

Laura Halonen

Solicitor MA (Oxon), BCL

Contact

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Nationality

Finnish

Appointments and Memberships

Law Society of England and Wales
(solicitor, since 2005)

Rechtsanwaltskammer Berlin
(since Jan 2020)

ICSID Panel of Conciliators
(2020-2025)

European Federation of
Investment Law and Arbitration
(EFILA), Advisory Board
(member since 2014, chair 2018-
2022)

Campaign for Greener
Arbitrations, Europe Committee

Profile

A solicitor of England and Wales, Laura has over two decades of experience in international arbitration.

She acts both as arbitrator in commercial arbitration proceedings and as counsel investment treaty disputes.

She has experience in a variety of industry sectors, with a particular focus on energy, infrastructure, biotechnology, banking and insurance, and transport.

She has extensive experience in both common and civil law and specialises in international law, including international investment law.

Laura is of Finnish origin and has practiced in England, France, Switzerland and Germany.

Professional Experience

January 2020 - present

Independent legal advisor | Berlin

1. Acting as an arbitrator in international commercial disputes;
2. Advising and representing clients in international disputes, in particular in relation to cross-border investments; mostly co-operating with law firms to provide specialist knowhow and strategic advice; and
3. Lecturing investment arbitration at the LLM in International Dispute Resolution at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (since 2021).

October 2019 - present

Of Counsel | WAGNER Arbitration | Berlin

Co-operating with a disputes boutique on investment law matters.

2010-2019

Counsel and Associate | Lalive | Geneva

International arbitration department of a leading disputes boutique; practice focused on international arbitration, international investment law, international commercial law and public international law. Also co-ordinated the firm's pro bono activities and was a member of the international intern committee.

(member since 2020, co-chair since 2024)

MuteOff Thursdays, co-chair (since 2024)

Berlin Dispute Resolution Days (BDRD), organizing committee (founding member, 2022-2024)

2020 IBA Rules of Evidence Review Task Force

Ordre des Avocats de Genève, Foreign section (2016-2019)

Languages

English (native)
Finnish (native)
French (fluent)
German (conversational)
Swedish (basic knowledge)

Arbitration Rules experience

ICSID
UNCITRAL
ICC
SCC
FAI
Swiss Chambers
DIS
WIPO

Listings

Who's Who Legal (Lexology)
Arbitration
Future Leader (2018-2024)
Construction
Future Leader (2023-2024)

2003-2008

Associate and trainee solicitor | Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer | Paris and London

One of the world's leading international arbitration teams; practice focused on international arbitration, international investment law, English commercial and contract law and public international law.

May-August 2014

International intern | Legal Assistance Centre | Windhoek, Namibia
Voluntary work in the Gender Research and Advocacy Project, focusing on international and constitutional law, human rights, LGBT rights, treaties, revision of election and child protection laws.

Representative arbitrator mandates

Sole arbitrator

Finland Arbitration Institute (FAI)

€ 1.5 million dispute between Finnish and Swedish parties relating to the development of ERM software in the real estate sector (Finnish law, Helsinki)

Co-arbitrator

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Over € 25 million dispute between two Finnish parties relating to the construction of a LNG terminal (Finnish law, Helsinki)

Sole arbitrator

German Arbitration Institute (DIS)

€ 2.1 million dispute between German and Mexican parties relating to the importation of medical devices (German law, Berlin)

Representative counsel mandates

Commercial arbitration

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Successfully representing a claimant in a € 4 million dispute arising from a consultancy agreement for the import of drilling equipment from Indonesia to Iran (Swiss law, Geneva).

Successfully representing a claimant in a € 12 million dispute arising from a distribution agreement for a pharmaceutical product (Swiss law, Geneva).

Finland Arbitration Institute (FAI)

Successfully representing a claimant in a dispute relating to the use of a patented healthcare innovation (Finnish law, Helsinki).

Investment arbitration

International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
Successfully defending Romania in a €1.8 billion dispute arising from changes to taxation of alcoholic beverages, including in annulment proceedings (Sweden-Romania BIT).

