



Kate Cervantes-Knox is an independent arbitrator based in London, with extensive experience in complex international commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

For over 20 years Kate specialised in international arbitration in two leading global law firms, Linklaters and DLA Piper (12 years as a partner). She established her own practice as an independent arbitrator in 2023.

Kate has been included in Chambers & Partners' 2025 UK Guide to Arbitrators (Band 1) and has been recognised as a Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal: Arbitration (2024). She has also been recognised as a leading individual for international arbitration by the Legal 500 and features in Best Lawyers (International Arbitration) 2024 and the Legal 500 Private Practice Powerlist 2023.

#### Education

Somerville College, Oxford,  
BA Experimental  
Psychology (1st class)

Nottingham Law School,  
Common Practice  
Examination (Distinction)

College of Law, London,  
Legal Practice Course  
(Distinction)

#### Professional Qualifications

Solicitor of the Supreme  
Court of England and Wales

Rights of Audience in the  
Higher Courts Qualification

Fellow of Chartered Institute  
of Arbitrators

Kate has served as a sole arbitrator, party-nominated arbitrator and as a member of three-person tribunals. Previously, Kate acted as counsel in both institutional and ad-hoc proceedings, subject to many different systems of law and under various arbitral rules (including the LCIA, ICC, ICSID, and UNCITRAL).

Kate's broad experience covers a range of sectors, including energy and natural resources, technology and telecommunications, infrastructure and construction, life sciences, and hospitality.

She sits on the Board of Directors of the LCIA and currently serves as President of the LCIA European Users' Council. In addition, she is a Visiting Professor at the University of Law, London.

Kate is a UK national and speaks English and Spanish.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Independent Arbitrator – October 2023 to date
- DLA Piper (London) - 2003 to 2023 | Associate/Senior Associate/Senior Counsel/Partner
- Linklaters (London and Madrid) – 1999 to 2003 | Trainee Solicitor/Associate

## EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Fellow of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - 2021
- Rights of Audience in the Higher Courts Qualification – 2002
- College of Law, London, Legal Practice Course (Distinction) – 1998
- Nottingham Law School, Post Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction) - 1997
- University of Oxford, Somerville College, BA in Experimental Psychology (First Class) – 1996

## RECOGNITION

- Chambers & Partners 2025, International Arbitration: Arbitrators, United Kingdom, Band 1
- Who's Who Legal: Arbitration, Thought Leader, 2024
- Best Lawyers 2024, International Arbitration, United Kingdom
- Chambers & Partners 2024, International Arbitration, United Kingdom, Band 4 (14 years ranked)
- Chambers & Partners 2024, International Arbitration, Global, United Kingdom (Band 4) (5 years ranked)
- Legal 500 2023, International Arbitration, United Kingdom - Leading Individual
- Legal 500 Private Practice Powerlist 2023, Arbitration, United Kingdom

## EXPERIENCE AS ARBITRATOR

- Sole arbitrator in two consolidated LCIA proceedings between an Israeli company and a group of companies incorporated in Switzerland and in the BVI, in relation to a dispute arising under two consultancy agreements (English law, London seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in LCIA proceedings between subsidiaries of two major energy companies, in relation to a dispute arising under a sale and purchase agreement (English law, London seat)
- Member of three-person tribunal in LCIA proceedings between a provider of capital market surveillance systems and a Brazilian professional services firm in relation to a claim under a marketing and distribution agreement (English law, London seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in LCIA proceedings between a BVI financial services company and a German individual, in relation to a claim pursuant to a guarantee agreement (English law, London seat)
- Member of three-person panel in LCIA proceedings between two oil and gas companies incorporated in the Cayman Islands, in relation to a dispute arising under a share purchase agreement (English law, London seat)

## EXPERIENCE AS COUNSEL

### Examples of Commercial Arbitration Cases

#### LCIA

- Represented a Maltese solar energy company in an English law dispute with a Spanish purchaser of solar energy panel wafers.
- Represented a Korean ship builder in two related arbitrations against three Nigerian companies concerning an English law dispute arising from a \$300m project in Nigeria for the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of a greenfield floating production storage and offloading vessel.
- Represented a Nigerian company in an English law dispute with two Nigerian companies for works done under a letter of intent in anticipation of the entry into an EPC contract.
- Represented a Spanish solar energy business in an English law dispute with a Spanish manufacturer of solar energy panels.
- Represented a global US fast-food business in relation to a claim brought under English law against a franchisee in the Middle East.

#### ICC

- Represented a Saudi Arabian-owned oil and gas group in two related arbitrations against a major state-owned oil company and a Central Asian state, for the wrongful abandonment of a joint venture and termination of an English law governed Production Sharing Agreement for the exploration and development of a gas field in Central Asia.

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- Represented a South-East European Government in its defence of a claim under Turkish law arising from a multi-billion Euro project to design and construct more than 70 kilometres of commuter railway, including a new tunnel and all associated infrastructure.
  - Represented a global oil company in a dispute with a Middle Eastern petrochemical company subject to Austrian law, in relation to an oil pipeline project in a war-torn state.
  - Represented a Cayman Islands telecommunications company in an English law dispute with telecommunications operators in the Cayman Islands.

