, and Lionel Leo

WongPartnership LLP Singapore

12 Marina Boulevard Level 28

Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3

018982 Singapore

Singapore

Tel: (65 64168000)

Fax: (65 65325711)

Email: lionel.leo@wongpartnership.com; alvin.yeo@wongpartnership.com; seanyu.chou@wongpartnership.com

Alvin Yeo, Senior Counsel, is the Chairman & Senior Partner of WongPartnership LLP. He was appointed Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore in 2000 at the age of 37, the youngest ever to be so appointed. His main areas of practice are litigation and arbitration in banking, corporate/commercial and infrastructure disputes.

Alvin is a member of the Court of the SIAC, the ICC Commission and a fellow of the Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution, the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and the Singapore Institute of Directors, and a former member of the LCIA Court and the IBA Arbitration Committee. He is also on the panel of arbitrators in the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, the International Centre for Dispute Resolution, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, the South China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission, and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators' Panel for Sports in Singapore.

Alvin is a member of the Disciplinary Tribunal chairman panel of both the Singapore Medical Council and the Supreme Court, the Appeals Advisory Panel of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, as well as the Governing Board of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore.

CHOU Sean Yu heads the Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group. He is also the Head of the Banking & Financial Disputes Practice and a Partner in the International Arbitration, Financial Services Regulatory and Malaysia Practices.

His main practice areas are banking & trade finance disputes, insolvency & restructuring, corporate fraud, investigations & asset recovery, financial services regulatory, commercial & corporate disputes, shareholder litigation, tort & contractual claims and domestic & international arbitration.

Sean Yu is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and past Chairman of the Board of its Singapore Branch. He is on the Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Asian International Arbitration Centre, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board, the Maldives International Arbitration Centre, the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association, the Hainan International Arbitration Court and the Russian Arbitration Centre at the Russian Institute of Modern Arbitration.

Lionel Leo is a Partner in the Restructuring & Insolvency and Special Situations Advisory Practice. His main areas of practice involve banking & finance-related disputes, insolvency & restructuring, investigations & asset

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

recovery, arbitration and shareholder disputes.

Lionel graduated with First Class Honours from the National University of Singapore (“NUS”). He was placed on the Overall Dean’s List and was awarded the Punch Coomaraswamy Prize for being the top student in the Law of Evidence. He also represented NUS in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot).

Lionel served as a Justices’ Law Clerk to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore and as an Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court of Singapore before entering private practice. He was also selected to be placed on the Supreme Court’s Young *Amicus Curiae* 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 list, and was appointed as *amicus curiae* in Magistrate’s Appeal No. 142 of 2012, *Boo Tuang Hock Patrick v Public Prosecutor*.

South Korea

Byung Suk Chung and Chul-Won Lee

Kim & Chang
39, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu
03170 Seoul
South Korea
Tel: (822 37031114)
Fax: (822 7379091)
Email: bschung@kimchang.com; cwlee@KimChang.com

Spain

Gonzalo Stampa

Stampa Abogados
Ayala 4, 1° Izda
28001 Madrid
Spain
Tel: (34 91 561 84 77)
Fax: (34 91 563 67 10)
Email: g.stampa@stampaabogados.com

Sweden

Tom Johansson

Hamilton Advoaktbyrå
Hamngatan 27, Box 715
101 33 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: (468 50550100)
Fax: (468 50550101)
Email: tom.johansson@hamilton.se

Switzerland

Markus Wirth, Thomas Müller, Ueli Huber, Franz Hoffet and René Bösch

Homburger AG
Prime Tower, Hardstrasse 201
8005 Zürich
Switzerland

Taiwan

Marianne M. Chao, Jason Chen, Ming-Wei Lo, Po-Chien Chen, and Simon Yu

Jones Day

8F, 2 Tun Hwa South Road, Sec 2.

Taipei

Taiwan

Tel: (8862 77123399)

Fax: (8862 27046791)

Email: mchao@JonesDay.com, jchen@JonesDay.com; mwlo@JonesDay.com; pochienchen@JonesDay.com; siyu@JonesDay.com;

Marianne Chao Marianne Chao is of counsel working in the Jones Day Taipei office. With almost 30 years of experience, she assists clients on a broad range of construction and infrastructure projects, energy projects, intellectual property, and commercial and multi-jurisdictional arbitration and litigation. Marianne is a frequent speaker on arbitration-related topics. Marianne has been honored in many prominent international legal guides. She received her L.L.B. degree in 1987 and L.L.M. degree in 1990 from National Taiwan University, and L.L.M. degree in 1995 from Columbia University. She is a former executive director of the Taiwan Bar Association and president of the International Federation of Women Lawyers, Taiwan Chapter. Marianne speaks English, Mandarin Chinese, and Taiwanese.

