



KETEVAN BETANELI

Betaneli Arbitration

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Nationalities: Georgian and French

SELECTED ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

- Sole Arbitrator in a dispute under the SCC Arbitration Rules seated in Stockholm. Final Award was rendered in November 2024.
- Representing the majority shareholders in the former Yukos Oil Company as Claimants in a series of three UNCITRAL arbitrations in The Hague against the Russian Federation in relation to the expropriation of their investment in the company. The claims were brought under the Energy Charter Treaty. The Tribunal ordered the Russian Federation to pay over USD 50 billion in damages, the largest award ever rendered by an arbitral tribunal.
- Representing the Republic of Lithuania as Respondent in an ICC arbitration initiated by OAO Gazprom. The dispute related to Gazprom's investment in the Kaunas Heat and Power Plant (Kauno Termofikacijos Elektrinė). The proceedings were brought under the Russia-Lithuania BIT. After Gazprom withdrew the claim, the Republic of Lithuania secured the reimbursement of the entirety of the arbitration costs and of the legal fees and expenses incurred in the proceedings.
- Representing Viorel Micula et al in an ICSID arbitration brought under Sweden-Romania BIT against Romania, related to the Claimants' business activities in Romania pertaining to the production and sale of alcoholic spirits in the country.
- Representing three European chemical companies as Claimants in an ICC arbitration in Paris against the European subsidiaries of a large North American chemical concern. The dispute arose from the confidentiality provision contained in a joint venture agreement formed to manufacture a product used for the production of nylon. French law applied and the languages of the arbitration were both French and English. The dispute concluded with a settlement.
- Representing a European company and its affiliate as Claimants in an arbitration in Hong Kong against an Asian company in the automotive industry, and its affiliate. The dispute arose from an agreement for the manufacture and distribution of automobiles in a CIS State. The arbitration was conducted under the UNCITRAL Rules and administered by the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC).
- Representing Georgia as Respondent in an ICSID arbitration brought by Karmer Marble Tourism Construction Industry and Commerce LLC under the Turkey-Georgia BIT (ICSID Case No. ARB/08/19).
- Representing Georgia as Respondent in an UNCITRAL (ad hoc) arbitration brought by Ina Gudavadze under the Georgian Foreign Investment Law, related to the alleged taking of a TV station and a park (overlooking Tbilisi) without receiving compensation. The dispute concluded with a settlement.
- Advising a Georgian company in relation to a potential ICC arbitration concerning the purchase and installation of warehouse facilities in Georgia.
- Representing a Ukrainian premier league basketball club as Respondent against a US professional basketball player and his sports agents in an arbitration under the FIBA Rules.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP <i>Senior Knowledge Lawyer and Knowledge Lawyer, International Arbitration Group</i>	Paris, France November 2016 – July 2024
Shearman & Sterling LLP <i>Associate and Senior Associate, International Arbitration Group</i>	Paris, France June 2011 – October 2016
Ministry of Justice of Georgia <i>Deputy Head of State Representation in Arbitration and Foreign State Courts Department Head of State Representation in Arbitration and Foreign State Courts Division</i>	Tbilisi, Georgia October 2010 – April 2011 October 2009 – September 2010
White & Case LLP <i>Seconded from the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.</i>	Paris, France April – May 2010
DLA Piper Gvinadze & Partners LP <i>Associate</i>	Tbilisi, Georgia June – July 2008
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP <i>Legal Trainee</i>	Paris, France October 2007 – March 2008
European Union Project <i>Legal Consultant (part-time)</i>	Tbilisi, Georgia November 2005 – August 2007
International Advocates Amirashvili & Gogishvili LP <i>Associate</i>	Tbilisi, Georgia January 2006 – August 2007
International Court of Arbitration of International Chamber of Commerce <i>Legal Trainee</i>	Paris, France November – December 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State (USA)
Georgia (Caucasian State)

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law <i>Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Corporate Law</i>	New York, USA 2008-2009
Stockholm University <i>Masters in International Commercial Arbitration Law</i>	Stockholm, Sweden 2004-2005
Helsinki University <i>Masters in Public International Law</i>	Helsinki, Finland 2003-2004
Tbilisi State University <i>Bachelor (B.A.) in International Law (with Honors)</i>	Tbilisi, Georgia 1998-2003

