Thieffry Dispute Resolution

Vanessa Thieffry

Independent Arbitrator and Counsel



Vanessa Thieffry is an independent arbitrator and dispute resolution practitioner based in Paris, where she founded Thieffry Dispute Resolution. Her practice rests on three commitments: impartiality, independence, and availability. While she focuses on construction, energy and infrastructure disputes, she handles all kinds of disputes.

Since 2010, Vanessa has worked at arbitration boutiques, French top-tier construction law firms, and international law firms. This varied background shaped her understanding of how disputes unfold from both legal and operational perspectives – and a conviction that proceedings should remain proportionate to the stakes involved.

She accepts appointments as sole arbitrator, chair and party-nominated arbitrator under major, sectoral, or geographical institutional rules (including ICC, LCIA, SIAC, SCC, FNTP, ADCCAC, CRCICA), and in ad hoc proceedings. She exercises active case management from initial appointment throughout the procedure, structuring proceedings to maintain efficiency at every stage. Her construction arbitration experience spans civil law and common law seats and applicable laws, with project sites across Europe, Africa and the Middle-East. This experience allows her to engage directly with technical complexities and navigate contrasting cultures.

As counsel, Vanessa Thieffry offers targeted, ad hoc services designed to complement existing legal teams or address specific needs. She provides co-counseling in arbitration proceedings, advice on claims preparation, claims and dispute management during project execution, and assistance or representation before dispute boards and adjudication panels.

Vanessa Thieffry regularly publishes on arbitration, construction arbitration, and sustainability in arbitration, and speaks at international conferences. She serves as a Board Member and Secretary General of Paris Arbitration Week (« PAW »), of which she is the former Treasurer, and co-chairs the Advisory and Contract Management Commission of the Society of Construction Law (French Chapter) – « SCL France ».

Vanessa Thieffry is ranked in *The Best Lawyers*™ in France "Ones to Watch" lists for Energy Law (since 2023), International Arbitration (since 2024), and for Construction Law (since 2025), as well as in the Lexology Index (former Who's Who Leader); Arbitration (Future Leaders – Non Partners) (since 2024).

Contact:

112 avenue Kléber
75116 Paris, France
+33 (0)9 75 34 15 48 / +33 (0)6 25 10 90 53
vt@thieffrydisputes.com
www.thieffrydisputeresolution.com

Bar admission: Paris Bar, 2010

Career:

Since 2026: **Thieffry Dispute Resolution**, Founder

2019-2026: **Reed Smith LLP**, Senior Associate, Energy and Natural Resources, International Arbitration

2013-2018: **Altana**, Senior Associate

2010-2012: **Lazareff le Bars**, Associate

Education:

Master 2 Droit du Commerce International, Université de Montpellier, 2006

Master 2 Droit International et Comparé de l'Environnement, Université de Limoges, 2005

Maîtrise en droit international, Université Paris II / Université de Copenhague, 2004

Licence en droit, mention droit public, Université de Paris II, 2003

Certificat d'Etudes Internationales Générales, Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Université de Paris II, 2003

Nationality: French

Languages: French, English

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Select experience as Arbitrator or Secretary to arbitral tribunals