#### UNCITRAL

- Represented an African state in a dispute governed by English and Zambian law with two US entities arising from an improperly procured infrastructure project.
- Represented a major US technology company in a dispute governed by English and US law with a US mobile software company arising from the unlicensed use of its intellectual property.
- Represented shareholders in a Bulgarian bank in relation to a dispute arising under a shareholders' agreement governed by English law and concerning the exercise of a put option.
- Represented a major UK telecommunications group in a multi-party arbitration arising from a shareholders' agreement governed by Spanish law.

#### Examples of Investment Arbitration Cases

- Represented an Azerbaijani investor in the Georgian telecommunications sector in relation to claims under the Georgia-Azerbaijan bilateral investment treaty for unfair and inequitable treatment, discrimination and expropriation arising from adverse regulatory measures (*Nasib Hasanov vs. Georgia* (ICSID Case No. ARB/20/44)).
- Represented the Republic of Kenya in the defence of proceedings brought by an investor in the mining sector (*Cortec Mining Kenya Limited, Cortec (Pty) Limited and Stirling Capital Limited v. Republic of Kenya* (ICSID Case No. ARB/15/29)).
- Represented the Government of Georgia in claims brought under two bilateral investment treaties and under the Energy Charter Treaty relating to alleged investments in the construction of oil and gas pipeline infrastructure and the development of oil and gas facilities (*Ioannis Kardassopoulos v Georgia* (ICSID Case No. ARB/05/18); *Ron Fuchs v Georgia* (ICSID Case No. ARB/07/15)).
- Represented a UK technology company in relation to a dispute under a bilateral investment treaty with a Latin American state arising from the adverse treatment of investments in election technology.
- Represented the Government of India in an investment treaty arbitration arising out of the construction and operation of a power station at Dabhol near Mumbai. Shareholders in the power company brought claims valued at \$6.5 billion pursuant to a bilateral investment treaty between India and Mauritius, alleging that acts of the Government of India constituted expropriation and inequitable and unlawful conduct, in violation of the treaty.

## PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

Kate regularly provides training and presentations on international arbitration and public international law.

Examples of presentations, seminars and panel discussions include:

- "Forwards, Backward or Sideways – What do recent changes in the world mean for disputes?" – Speaker, Energy Arbitration Club Conference, April 2025
- "Recent developments in national arbitration laws around the world & comparison to US arbitration law" – New York Arbitration Week, November 2024
- Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy Workshop – Chair of Tribunal in Mock Arbitration, November 2024
- "Innovation in International Arbitration - what has worked and what hasn't" – Speaker at LCIA & Ciarb 21st Annual Joint Seminar: Innovation in International Arbitration, October 2023
- "ESG and Arbitration" – Speaker at Copenhagen Arbitration Day, September 2023
- "Do's and Don'ts From the Arbitrator's Perspective" – Speaker at Danish Arbitrator Education programme in London, Association of Danish Lawyers, October 2023 and October 2024
- "Today's Diverse and Rising Arbitrators and Where to Find Them" - Moderator, London International Disputes Week, May 2023
- "Revised ICSID Arbitration Rules – Key Changes" – Speaker, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, September 2022
- "The future for intra-EU investments and comparing the UK position" – Speaker, LCIA Symposium, Tylney Hall, May 2022
- "From Achmea to Komstroy to PL Holdings – what does the future hold for intra EU investments"? – Speaker, Cambridge Arbitration Day, 2022
- "Meet the European Users' Council", a discussion of latest trends and developments in arbitration and ADR – Speaker, LCIA webinar, December 2021.
- "Global Perspectives on Recent Developments in India Related Arbitration" – Speaker, Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, IAW 2021, Apirecent I 2021
- "Inferences from evidence or its absence" – Speaker, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Thirty Fifth ITF Public Annual Conference, April 2021

- "Arbitraje, Concesiones y Energía" – Speaker, Cámara de Comercio Americana del Perú, October 2020
- "Tylney on Zoom" - Moderator, LCIA online event, June 2020
- "Latest Trends and Developments in Emerging Markets (Latin America)" – Speaker, GAR Live, Paris, November 2019
- "Global developments and their impact on arbitration" – Co-Chair, LCIA Symposium, Milan, April 2017
- "Cost and time efficiency" - Speaker and Moderator, LCIA Symposium, Tylney Hall, September 2016.
- Lectures on international arbitration, ZIALE Law School, Lusaka, Zambia, February 2016
- "Orders, Awards and Enforcement" - Co-Chair, LCIA North American Users' Council Symposium, Washington D.C., February 2015
- "Fair and Equitable Treatment jurisprudence in investment treaty arbitration" - Speaker, Investor-State Dispute Settlement Conference, Korea University, August 2013
- Lectures on international commercial arbitration and investment treaty arbitration for government lawyers, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, May 2013
- Lecture on investment treaty arbitration at the "Trade Promotion and Protection of Foreign Investments" seminar organized by TOPAZ in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic and DLA Piper Prague LLP, March 2013.