Successfully settling a €70 million dispute arising from the interference with port operations for a German client (Germany-Albania BIT).

Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC)

Successfully defending Turkey in a €3.2 billion dispute arising from termination of a concession agreement for a hydroelectrical power plant, including in setting aside proceedings before Swedish courts (Energy Charter Treaty, Stockholm).

Ad hoc (UNCITRAL)

Successfully defending Mauritius in a € 920 million dispute arising from the withdrawal of a banking and insurance license (France-Mauritius BIT, Brussels).

Representing a Swiss investor in an ongoing €24 million dispute arising from abrupt changes to regulations governing electricity generation (Energy Charter Treaty, London).

Education

2008-2009

Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) | Oriel College | University of Oxford (UK)
International Dispute Settlement, Comparative Human Rights, Conflict of Laws, thesis on “Compatibility of United States and United Kingdom laws on Terrorist Financing with international law”

2001-2002

Post-Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice | Oxford Institute of Legal Practice (UK)

1998-2001

Master of Arts (MA) (Jurisp.) (Oxon) | Somerville College | University of Oxford (UK)

Publications

Laura Halonen, Sophie Eichhorn 2022

Berlin Court Finds that ICSID Arbitrations Are Immune from Achmea and Komstroy – At Least While They Are Ongoing

Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 21 July 2022, available at:

<http://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2022/07/21/berlin-court-finds-that-icsid-arbitrations-are-immune-from-achmea-and-komstroy-at-least-while-they-are-ongoing/>

Laura Halonen, 2020

Termination of Intra-EU BITs: Commission and Most Member States Testing the Principle of Good Faith under International Law
Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 13 May 2020, available at:
<http://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2020/05/13/termination-ofintra-eu-bits-commission-and-most-member-states-testing-the-principle-ofgood-faith-under-international-law/>

Joachim Knoll, Laura Halonen, 2019

Commentary on Articles 52(2)-(4) of the ICSID Convention
In: Fouret, et al (Eds.), The ICSID Convention, Regulations and Rules – A Practical Commentary, Elgar Commentaries, 2019, pp. 663-680

Laura Halonen, Lea Murphy, 2019

To Stay or Not to Stay: ICSID Proposals for Amending the Rule on Stays of Enforcement during Annulment Proceedings
Lalive blog, 17 June 2019, available at: <https://www.lalive.law/to-stay-or-not-to-stay-icsid-proposals-for-amending-the-rule-on-stays-of-enforcement-during-annulment-proceedings/>

Noradèle Radjai, Laura Halonen, Panagiotis A. Kyriakou, 2016

An Analysis of the Compensation Regime Applicable to Claims Arising from Armed Conflicts Affecting Investments in MENA
BCDR International Arbitration Review, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 219-242

Veijo Heiskanen, Laura Halonen, 2014

Post-Award Remedies
In: Giorgetti (Ed.), Litigating International Investment Disputes: A Practitioner's Guide, Brill/Nijhoff, 2014, pp. 497-526

Laura Halonen, 2012

Catch Them if You Can: Compatibility of United Kingdom and United States Legislation against Financing Terrorism with Public International Law Rules on Jurisdiction
Emory International Law Review (2012) 26(2), pp. 637-675

Pierre Lalive, Laura Halonen, 2011

On the Availability of Counterclaims in Investment Treaty Arbitration
In: Czech Yearbook of International Law 2011, pp. 141-156

Laura Halonen, 2011

Bridging the Gap in the Notion of 'Investment' between ICSID and UNCITRAL Arbitrations: Note on an Award Rendered under the BIT between Switzerland and Uzbekistan (*Romak SA v Uzbekistan*)
ASA Bull. 2/2011, Vol. 29, pp. 312-326

Laura Halonen, 2008

Containing the scope of the umbrella clause

In: Weiler (Ed.), Investment Treaty Arbitration and International Law, JurisNet, 2008, pp. 27-38

Lectures and Presentations

Helsinki, Finland, 26 April 2024

Nordic Arbitration Days | Soapbox Debate

Debater: Counsel should rely less on case law, soft law etc. and more on reasoning and their own powers of persuasion

Geneva, Switzerland, 2 February 2024

ASA's 50th Anniversary Conference | Arbitrating Conflict: What Role for Switzerland in Promoting the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes?