ICC Arbitration | Sole Arbitrator | Construction	Dispute arising out of a consortium agreement between Greek and Italian parties for a construction project in Turkey. Language: English. Applicable law: Italian law. Seat: Paris, France. Language: French.
ICC Arbitration | Sole Arbitrator | Construction | Industrial	Dispute arising out of a contract for the construction of a food-processing train between Italian and Swiss parties. Language: English. Applicable law: Italian law / CISG. Seat: Lugano, Switzerland.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Energy | Infrastructure	Dispute arising out of an EPC contract for the construction of energy infrastructures between an Italian party and a North African State entity. Language: French. Applicable law: law of the North African State. Seat: Geneva, Switzerland.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Engineering | Construction | Mining	Dispute arising out of a contract for the engineering, construction and exploitation of a mine involving Senegalese, Swiss, British, Luxembourgian, and Dutch parties. Language: French. Applicable law: Senegalese law. Seat: Paris, France.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Energy | Infrastructure	Dispute arising out of a contract for the engineering and construction of a dam between Italian and Algerian parties. Language: French. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Geneva, Switzerland.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Construction	Dispute arising out of a construction contract between a German-Algerian joint venture and a State entity. Language: French. Applicable law: Algerian law. Seat: Paris, France.
EDF Arbitration | Secretary | Infrastructure	Dispute arising out of a contract for the rehabilitation of a road between Portuguese and Senegalese parties. Language: French. Applicable law: Senegalese law. Seat: Dakar, Senegal.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Construction	Dispute arising out of a FIDIC construction contract (Red Book) for an urban development project between Lebanese and Qatari parties. Language: English. Applicable law: Qatari law. Seat: Doha, Qatar.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Infrastructure	Dispute arising out of a construction contract for a highway between Algerian, Spanish, and Portuguese parties. Language: French. Applicable law: Algerian law. Seat: Algiers, Algeria.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Dermo-cosmetics | Domestic arbitration	Dispute arising out of a contract for the development of dermo-cosmetic products between French parties. Language: French. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Paris, France.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Construction	Dispute arising out of a FIDIC construction contract in Kigali, Rwanda. Language: English. Applicable law: Rwandan law.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Construction	Dispute arising out of a construction contract between British and Italian parties. Language: English. Applicable law: Italian law. Seat: London, United Kingdom.
ICC Arbitration | Secretary | Franchise	Dispute arising out of a master franchise agreement for translation services between French and Luxembourgian parties. Language: English. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Paris, France.
CEA Arbitration | Secretary | Distribution | Domestic arbitration	Dispute arising out of a partnership agreement in the context of wine and other spirituals distribution. Language: French. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Strasbourg, France.
CRCICA Arbitration | Secretary | Procedural	Following an arbitrator's death, assisted with the closing of three suspended procedures.

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Select experience as Counsel

Dispute board | ICC Emergency Arbitration | ICC Arbitration | Energy | Infrastructure	Acted for two consortia in adjudication proceedings (dispute board), followed by ICC emergency proceedings and substantive arbitration in a dispute arising out of a contract for the construction of a dam in an African State. Contract type: FIDIC Yellow Book. Language: French. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Paris, France.
Adjudication | ICC Arbitration | Energy | Infrastructure | Nuclear	Acted for a state-owned French contractor in numerous adjudication proceedings and ICC arbitration arising out of a contract for the maintenance and rehabilitation of a nuclear power plant. Contract type: NEC3 EPC. Language: English. Seat: London, United Kingdom.
ICC Arbitration | Energy | Infrastructure | Nuclear	Acted for state-owned French contractors in two ICC arbitration proceedings concerning the design and project management of nuclear power plants in France. Contract type: multiple beskope contracts. Language: French. Seat: Paris, France.
ICC Arbitration | Oil&Gas | Commercial	Advised a provider of helicopter services in a commercial dispute relating to services to an offshore oil platform in Europe. Contract type: bespoke. Language: English. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Paris, France.
ICC Arbitration | Joint Venture	Co-counsel in an arbitration arising out of a joint-venture agreement in the context of a cartel between American and Japanese parties. Language: English. Applicable law: Law of an American State. Seat: Paris, France.
ICC Arbitration | Construction | Oil&Gas	Advised a subcontractor in a dispute arising out of an ad hoc contract for the rehabilitation and construction of pipelines between Lebanese and British parties. Language: English. Applicable law: UAE law. Seat: Dubai, UAE.
ADCCAC Arbitration | Construction	Advised a contractor in a dispute arising out of a design and build contract for an aluminum plant between Lebanese and UAE parties. Language: English. Applicable law: UAE law. Seat: Abu Dhabi, UAE.
ICC Arbitration | Commercial	Advised an investor in an arbitration arising out of share purchase and joint venture agreements between Lebanese, Romanian and Irish parties.
ICC Arbitration | Hospitality	Advised a manager in a dispute arising out of hotel management agreements between Moroccan and Swiss parties. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Paris, France.
Enforcement proceedings	Advised a beetroot producer in the enforcement strategy in France of an ICC arbitration award.
DIFC Court | Commercial	Advised a client in DIFC Court proceedings bringing claims for conspiracy, inducement to breach contract, and misuse of confidential information.
Ad hoc Arbitration | Construction | PPP | Domestic arbitration	Advised a contractor in a French domestic arbitration arising out of an ad hoc construction subcontract in the context of a public-private partnership for works in a student hospital. Language: French. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Etampes, France.
FNTP Arbitration | Construction | Domestic arbitration | Ex aequo et bono	Advised a co-contractor in a dispute arising out of a consortium agreement between French parties. Language: French. Applicable law: French law. Seat: Paris, France.
Dispute management | Technology | Construction	Advised a market leader in the information technology sector on a dispute with a supplier arising out of the construction of a data centre.

