



AIJA LEJNIECE

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PROFILE & EXPERIENCE

10+ years' experience working in international disputes

Specialization: Investment Treaty Arbitration | International Commercial Arbitration | PIL | Cross-Border Disputes | French Enforcement & Annulment Proceedings | EU Law | ADR

Areas of Expertise: Litigation | Pre-Dispute Advice | Investment Corporate Structuring Advice | Regulatory Advice | Strategy | Securing Funding | Settlement Negotiations | Contracts

Sectors: Oil & Gas | Renewable Energy | Mining | Banking | Fintech | Crypto | Construction | Insolvency | Taxation | Sovereign Debt | Tourism | Consumer Protection

Rules & Institutions: ICSID | SCC | HKIAC | LCIA | ICC | UNCITRAL | PCA

Select Commercial Arbitration Representations & Others

- Crypto traders in a dispute against a prominent crypto trading platform under the HKIAC Rules
- An individual in an arbitration concerning a crypto-related shareholders' agreement under the HKIAC Rules
- A LATAM State-owned oil & gas company in two LCIA arbitrations in connection with a dispute relating to Health & Safety and arising out of a Unit Operating Agreement
- A Ukrainian construction company in ICC award enforcement and annulment proceedings in before the Paris Court of Appeal
- The family of a high-ranking international organization representative in a dispute against the organization
- Advising various fintech actors in matters relating to their ventures
- Co-arbitrator in an *ad hoc* arbitration under French law relating to the sale of a real estate company

Select State Representations

- An African State in French-language ICC proceedings related to the reopening of an arbitration
- An Eastern-European State in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning the bankruptcy of one of the largest national banks following the 2014 financial crisis
- Republic of Colombia in multiple ICSID arbitrations against North American gold miners
- An Eastern-European State in multiple UNCITRAL arbitrations relating to the bankruptcy of an oil company
- Hellenic Republic in an ICSID arbitration against a Cypriot bank arising out of government bond restructuring in the context of the Greek financial crisis
- Arab Republic of Egypt in an ICSID arbitration relating to an investment in the tourism sector

Select Investor Representations

- A Lithuanian investor against Belarus in an ICSID arbitration arising out of the host State's interference with an infrastructure project in the Minsk Airport vicinity
- Photovoltaic investor Novenergia in an Energy Charter Treaty-based SCC arbitration against the Kingdom of Spain concerning the national renewable energy scheme, and the consequent dealings with the European Commission and annulment proceedings before the Svea Court of Appeal in Sweden
- A State-owned energy company against a European State in an UNCITRAL arbitration regarding the unbundling of the national gas sector
- A State-owned oil & gas company against an Eastern European State in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning the forced takeover of the investor's company, as well as in subsequent annulment proceedings before the Paris Court of Appeal

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Independent Counsel & Arbitrator | May 2021–Present

Latham & Watkins LLP, Paris, France

Senior Associate, International Arbitration, Litigation & Trial Practice | April 2016–April 2021

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, Paris, France | November 2012–February 2016

Shearman & Sterling LLP, Paris, France

Trainee Lawyer | April 2012–July 2012

White & Case LLP, Paris, France

Trainee Lawyer | September 2011–February 2012

EDUCATION

Saïd Business School,
University of Oxford
Artificial Intelligence
Program / 2023-2024

Harvard Law School
LL.M. / 2010–2011

University of Latvia
LL.M. / 2008–2010

Utrecht University
LL.M., Erasmus / 2009

University of Latvia
LL.B. / 2005–2008

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State Bar / 2013

Barreau de Paris / 2014

NATIONALITY

Latvian

LANGUAGES

English & Latvian (bilingual)

French & Russian (fluent)

Spanish (professional grasp)

Italian & German (notions)

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS & MEMBERSHIPS

Member of the Permanent
Court of Arbitration

Member of HKIAC List of
Arbitrators

Member of the VIAC Legal
Tech Think Tank

Fintech & Crypto

Women's Rights

Mentoring & Training

PASSIONS

Family & Friends

Equestrian sports

Art, antiques & literature



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PUBLICATIONS

- 'French Idealism vs. English Pragmatism: The Alternative Endings to the Kout Food Saga | Spain Arbitration Review, Vol. 47 (2023)
- 'You Can't Have Your Cake and Eat It too: The Refusal to Pay an Advance on Costs Renders Subsequent Objection to the Jurisdiction of State Courts Inadmissible' | Spain Arbitration Review, Vol. 44 (2022)
- 'Crypto Takes Center Stage in Russia's War Against Ukraine' | La Revue européenne du droit, August 2022
- 'Delos Tech Channel Anniversary Edition – Editor's Note' | Delos, 15 June 2022

CONFERENCES & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Cryptocurrencies in Arbitration: The Future is Now | Paris Arbitration Week 2022
- The ABC of Legal Tech | Vienna International Arbitration Center, 31 May 2022
- IT & LegalTech in Arbitration Panel | Baltic Arbitration Days 2022
- 'Arbitration and cryptocurrencies: can arbitration bring a form of stability to this fluctuating market?' | French & Mexican Chapters of the Club Español del Arbitraje, 22 November 2022

INTERVIEWS & COMMENTARY

- Venezuela challenges "corrupted" Conoco annulment committee | Global Arbitration Review, C. Sanderson, 21 June 2022
- 'Born to Run' | The Wire China, K. Northrop, 8 May 2022
- 'Malaysia challenges mega-award in French court' | C. Sanderson, Global Arbitration Review, 18 March 2022
- '\$76 Billion a Day: How Binance Became the World's Biggest Crypto Exchange' | The Wall Street Journal, P. Kowsmann & C. Ostroff, 11 November 2021
- 'Binance Traders Line Up \$5m for Compensation Claim' | The Financial Times, J. Oliver & L. Fletcher, 19 August 2021
- 'Crypto traders want payback after losing millions to Binance glitches' | NBC News, O. Solon, 19 August 2021
- 'Swiss funder backs HKIAC claim against crypto exchange' | Global Arbitration Review, C. Sanderson, 19 August 2021
- 'Binance Froze When Bitcoin Crashed. Now Users Want Their Money Back' | The Wall Street Journal, P. Kowsmann & C. Ostroff, 11 July 2021