



Paula Hodges QC Partner

Head of global arbitration practice, London

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Experience

Paula heads Herbert Smith Freehills' Global Arbitration Practice and has over 30 years' experience of advising on international disputes, particularly in the energy and natural resources, telecommunications and technology sectors. She specialises in international arbitration and has represented clients in many jurisdictions (including London, Paris, Geneva, Zurich, Stockholm, the US, Canada, Dubai, Africa, Asia, Russia and the CIS) in ad hoc arbitration and proceedings under the auspices of the major arbitral institutions. She also sits as an arbitrator.

Paula has been closely involved in several high profile cases before the High Court in London, and has also appeared before the Court of Appeal and House of Lords (now the Supreme Court). She became a QC in 2014 and President of the LCIA Court in May 2019.

Professional background

Paula studied law at the University of Cambridge and graduated in 1986 with an M.A. in Law.

Arbitrator credentials

- Acting as co-arbitrator in an ICC Arbitration between a Norwegian and a Luxembourg entity.
- Acting as presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration concerning a dispute relating to the Zambian power sector.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in relation to alleged misrepresentation, breach of contract and breach of warranty in respect of a contract for the expansion of an ethanol production facility.
- Acting as chair of the tribunal in an SCC (Stockholm Chamber of Commerce) arbitration between two BVI companies and an individual in relation to a loan agreement dispute.
- Acting as chair of the tribunal in an LCIA arbitration regarding a dispute between various Ukrainian entities in relation to an investment agreement.
- Acting as chair of the tribunal in an ICC arbitration in relation to a dispute over shares in a media company in Turkey.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in relation to a dispute between US technology conglomerate and a software company relating to alleged breaches of contract and other causes of action regarding the development of gesture recognition technology.
- Acting as chair of the tribunal in an LCIA arbitration to determine a dispute between an Indonesian coal producer and a Swiss subsidiary of a Russian coal trading company.
- Acting as a party-nominated arbitrator in an ICC arbitration concerning a dispute relating to offshore oil and gas projects in South Africa.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration arising out of a production and distribution agreement between an Italian audiovisual producer and distributor and an American producer of television programmes.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in LCIA proceedings under the UNCITRAL Rules concerning a dispute between a US national and a private equity fund concerning the exercise of a Put Option relating to the transfer of shares in a steel foundry in Poland.
- Acting as co-arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration relating to a dispute between Belize state entities and the shareholders of the national telecommunications provider.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration concerning a dispute arising out of a sales representative agreement between a US company and a Nigerian company.



- Acting as sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in a dispute concerning the performance of contract for the sale of aviation training devices by a US company to a Nigerian company.

Credentials acting as counsel

- Acting for a **biotechnology company** on a WIPO arbitration in a contractual dispute relating to a COVID-19 vaccine
- representing a **US energy major** in arbitration proceedings under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules relating to a post M&A dispute concerning an offshore oil field in the North Sea
- representing a **US healthcare company** in ICC arbitration proceedings seated in London arising in relation to claims from an M&A transaction. The matter has complex issues of contractual interpretation and of limitation
- representing an **Asian private equity firm** in an ICC arbitration in Hong Kong concerning a post M&A dispute relating to alleged breaches of warranty and covenant (including breach of the applicable law warranty), as well as fraudulent misrepresentation and negligence connected to the sale of an insurance company (claim over US\$1 billion)
- advising a major **Korean construction company** in relation to a multi-billion ICC arbitration arising out of the design and construction of an offshore subsea gas pipeline system in the Middle East.
- representing **SCF II**, a subsidiary of the major African urban land development group, **Rendeavour**, in an LCIA arbitration in relation to the Tatu City project in Kenya
- advising **multinational mining company** in ICC arbitration in NY relating to deficiencies in automated grinding system affecting production rates
- advising an **energy major** on arbitration proceedings brought in Singapore under the SIAC Rules in connection with a multi-billion dollar dispute arising from a Share Purchase Agreement by which the company acquired an interest in an offshore oil production company with a number of assets in the North Sea
- advising the **United States of America** in various LCIA arbitrations against Canada in respect of softwood lumber imports into the US
- representing **Eastern European telecoms authority** in an ICC arbitration regarding development of an air traffic control system
- advising **US energy major** in relation to an equity redetermination of the participating interests in a Nigerian oil field involving ad hoc arbitration proceedings and litigation before the Nigerian courts
- advising **energy independent** in relation to ICC arbitration regarding joint venture dispute in Papua New Guinea
- representing **Nigerian energy company** in a LCIA arbitration regarding the ownership of an oil mining lease off-shore Nigeria and advising in relation to satellite litigation in the UK and Nigeria
- representing **joint venture of international energy companies** in an ICC arbitration regarding the gas supply to an LNG plant in a West African country
- advising **multinational commodities company** in various arbitrations regarding long-term supply of coal and other minerals
- representing **multinational drinks company** in ICC arbitration regarding franchises in Algeria
- representing **Canadian energy company** in ICC arbitration regarding the purchase of oil and gas interests in Kazakhstan
- advising a **Russian entrepreneur** in relation to recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award in Russia and other jurisdictions
- representing **US energy corporation** in LCIA arbitration in a shareholder dispute regarding the application of pre-emption rights to a wind farm project in Europe
- representing a **global travel services provider** in various disputes with airlines and other related entities in a number of different countries including the Middle East
- representing **Korean industrial company** in a LCIA arbitration relating to the supply of aluminium
- representing **multinational defence company** in ICC arbitration regarding a licence granted by an Italian company to manufacture naval weapons
- representing **UK energy company** in shareholder dispute over construction of a LNG facility in the UK