Thieffry Dispute Resolution

Select publications, speaking engagements, podcasts and webinars

Publications

2026

- « French arbitration law in prospect », with Clément Fouchard and Ana Atallah, *Reed Smith International Arbitration Focus – The Reform Issue*, 5 February 2026

2025

- Reed Smith International Arbitration Report 2025, with Timothy Cooke, Antonia Birt, Oliver Beiersdorf, Elizabeth Farrell, Clément Fouchard, Matthew Townsend, Matthew Harley, Min Jian Chan, Michael N. Chee, Catherine E. Kiernan, Melissa Lim, Trisha Mitra-Veber, Avinash Poorooye, Erwan Robert, Shamalla S. Semoy, Anand Tiwari, and Gabriel Wan, 14 December 2025
- « Arbitrage et développement durable : les enjeux juridiques se précisent », *Le Monde du Droit*, 2 December 2025
- « La réparation du préjudice dans les litiges et arbitrages relatifs aux chantiers d'infrastructures », APCEF, 1 January 2025

2024

- « Sustainability-related disputes and arbitration in Africa », with Clément Fouchard and Tallat Hussain, *Reed Smith International Arbitration Focus: Africa*, 23 December 2024
- « Les dispute boards, outils de résolution des conflits dans le cadre de grands projets d'investissement dans la transition énergétique », with Clément Fouchard, Option Droit & Affaires, 4 September 2024
- « Managing ESG risk in the construction industry », with Nicolas Walker, *Corporate Disputes Magazine*, 1 January 2024

2023

- « Beyond traditional models: How subscription-based EaaS and CaaS models are disrupting the energy industry », with Nicolas Walker and Yashovardhan Seth, *Reed Smith Global construction update: the innovation issue*, 13 December 2023
- « ESG – risk management solutions in international construction contracts », with Nicolas Walker, Viewpoints, 19 October 2023
- « French legal privilege for in-house counsel: a welcome legal (r)evolution », with Marc Lévy, Benoit Charot, Clément Fouchard, Natasha Tardif, Lucile Chneiweiss, Nicolas Walker, Andrew Tetley, Ana Atallah, Daniel Kadar, and Amani Lakhdhar, *Reed Smith In-depth*, 21 July 2023
- « France », with Peter Rosher, *Reed Smith International Arbitration Focus: The Privilege Issue*, 12 July 2023
- « The Nuclear New Build Renaissance: Challenges and Opportunities », with Peter Rosher and Liam Hart, *Pratt's Energy Law Report*, Vol. 23, No. 1, p. 29, January 2023

2022

- « Arbitrage et développement durable », La Lettre des Juristes d'Affaires (LJA), Vol. 23, No. 1, p. 29, 5 December 2022
- « Final word on the « Kabab-Ji vs Kout Food » saga: French Cour de cassation confirms French position on law applicable to arbitration agreements », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Erwan Robert, Mathilde Adant, and Adam Calloway, *Reed Smith Client Alerts*, 4 October 2022

- « The Heat is On: Global Climate Change and Adverse Weather Conditions in Construction Projects », with Peter Rosher, Erwan Robert, and Adam Calloway, *Jus Daily*, 19 September 2022
- « The nuclear new build renaissance: Challenges and opportunities », with Peter Rosher and Liam Hart, *Energy Transition – An evolving journey*, 27 June 2022
- « Circular economy obligations for constructors and project owners in France », with Nicolas Walker, *Reed Smith Global Construction Update: Sustainability*, June 2022
- « The tragic events in Ukraine have huge consequences for the global nuclear industry », with Peter Rosher and Liam Hart, *New Civil Engineer*, 12 April 2022
- « German Supreme Court upholds anti-arbitration ruling founded on Achmea objection (Croatia v Raiffeisen International & Raiffeisen Austria) », with Clément Fouchard, *LexisNexis PSL*, 21 January 2022