Jason Chen Jason Chen's practice focuses on commercial disputes, arbitration, and intellectual property disputes. He served as a Taiwan District Court judge for almost 10 years adjudicating criminal and civil cases and was certified as the first professional intellectual property law judge by the Taiwan Judicial Yuan in 2002. Jason has led litigation teams and has handled prominent cases that include serving as lead counsel and securing a favorable judgment for a publicly listed petrochemical company in its defense of a patent infringement claim of US\$100 million, which is the highest claim in Taiwan's history. He is Partner-in-Charge of Jones Day Taipei Office.

Ming-Wei Lo Ming-Wei Lo is a leading lawyer on Taiwan corporate governance, focusing on corporate governance-related Corporate laws and Securities Exchange Act litigation. He has represented clients in highly publicized civil and criminal cases involving insider trading, breach of trust, and financial statement fraud. Ming-Wei also advises on corporate control battles and assists Taiwan-listed companies with legal compliance for shareholder and board meetings. He is currently a director of the Taiwan Corporate Governance Association and often speaks on and publishes articles related to corporate governance issues.

Po-Chien Chen Po-Chien Chen's primary practice focuses on complex cross-border litigation involving criminal and civil disputes, intellectual property rights, business disputes, and negotiation with government authorities. His clients include Fortune Global 500 institutions and individuals, and he has successfully represented clients in civil and criminal lawsuits, including representing financial institutions in multijurisdictional litigations and arbitrations and high-tech companies in antitrust disputes and trade secret matters.

Simon Yu Drawing on his broad experience from prior government service as a district court judge, Simon Yu advises clients on litigation issues and on business resolutions. Simon has counseled clients on numerous high-tech pa-

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

tent litigations and complex multinational litigations involving white collar crime, trade secret protection, and construction disputes. His recent representation in a nationwide food fraud scandal earned him recognition as one of the few leading lawyers in the field of large-scale risk management. In addition to litigation, Simon advises clients on a wide range of competition issues.

Thailand

Professor Jayavadh Bunnag, Anong Seehapan, and Saran Kleesuwan
ILCT Ltd.

18th Floor, Sathorn City Tower

175 South Sathorn Road

Tungmahamek Sathorn

Bangkok 10120, Thailand

Tel: +66 2679 6005

Fax: +66 2679 6041

Email: jayavadhb@ilct.co.th; anongs@ilct.co.th; sarank@ilct.co.th Website:
www.ilct.co.th

Turkey

Hergüner Bilgen Üçer Attorney Partnership

Büyükdere Caddesi 199

Levent 34394

Istanbul

Turkey

Tel: 90 212 310 1800

Email: info@herguner.av.tr

Mr. Tolga Danışman joined Hergüner Bilgen Üçer Attorney Partnership in 1992 and has been a Partner since 2003 where he co-chairs the Dispute Resolution practice. Tolga has extensive experience in adversarial proceedings and has a reputation for turning his adversaries' strengths against them. As a licensed mediator, Tolga's practice focuses primarily on international and domestic commercial litigation and arbitration in multiple industries, as well as high-profile white-collar defense. Tolga has been the lead counsel for some of Turkey's highest-profile court cases.

After graduating from Istanbul University Law School in 1992, Tolga was admitted to the Istanbul Bar Administration in 1994. He is a Board Member of the Corporate Governance Association of Turkey (TKYD) and is a registered mediator under the Turkish Ministry of Justice Mediator's Registry. Tolga is also a member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and is a founding member of the European Law Students Association (ELSA).

Baran Alptürk

Mr. Baran Alptürk is a senior consultant at Hergüner Bilgen Üçer Attorney Partnership. His main areas of focus are transnational dispute resolution, mergers & acquisitions, and telecommunications law. Baran advises clients in international arbitration proceedings and transnational litigation with a special focus on disputes arising out of distributorship agreements. Baran also contributes to the firm's general corporate practice with respect to all manners of transactional work.