RECOGNITION AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Recognized by Who's Who Legal: "Future leaders", Arbitration 2019-2024, and by Lexology Index: 2025
- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- Board member of the Caspian Arbitration Society
- Co-founder of the Young ISDS Club
- Former Court member for Georgia, the ICC International Court of Arbitration
- Former Chairperson of GIAC Arbitration Council; member of the GIAC Arbitration Rules Drafting Committee
- Former Research Assistant, New York Convention Guide Project (newyorkconvention1958.org)

PUBLICATIONS

- “Clarity or confusion? The implication of domestic court rulings for arbitration”, Freshfields’ yearly publication on International Arbitration Top Trends (2024) by Ketevan Betaneli, Christophe Seraglini, Katherine Khan and Guy MacInnes-Manby (available [here](#)).
- “The impact of AI on the legal profession - update from Paris”, Freshfields blog, 5 April 2023 (available [here](#)).
- “Paris Court of Appeal partially sets aside ICC award (Equatorial Guinea v Mr [C] & Bank [1])”, LexisNexis - Case Analysis by Ketevan Betaneli, 14 April 2022 (available [here](#)).
- “Tenke Fungurume Mining v. Katanga Contracting Services - Judgment of the High Court of Justice of England and Wales, 7 December 2021”, Jus Mundi - Case Comment by Ketevan Betaneli and Veronika Timofeeva, March 2022 (available [here](#)).
- “Paris Court of Appeal confirms pro-arbitration stance by enforcing ICC award set aside at seat”, by Ketevan Betaneli and Christophe Seraglini, Lexology, 17 February 2022 (available [here](#)).
- “Drives towards greater efficiency in international arbitration”, Freshfields’ yearly publication on International Arbitration Top Trends (2022) by Ketevan Betaneli, Nicholas Lingard, Patrick Schroeder and Hinda Rabkin, February 2022 (available [here](#)).
- “Paris Court of Appeal maintains pro-arbitration stance by upholding ICC award”, by Ketevan Betaneli and Noah Rubins KC, Lexology, 29 April 2021 (available [here](#)).
- “Surviving COVID-19: arbitrations involving insolvent companies” by Ketevan Betaneli and Veronika Timofeeva, Lexology, 1 April 2021 (available [here](#)).
- “How covid insolvencies affect arbitration” by Ketevan Betaneli, Noah Rubins KC and Thomas Walsh, Global Arbitration Review (GAR), 18 March 2021 (available [here](#)).
- “Insolvency and arbitration”, Freshfields’ yearly publication on Illuminating the Top Trends (international arbitration in 2021) by Ketevan Betaneli, Noah Rubins KC and Thomas Walsh, 17 February 2021 (available [here](#)).
- “The 2021 ICC Rules: reflections on key changes and the ICC Secretariat’s guidance note” by Ketevan Betaneli and Amy Tan, Freshfields blog, 29 January 2021 (available [here](#)).
- “The 2021 ICC Arbitration Rules further improve the efficiency, flexibility and transparency of the arbitral process” by Ketevan Betaneli, Freshfields blog, 16 November 2020 (available [here](#)).
- “International arbitration in the time of COVID-19: a rapidly changing environment” by Ketevan Betaneli, Vasuda Sinha and Ashley Jones, Freshfields blog, 23 March 2020 (available [here](#)).
- “Practical Tips for Effectively Conducting an Arbitration” by Ketevan Betaneli, published in The Financial, 15 April 2019 (available [here](#)).
- “Why arbitration? A basic overview and pointers” by Ketevan Betaneli, published in The Financial, 4 March 2019 (available [here](#)).
- “The new Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea: New Opportunities and New Challenges” by Ketevan Betaneli and Daniel Müller, Freshfields blog, 1 November 2018 (available [here](#)).
- “The 2018 Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea” by Ketevan Betaneli and Noah Rubins KC, published in English and Russian in the Kazakh Journal on Subsoil Use and Law (2/2018 edition).
- “Avoiding Disputes in the Context of Subsurface Contracting” by Ketevan Betaneli, published in English and Russian in the International Atyrau Legal Conference Materials (2012).
- “Kazakhstan and Investment Protection Mechanisms in the Energy Sector” by Ketevan Betaneli and Yas Banifatemi, published in English and Russian in the Kazakh Journal on Subsoil Use and Law (2/2011 edition).
- “Company Law in Georgia” by Ketevan Betaneli and Maik Masbaum, published in English and Georgian in the Georgian Law Review 2003 (6/2003-2/3).