2021

- « Could arbitration offer investors effective protection against reductions in French solar feed-in tariffs? », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Nicolas Walker, Erwan Robert, Mathilde Adant, Albertine Aquenin, and Adam Calloway, *Reed Smith Client Alerts*, 22 November 2021
- « Moldova v. Komstroy (Case C-741/19): Key lessons and takeaways », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Erwan Robert, Mathilde Adant, and Adam Calloway, *Reed Smith Client Alerts*, 16 September 2021
- « CJEU Ruling in Moldova v. Komstroy: the End of Intra-EU Investment Arbitration Under the Energy Charter Treaty (and a Restrictive Interpretation of the Notion of Protected Investment) », with Clément Fouchard, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 7 September 2021
- « International Subcontracting: A French perspective on the consequences and unforeseen risks of the heightened complexity of international construction contracts », with Peter Rosher and Adam Calloway, *Reed Smith International Arbitration Focus: The Construction Issue*, 27 April 2021

2020

- « The evidentiary value of party-appointed expert reports under French law », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Erwan Robert, Mathilde Adant, and Adam Calloway, Reed Smith Client Alerts, 9 October 2020
- « A clash of legal culture and perspectives: Conflicting judgments between England and France on the determination of the governing law of an arbitration agreement, and the risk of legal uncertainty », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Erwan Robert, Mathilde Adant, and Adam Calloway, Reed Smith Client Alerts, 10 July 2020
- « French court qualifies COVID-19 crisis as force majeure event resulting in alternative electricity suppliers' financial losses », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Erwan Robert, Mathilde Adant, and Adam Calloway, Reed Smith Client Alerts, 9 June 2020
- « First decision of the International Commercial Chamber of the Paris Court of Appeal: clarifications on the arbitrator's duty of disclosure », with Peter Rosher, Clément Fouchard, Erwan Robert, and Mathilde Adant, Reed Smith Client Alerts, 14 May 2020

2019

- « Arbitrage : les questions à se poser pour faire intervenir un expert dans un litige », with Peter Rosher, *Le Moniteur*, 24 April 2019

2018

- « L'arrêt Achmea : une étape supplémentaire dans la construction d'un ensemble de mécanismes de resolution des litiges internationaux ? Une analyse à la lumière du droit français de l'arbitrage », IBLJ, No. 3/2018, pp. 201-216

2016

- « Arbitration in France and in Europe: A continued pursuit for time and cost efficiency », with François Muller, *Focus Europe*, pp. 44-45, July 2015

2014

- « Le choix du siège de l'arbitrage, stratégique pour l'efficacité de la procédure d'arbitrage », with Caroline Duclercq, *Le Cercle des Echos*, January 2014

2007

- « La convention d'arbitrage, convention d'aménagement du contentieux environnemental interne et international », Bulletin du Droit de l'Environnement Industriel (BDEI), Supplement to No. 10, p. 25, July 2007