In 2000, Baran received his B.S.B.A. from the School of Management at Boston University. He subsequently received a Juris Master in Policy Analysis from George Mason University School of Law in 2005 and received his J.D.

from George Mason University School of Law in 2009. Baran is a member of the Virginia State Bar, the New York Bar, the Istanbul Bar Association, and the State Bar of Georgia and has recently co-authored the articles “Transnational Litigation Guide 2019” for Thomson Reuters and “The Dispute Resolution Review” for Business Law Research.

Tolga Doğan

Mr. Tolga Doğan is an Associate in the Dispute Resolution & Commercial practice at Hergüner Bilgen Üçer Attorney Partnership. He practices all areas of dispute resolution and commercial practice and mainly focuses his activities in the law regulations and policies of corporate and commercial activities of local and international companies. He also has significant experience working with employment law including handling re-employment and compensation lawsuits.

Tolga received his LL.B. from Istanbul University in 2014 and his LL.B. from Galatasaray University in 2017. Upon completion of his legal trainee requirement, he joined the Istanbul Bar Association in 2015.

Damla Güven

Ms. Damla Güven is an associate in Dispute Resolution & Commercial practice of Hergüner Bilgen Özeke Attorney Partnership. Ms. Güven practices all aspects of corporate law and provides legal support regarding day-to-day activities of companies.

Damla received her L.L.B. degree from Bilkent University School of Law in 2018 and was admitted to the Istanbul Bar Association in 2019.

United Kingdom

Philip Chong and Elizabeth Tout

Denton Hall
One Fleet Place
London
EC4M 7RA
United Kingdom

United States

Thomas F. Cullen, Jr. and Stephen J. Jorden

Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue 51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C.
20001-2113
51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-2113
United States

Uruguay

Soledad Diaz and Agustina Rodriguez

Ferrere
Juncal 1392
Montevideo
Uruguay
Tel: (598 2900 1000)
Email: agrodriguez@ferrere.com; sdiaz@ferrere.com

Vietnam

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Hoang Phuoc, Tran Nguyen Phuong Anh, and Dinh Quang Thuan

Global Vietnam Lawyers

8/F, Centec Tower, 72-74 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 3

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

Tel: (84 28 3622 3555)

Email: thuan.dinh@gvlawyers.com.vn

phuoc.hoang@gvlawyers.com.vn

Lac Thi Tu Duy

Lac Duy & Associates LLC

6 Stock, Centec Tower 72 – 74 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, Ward 6, District 3

Ho Chi Minh City

Vietnam

Dinh Quang Thuan Mr. Thuan has more than 13 years of experience working for the People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City, including more than eight years working as the assistant to the Chief Judge of the Civil Division. In March 2003, Mr. Thuan elected to leave the Court and start his career as a professional lawyer. He joined Vilaf – Hong Duc where he was a key litigator for more than five years before joining Phuoc & Partners in October 2008. He became a P&P Partner in April 2009. In August 2019, Mr. Thuan and seven other P&P Partners set up Global Vietnam Lawyers.

Mr. Thuan is highly regarded for his versatility as a labor, commercial, maritime, insurance, construction and criminal trial and appellate lawyer.

Not only handling dispute resolution including litigation, Mr. Thuan also works intensively to advise clients on various legal fields relating to employment and labor, maritime & shipping, insurance, contract, civil, family, criminal law and other commercial issues.

Mr. Thuan has had several contributions to Saigon Economic Times Magazine and other local newspapers on various commercial issues.

Phuoc Hoang Mr. Phuoc Hoang has more than 10 years of experience in legal practice and assistance to local and multi-national companies in Vietnam. Principle areas of practice include dispute resolution at court and commercial arbitration (at VIAC, SIAC, etc.), representation in amicable negotiation, providing advice and settling issues in relation to areas of labor and employment, commercial and civil transactions, investment, enterprises, criminal cases, legal training, etc.

Tran Nguyen Phuong Anh Since her LL.B. graduation from Ho Chi Minh City University of Law in 2020, Phuong Anh has been engaging in a variety of dispute resolution matters including both court litigation and alternative dispute resolution, and is cultivating her hands-on experience and skills to be a distinctive lawyer in the field of dispute resolution.



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