

Marlena Harutyunyan

Counsel

Geneva

Member of the Paris Bar,
Registered at the Geneva Bar
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Expertise

International arbitration
Construction
Cross-border litigation
Enforcement

Languages

French
English
Russian
Armenian
Ukrainian (good knowledge)

Biography

Marlena focuses her practice on international arbitration and cross-border litigation. Marlena mainly represents and advises clients in arbitration proceedings, both commercial and investment, before major arbitral institutions.

Marlena has significant experience in handling complex and high-stake disputes in different industry sectors, including construction, aviation, energy, oil and gas, automotive.

She also acts for clients in enforcement of arbitral awards and foreign court decisions.

Marlena holds an LL.M in International Dispute Resolution from Queen Mary University of London, a Magistère Juriste d'Affaires– D.J.C.E. and a Master's Degree in Commercial Law from University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas.

She is admitted to practice in Paris and Geneva. Prior to joining Archipel, Marlena practiced international arbitration and litigation in the Paris and New York offices of Baker McKenzie.

Details of recent activities

Recently, she:

Represented a Spanish construction company in pre-arbitration proceedings in a dispute against the owner relating to the termination of a Red Book FIDIC contract.

Successfully represented a Swiss national in SAC arbitration against his former shareholder in relation to a post-acquisition dispute.

Represented a pan-African EPC Contractor in an ICC mediation with the owner in a dispute relating to the performance of a contract to modernize electrical power stations in an African state.

Represented a Moroccan company in an ICC arbitration against a French company relating to the performance of a procurement contract.

Successfully represented a Swiss company in an ICC arbitration against a Romanian company relating to a major bank fraud.

Successfully represented an Eastern European state in an ICSID USD 326 million claim brought by a U.S. investor in relation to concessions to build and operate strategically important road and rail links.

Represented Mauritian investors in an ICSID dispute against an African state in relation to the construction, ownership, and operation of a power plant.

Successfully represented a Spanish construction company in an ICC arbitration against an African state in relation to a major construction project of a stadium.

Successfully obtained recognition of foreign insolvency decisions in Switzerland in the context of a large-scale fraud recovery.

Professional affiliations

Geneva Bar Association

Arbitration & ADR commission of ICC Armenia

Steering Committee of Young AMCA

Swiss Arbitration Association

French Association of arbitration practitioners

ICC Young Arbitration & ADR Forum

ICC Institute of World Business Law

ArbitralWomen

Conferences

Lifting the Veil: boutique associates share their experiences, LIDW, 2025

L'Arménie, ses start-ups et ses licornes, International Commission of the Paris Bar, Paris, 2025

Lecture on Investment Arbitration for Resolve Academy, French University of Armenia, 2024

Panel discussion on Protections offered to foreign investors in the CIS region, Arbmenia Conference, 2024

ICC YAAF panel discussion on Litigation and Arbitration, friends or foes, Yerevan, 2023

Arbitration boat in a sea of ethics, Nash Arbitrazh webinar, 2021

Publications

“Contract termination” in Major Construction Issues, Wiley (co-author, upcoming publication), 2025

The Revised ICSID Rules: A Further Step Towards Transparency and Efficiency, ASA Bulletin, Vol. 40, Issue 3, September 2022

Part I of a trilogy: state measures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Global Arbitration News, March 2021

The International Commercial Chamber of the Paris Court of Appeal confirmed that a failure to disclose by arbitrators did not lead necessarily to setting aside of the award, Global Arbitration News, July 2020

The Paris Court of Appeal confirms arbitrators' application of UNIDROIT principles in the absence of a choice by the parties as a ruling in law, Global Arbitration News, May 2020 (co-author)

Baker McKenzie International Arbitration Yearbook (France chapter), 2016-2021

Education

Queen Mary University of London – LL.M in International Dispute Resolution

University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas – Magistère de Juriste d’Affaires – D.J.C.E.

University Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas – Master’s degree in Commercial Law

Professional background

Practiced international arbitration and litigation in the Paris and New York offices of Baker McKenzie

Trained with the litigation and arbitration practice group of K&L Gates

Trained with the corporate practice group of Linklaters

Trained with the corporate practice group of Jeantet Associés