Speaking engagements

- The PAW Sustainability Event, Paris, France, 27 March 2026
- Compensation for damage in disputes and arbitrations relating to infrastructure projects, Paris, France, 25 March 2026
- ICC Vis Pre-Moot – Conference: Third-Party Funding Disclosure in Arbitration, Paris, France, 17 March 2026
- Dinner debate on the compensation for damage in disputes in arbitrations relating to infrastructure projects, Paris, France, 9 December 2025
- The PAW Sustainability Event: Sustainable development-related fundamental rights in international arbitration, Paris, France, 11 April 2025
- « Arbitrage et nucléaire », CFA40 Dinner Debate, Paris, France, 5 June 2024
- The PAW / CFA40 / PVYAP Sustainability Event: Environmental Issues in International Arbitration, Paris, France, 18 March 2024
- « Underground Works: Managing the Unknown », Society of Construction Law (SCL) Astra International Conference / Association Française pour le Droit de la Construction et de l'Immobilier (AFDCI), Paris, France, 27 October 2022
- « The interface between contract managers and in-house or external counsel: enemies or allies? », Forum Ouvert du Contract Management, Paris, France, 21 June 2022
- « Case Management Conference », Centre for International Legal Studies (CILS) Arbitration Symposium, Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, 2-5 June 2022
- Interaction of EU law and arbitration law, Reed Smith / CEDIN conference, Paris, France, 20 April 2022
- Arbitration training session, Paris Bar Association, 1 April 2022
- Arbitration training session, Paris Bar Association, 8 April 2021
- « Pitfalls and solutions in contract management », *Reed Smith Construction Masterclasses*, December 2019
- ICC YAF Conference, Regionalism and Specialism in international arbitration, Paris, France, 10 July 2019
- « YConstruction / YPCP Conference, « Help! My Case deals with engineering defects: Working with technical experts », 2019 Paris Arbitration Week

- « Can effective risk management at the pricing stage avoid time and cost overruns? », *Reed Smith Construction Masterclasses*, March 2019
- « Joinder and Consolidation in international arbitration », presentation to a delegation organized by the Council of Europe, February 2019

Podcasts

- « Greener arbitrations: Electronic signatures and notification of awards – a greener alternative? », with Alison Eslick, Michelle Nelson, and Clément Fouchard, *Arbitral Insights*, 24 January 2024
- « Greener arbitrations: Are in-person hearings worth their while? », with Alison Eslick, James Willn, Ana R. Ulseth, Chris Edwards, and Mathilde Adant, Arbitral Insights, 17 January 2024
- « Greener Arbitrations: Witness and expert preparation – Can video-conferencing match in-person meetings? », with Alison Eslick, Peter Rosher, Aurélie Lopez, Sujey S. Herrera, and Antoine K.F. Smiley, Arbitral Insights, 12 October 2023
- « Greener Arbitrations: Witness and expert preparation – Can video-conferencing match in-person meetings? », with Alison Eslick, Peter Rosher, Aurélie Lopez, Sujey S. Herrera, and Antoine K.F. Smiley, Arbitral Insights, 12 October 2023
- « Greener Arbitrations: Is the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations' Green Model Procedural Order unavoidable? », with Alison Eslick, Antonia Birt, and Daniel Avila, II, Arbitral Insights, 26 July 2023
- « Greener arbitrations: Should arbitration agreements be amended to include sustainability measures? », with Alison Eslick, Suzie A. Savage, Matthew Townsend, Joyce Fong, and Patrick A. Beale, Arbitral Insights, 11 July 2023
- « Environmental law and international arbitration », PAW mini-series, Paris Baby Investigation, 22 March 2023
- « Nuclear new-build industry: Renaissance in France and UK », with Peter Rosher and Liam Hart, *Energy Explored*, 23 August 2022
- « Greener arbitrations: Everything you've wanted to know about carbon emissions but didn't dare ask », with Adam Hedley, *Arbitral Insights*, 22 April 2022
- « Women in Arbitration: Breaking the bias », with Jemma A. Collins, Catherine Lewis, Jane Miles, Clara Fung, Sujey S. Herrera, and Lucy M. Winnington-Ingram, Arbitral Insights, 8 March 2022
- « 2022 Horizon Scanning: International arbitration and construction », with Peter Rosher and Liam Hart, *Arbitral Insights*, 16 December 2021
- « Women in Arbitration: The challenges of arbitrating environmental disputes », with Judith Levine, *Arbitral Insights*, 8 June 2021
- « The peculiarities of construction arbitration », with Peter Rosher and Alison Eslick, *Arbitral Insights*, 12 May 2021

Webinars

- ICC Institute SME Lab on International Contracts – Construction Contracts, 7-8 October 2024
- « Green Compliance and Arbitration: In-House Counsel », *Campaign for Greener Arbitrations*, 18 October 2022

- « International construction projects: Time is money! », October 2021
- « Workshop 2: The practical implications of COVID-19 on future international construction projects », 6 August 2020
- « Workshop 1: The practical implications of COVID-19 on an international construction project », 23 July 2020