Co-moderator

Hamburg, Germany, 7 September 2023

DIS40 Nord | Interactive Brunch Workshop on the Campaign for Greener Arbitrations

Keynote speaker: Light, Camera, Action

Frankfurt, Germany (online), 10 August 2023

DIS40 Frankfurt | Greener Arbitrations – How to reduce the footprint

Keynote speaker: The Campaign for Greener Arbitrations

Paris, France, 29 March 2023

CFA40, ASA below40, CEPANI40, YCAP, ICC YAAF, LCIA YIAG, ICDR Y&I, DIS40, AFM below40, PVYAP | The World post-Achmea; National courts' treatment of investment arbitration

Moderator: Panel discussion

Helsinki, Finland (hybrid), 15 November 2022

Hannes Snellman Dispute Resolution Seminar | Protecting investments and investment arbitration — What should every company investing abroad know about it?

Panellist

Online, 25 October 2022

Foreign-qualified arbitration lawyers in Germany | Is Germany Ready to Become a Leading Arbitration Hub?

Panellist

Berlin, Germany, 14 September 2022

DIS40 | Autumn conference

Speaker: Business and Human Rights Disputes

Online, 19 January 2022

Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners (YAWP) | Diversity in International Arbitration: the Client's Perspective

Moderator: Panel discussion

Online, 30 September 2021

MuteOff Weekly Knowledge-Exchange and Networking for Women in International Arbitration

Presenter: EU BIT Termination Agreement

London, UK (online), 14 May 2021

White & Case, Clifford Chance, HSF, EFILA, Queen Mary University | LIDW 2021 | Challenges and Opportunities in Investor-State Dispute Settlement

Speaker: Personal Scope of Investment Treaties

Berlin, Germany (online), 12 February 2021

Humboldt Moot Association | Berlin Premoot Opening event

Speaker: "Can you hear me now?" The unmuted practitioner's perspective on virtual hearings

Brussels, Belgium (online), 29 October 2020

EFILA 6th Annual Lecture | Investors' Perceptions of ISDS – A Moral Philosophy Approach to ISDS

Moderator: Panel discussion and Q&A with Corporate Counsel

Prague, Czech Republic, 9 November 2019

Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic and KPMG | 9th Investment Arbitration Conference | Practical Session for Respondent States

Speaker: Appointing Outside Counsel – If, When, How and Who?

Prague, Czech Republic, 26 April 2019

CIArb (Chartered Institute of Arbitrators) European Branch Annual Conference | Anti-Globalization and International Arbitration: Winds of Change and Protest in Europe?

Speaker: Swiss Perspective on Brexit and Arbitration

Prague, Czech Republic, 25 October 2018

Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic and KPMG | 8th Investment Arbitration Conference

Speaker: Annulment – Proposed changes to ICSID Rules

Geneva, Switzerland, 26 September 2018

International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR Young & International) | Arbitration War Stories – What They Don't Teach You at Law School

Speaker: The Uzan saga

Lausanne, Switzerland, 29 May 2018

University of Lausanne | LL.M. International Business Law

Lecturer: Introduction to Investment Arbitration

Accra, Ghana, 16-17 April 2018

Africa International Legal Awareness (AILA) | Training in Resolving International Trade and Investment Disputes

Moderator of practical exercise (with Steven Finizio): Jurisdiction of investment arbitration tribunals

Prague, Czech Republic, 25 October 2017

Young ICCA (International Council for Commercial Arbitration) | Interim Measures in Investment Treaty Arbitration

Speaker: Enforcement of decisions on interim measures within the arbitration context

Cairo, Egypt, 2 April 2017

Africa International Legal Awareness (AILA) | A Paradigm Shift in International Investment Law

