



ELISABETH VANAS-METZLER

MANAGING COUNSEL

CONTACT



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LANGUAGES

German - mother tongue

English - fluent

Spanish - basic knowledge

French - basic knowledge

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Elisabeth Vanas-Metzler joined the VIAC Secretariat in October 2017; as of January 2018 she served as Deputy Secretary General of VIAC. Since September 2025 she is Managing Counsel at VIAC with her focus on knowledge and development. Elisabeth Vanas-Metzler studied law at Vienna University (Mag. iur. 2003, Dr. iur. 2008), Geneva University (2002) and Harvard Law School (LL.M. 2007). She served as research assistant at the Department for Business and Commercial Law at the Law Faculty of Vienna University. Later, she worked with renowned international law firms in Vienna and Bogotá (Colombia), first as an associate and then as an attorney-at-law. Her practice focused on dispute resolution and in particular international commercial arbitration, including experience as a party representative, administrative secretary and arbitrator. Elisabeth Vanas-Metzler has been very active in this field, including speaker and organizer at conferences, lectures, publications and memberships.

EXPERIENCE

10/2017 – TODAY

Vienna International Arbitral Center (VIAC), Vienna, Austria

- Alternative dispute resolution services including arbitration, mediation and investment disputes
- as of January 2018: Deputy Secretary General
- since September 2025: Managing Counsel, with her focus on knowledge and development

05/2011 - 09/2017

Graf & Pitkowitz Rechtsanwälte GmbH, Vienna, Austria

- Associate / Attorney-at-law / Legal Counsel in the areas of litigation and arbitration, with a focus on international commercial arbitration (activity as arbitrator, administrative secretary, party representative)

11/2009 - 04/2011

Von Bila, de la Pava & Bertolotti, Attorneys-at-law, Bogotá, Colombia

- Associate advising international clients in connection with civil and commercial matters

EXPERIENCE

09/2008 - 09/2009

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP,
Vienna, Austria

- Associate in litigation, arbitration and corporate practice groups

10/2007 - 06/2008

Commercial District, Criminal Regional and Civil Regional Courts,
Vienna, Austria

- Law Clerk

07/2004 - 06/2006

Department for Business and Commercial Law,
University of Vienna, Austria

- Research Assistant for Prof. Heinz Krejci; work on doctoral thesis, provided research and assistance for publications and legal opinions in the areas of civil, commercial and corporate law

EDUCATION

Until 08/2016

Vienna Bar Association, Austria

- Bar admission as Austrian attorney-at-law (May 2013 – Aug. 2016)
- Austrian bar exam (June 2012)

05/2010

Cornell University, USA & Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Certificate: International arbitration and other methods of dispute resolution

08/2006 - 07/2007

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, USA

- LL.M.-studies
- Focus: negotiation techniques, commercial and corporate law

EDUCATION

10/2003 - 09/2008

University of Vienna, Faculty of Law, Austria

- Doctoral studies
- Doctoral thesis: competition and antitrust law

10/1999 - 08/2003

University of Vienna, Faculty of Law, Austria

- Master studies
- Specializations: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Computer Law

03/2002 - 07/2002

Université de Genève, Faculté de Droit,
Geneva, Switzerland

- Erasmus exchange student; Certificat de Droit Transnational