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2024 (9-10 September) – teaching two full days at the first summer school in arbitration in Georgia, jointly organized by the Commerce Law Development Program (CLDP) and the Georgian Association of Arbitrators (GAA), delivered in Georgian.
- 2024 (14 June) – speaker at the “Arbitration and ADR in Georgia and the Wider Region” conference, jointly organized by the ICC and ICC Georgia - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2024 (11 June) – speaker at the “Introduction to VIAC” conference, jointly organized by VIAC and the Georgian Association of Arbitrators - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2022 (13 May) – speaker at the “Eastern Europe & CIS International Arbitration” conference, organized by the ICC Georgia.
- 2021 (10 December) – speaker at the “ICC Arbitration Sessions for Central Asia: 3rd eChaikhana” virtual seminar (in Russian).
- 2021 (17 September) – speaker at the “ICC Arbitration Sessions for Central Asia: 2nd eChaikhana” virtual seminar (in Russian).
- 2021 (25 June) – speaker at the “ICC Arbitration Sessions for Central Asia: 1st eChaikhana” virtual seminar (in Russian).
- 2021 (7 May) – speaker at a virtual webinar on “Arbitration Proceedings and Insolvency Procedures”, organized by GIAC (in Georgian).
- 2021 (8 April) – speaker at a virtual webinar on “Arbitration boat in a sea of ethics”, organized by Nash Arbitrash.
- 2021 (21 January) – sole presenter at a virtual webinar on “the ICC Rules and its 2021 modifications”, organized by the Georgian Association of Arbitrators (in Georgian).
- 2020 (17 December) – moderator at a virtual conference on “Arbitral Institutions at times of COVID – ICC and GIAC experiences”, organized by the ICC and GIAC.
- 2020 (8 June) – moderator at a virtual webinar on “the ICSID and UNCITRAL Draft Code of Conduct for Adjudicators”, organized by the Young ISDS Club.
- 2019 (9-10 October) – moderator at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on the “ICC-GIAC Panel: Regional Development of Arbitration”, organized by GIAC - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2017 (2-3 October) – moderator at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on institutional interference, organized by GIAC - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2016 (1-3 December) – moderator at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on third party funding, organized by GIAC - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2015 (3 December) – speaker at the International Arbitration Day, organized by Shearman & Sterling LLP - Paris, France.
- 2015 (27 November) – speaker at the ICC *Lex Mercatoria* 4th International Conference on International Sales Law and International Commercial Arbitration on disclosure requirements by arbitrators under different arbitration rules, organized by the ICC - Minsk, Belarus.
- 2015 (8-10 October) – speaker at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on the regional development of arbitration, organized by GIAC - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2014 (25 April) – speaker at the 12th International Atyrau Legal Conference on investment arbitration, jointly organized by the Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers’ Association and Tengizchevroil - Atyrau, Kazakhstan.
- 2014 (11 March) – speaker at the conference dedicated to the creation of GIAC, jointly organized by the Government of Georgia and Transparency International Georgia - Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 2013 (29 November) – speaker at a luncheon dedicated to investment arbitration, organized by the Association of International Business Lawyers - Geneva, Switzerland.

- 2013 (19 November) – speaker at the “International Arbitration Day”, organized by Shearman & Sterling LLP Paris, France.
- 2011 (22-24 June) – moderator at the 6th CIS Local Counsel Forum on “the Caucasus Panel”, organized by the Ukrainian Legal Group - Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- 2008 (1-4 May) – speaker at the “Conflict Avoidance and Resolution in the Eastern Mediterranean Region Conference”, organized by the European Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2007 (6-8 September) – speaker at the “First Mediterranean-Middle East Counsel Forum”, organized by the European Court of Arbitration - Rome, Italy.

LANGUAGES

Georgian (native); English, Russian, French (fluent); Spanish (basic).