Speaker: From Investment Protection to Investment Facilitation and Promotion

Frankfurt, Germany, 7 March 2017

ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (YAF) | Investment Arbitration in Challenging Times – Issue Conflicts and the Problem of Legitimacy

Speaker: Prior statements regarding similar legal questions in arbitral decisions or legal publications

Riga, Latvia, 2-3 June 2016

5th DIS Baltic Arbitration Days 2016 | The Relation between State Courts and Arbitral Tribunals

Speaker: Perspectives – Switzerland and England

Frankfurt, Germany, 1 June 2016

DIS40 | Pitfalls and Strategies in Communication with Arbitral Tribunals

Speaker: Different advocacy channels to effectively communicate with tribunals

Helsinki, Finland, 27-28 May 2016

Co-Chairs' Circle 2nd Global Conference | Controversy in International Arbitration

Moderator: Initiatives aimed at naming or shaming arbitrators – could they work?

Bucharest, Romania, 16 October 2015

The Law School of Bucharest University and ICC Young Arbitrators Forum | States and State Entities in International Arbitration

Speaker: Counterclaims in investment arbitration

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 August 2015

ELSA (European Law Students Association) Switzerland | 2nd Summer School on Arbitration

Lecturer: Corruption in International Arbitration

Geneva, Switzerland, 23 July 2015

University of California, Davis | Summer School on Global Inequality
Lecturer: Introduction to Investment Arbitration

London, UK, 25-27 June 2015

Global ICC YAF Conference

Speaker: The future of the practice of international arbitration – Who Owns the Process?

Tallinn, Estonia, 23 April 2015

Young Arbitration Club Finland (YACF) | Independence and Impartiality of Arbitrators

Speaker: Independence and Impartiality of Arbitrators in Small Countries

Arusha, Tanzania, 16-20 February 2015

African Institute of International Law | Training Workshop on Bilateral Investment Treaties and Arbitration

Teacher: Modules 2-3: Core Principles of International Investment Law and Standards of Investment Protection

London, UK, 3 December 2014

LCIA Young International Arbitration Group | The Future of European Investment Protection and ISDS

Debater: This house believes that the new EU Regulation on financial responsibility for EU investor-state disputes will hinder Investors in bringing Investor-state claims (opposing motion)

Hamburg, Germany, 19 November 2014

ICC Young Arbitrators Forum | The Future of Investment Arbitration - TTIP, Transparency and other Trends

Speaker: Narrower Substantive Standards of Protection?

E-learning course, March-April 2011, May-June 2012, April-May 2014

UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) | Introduction to Investment Arbitration

Course organiser and Moderator: Introduction and Procedure

Frankfurt, Germany, 10 March 2014

Alumni and Friends of the School of International Arbitration and Deutscher Anwaltverein | Germany as Seat of Arbitration

Panellist: The Process of International Arbitration: Are Procedural Practices still divergent or are they converging?

Milan, Italy, 6-7 June 2013

Università Commerciale “L.Bocconi” / Centre for Trade and Economic Integration (CTEI) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies | The Use of Economics in International Arbitration

Speaker: The Intersection of micro-and macroeconomics: Impact of causes of action and defences on damages in investment arbitration

Geneva, Switzerland, 31 May 2013

ASA Below 40 and ICDR Young & International | The empty chair – arbitrating against absent respondents

Speaker: Resisting enforcement of awards by non-appearing respondents

London, UK, 26 March 2012

QMUL School of International Arbitration and ICC Institute of World Business Forum | Interim Relief in Arbitration | 27th Annual Colloquium of Arbitrators

Speaker: Enforcement of Interim Measures – Further Action by the Arbitral Tribunal

Vienna, Austria, 27 March 2010

YAAP and ICC Young Arbitrators Forum | Young Approaches to Arbitration

Speaker: The impact of European Community Law on International Arbitration – EU Law and BITs: Recent Developments

Washington DC, USA, 17 May 2007

Juris Conferences | International Investment Arbitration: Debate and Discussion

Speaker: Where's my Umbrella? A Look Inside the Umbrella Clause Debate
