



İLKNUR DEMİR AKIN, LL.M

I graduated from **Istanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law** in 2006 and was admitted to the **Istanbul Bar Association** in 2008. Following the completion of my legal internship in Turkey, I was accepted into an **eighteen-month traineeship program** at **Sakaoğlu & Romano Law Firm** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, United States. This program provided me with a valuable opportunity to gain practical insight into the American legal system.

During this period:

- I focused on **arbitration and mediation processes**.
- I conducted legal research using **Westlaw and LexisNexis databases** and prepared various legal documents.
- I participated in negotiations and closing processes of **international transactions involving companies operating in the United States or headquartered abroad**.

In August 2010, I was awarded a **fully funded scholarship by the Swedish Government**, granted to 25 successful Turkish students, and began my **LL.M. program in International Commercial Arbitration Law at Stockholm University**, from which I graduated in June 2011.

During my LL.M. studies, I completed an internship at the **Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris**. During this internship:

- I attended hearings, plenary sessions of the Court, and internal staff meetings.
- I participated in the daily work of the Secretariat, reviewing and analyzing documents submitted by the parties, including **Requests for Arbitration, Answers, and drafts of Terms of Reference**.
- I contributed to the review process of **draft final awards** and provided comments and evaluations regarding these drafts.

My LL.M. studies at Stockholm University and my internship at the ICC International Court of Arbitration provided me with substantial knowledge and experience in **international commercial arbitration and alternative dispute resolution**. My LL.M. thesis focused on “**The Jurisdiction of Arbitrators in International Arbitration**.”

Upon returning to Turkey, I resumed my legal career at reputable law firms providing a wide range of legal services. I first worked as an associate at **ELIG Gürkaynak Attorneys-at-Law**. During my time there, I worked on matters for **Google**, where I:

- Prepared responses to official correspondence and inquiries issued by local authorities.
- Provided legal advice on **Turkish legislation, particularly in the field of internet law**.
- Monitored legislative developments affecting the client and prepared legal memoranda and regulatory updates.
- Translated various legal documents from **Turkish to English and English to Turkish**.

Starting in 2012, I worked for approximately **eight years as a senior associate at Sarı & Kılıç Law Office**. During this time, I represented international clients including **3M, Continental, Chicco, DSV, and Mondi Kalenobel**, as well as local clients such as **Alkim Alkali Kimya A.Ş., Garanti Fleet Management Services A.Ş., and companies within the Boyner Group, including Morhipo, Boyner Büyük Mağazacılık A.Ş., and Altınyıldız Tekstil ve Konfeksiyon A.Ş.**

During my tenure at Sarı & Kılıç, I provided **business-oriented legal advice** to clients and developed tailored legal solutions to meet their evolving needs. My work included:

- Representing clients in a wide range of disputes before courts of all instances, including **breach of contract claims and intellectual property disputes**.
- Providing legal advice on **commercial law, corporate law, data protection, competition law, contract law, employment law, and intellectual property law**.
- Drafting, reviewing, and negotiating various types of **commercial agreements**.
- Structuring and advising on **international commercial transactions**.
- Assisting clients with **debt recovery and settlement negotiations**.
- Preparing legal opinions, legal memoranda, and conducting extensive legal research.
- Supporting compliance processes and internal legal training for client organizations.
- Advising on and managing disputes arising from **distribution, dealership, supply, construction, lease, franchise, and employment agreements**, including claims related to defective products.
- Advising on clients' international operations, particularly in relation to **distribution, agency, dealership, and franchise agreements**.
- Representing clients in **employment law disputes**, including cases involving workplace harassment claims.
- Organizing **ordinary and extraordinary general assembly meetings**, preparing board resolutions, drafting articles of association, and managing corporate restructuring processes such as **share transfers, capital increases or decreases, and company formations**.

In October 2019, I founded **Akin Law Office**, which provides comprehensive legal services to both local and international clients operating in sectors including **technology, manufacturing, retail, and finance**.

With **over seventeen years of experience in litigation and dispute resolution**, I have developed strong expertise in handling **complex and high-value disputes before Turkish courts as well as international arbitration tribunals**.

In addition to litigation and arbitration, I am actively involved in **mediation as an alternative dispute resolution method**. Since 2020, I have participated in **more than 1,600 mediation sessions**, covering disputes arising from **employment law, commercial law, contractual obligations including lease agreements, and complex intellectual property matters**. My mediation practice has achieved a **settlement rate exceeding 95%**.

Since 2020, I have also been teaching **Employment Law within the scope of the Engineering Ethics course** at **Kocaeli University Faculty of Chemical Engineering**.

Furthermore, for the past five years I have served as a **coach for students participating in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis Moot)**, one of the most prestigious international arbitration competitions, mentoring teams from leading Turkish law faculties.