- representing **Telecom Malaysia** in expropriation claim against the Government of Ghana under bilateral investment treaty
- representing **European utilities company** in ICC arbitration against an Indonesian counterparty over a coal supply contract
- representing **European power company** in ICC arbitration with generator in Spain regarding application of CO2 emissions regulations
- representing **energy major** in an ICC arbitration relating to a petrochemicals licence agreement
- advising various **multinational energy companies** regarding upstream and midstream disputes relating to their oil, gas and LNG interests in Africa (including Nigeria and Egypt)
- representing **energy major** in ICC arbitration concerning an LNG project in Iran
- advising **multinational consortium** in various disputes regarding pipeline project in the Caspian
- advising **UK independent** regarding exploration activities in the Yemen and Mauritania
- advising **host state** on potential claim under the Energy Charter Treaty
- advising **US energy major** regarding dispute relating to offshore Canadian project
- advising various **energy companies** on variety of disputes relating to their Caspian interests
- advising **drilling contractor** regarding potential ICC arbitration with energy company in relation to a project in Chad
- representing energy trading arm of **investment bank** in expert determination regarding electricity trading dispute
- representing **international management company** in an ICC arbitration relating to management of the World Trade Centre in Dubai
- advising **UK telecoms company** on potential LCIA arbitration against equipment supplier
- representing **Asian network provider** in various disputes subject to arbitration
- representing **BP Amoco** and others in a dispute with Enron regarding the CATS gas pipeline in the Central North Sea resulting in a damages award from the House of Lords of over £100 million
- representing **Amerada Hess** in the Commercial Court and Court of Appeal in a dispute with the Bluewater Group
- representing **Premier Oil** in a Commercial Court action brought by Bow Valley regarding joint venture in Iran

Accolades

- Paula Hodges QC is head of the global arbitration department. She receives accolades for her high-quality arbitration practice, acting for an impressive roster of clients across Africa and Asia. She also serves as president of the LCIA.

"She's very experienced, tactically and strategically strong, understands the dynamics of the tribunal and can approach a case from the other side's perspective." "She is one of the leading arbitrators globally. Her oral advocacy is really remarkable."

Chambers UK 2022 – International Arbitration

- Paula Hodges QC is recognised in the Hall of Fame for International Arbitration
Legal 500 UK 2022

- Sources praise Paula Hodges QC for her *"great strategic mind and great insight."* She leads the firm's global arbitration practice and is president of the LCIA. She is noted for her experience in complex commercial arbitrations in the energy space, with further activity in the IT and hospitality sectors. A client praises the service she provided, noting: *"Her strengths are the ability to find ways to help the client even from a very difficult angle. She also knows how to make things simple and easy for clients."*

Chambers Europe 2021 – International Arbitration

- London-based Paula Hodges QC is lauded by commentators, who state: *"She is quality all the way. She should teach the master course on client management and satisfaction."* She heads the firm's global arbitration practice and handles matters across Africa as part of her worldwide disputes practice.

Chambers Global 2021 - Dispute Resolution - Africa-wide

- Paula Hodges QC is a renowned London-based arbitration counsel whose expertise sees her managing commercial arbitrations across Europe, Africa and Asia. Market commentators appreciate that *"she has a no-nonsense approach and is very commercial and very professional,"* and one source states that *"Paula is really one*



of the leading arbitration counsel in the world."

Chambers Global Market Leaders 2021 – Arbitration (International)

- Paula Hodges QC is a "terrific role model and an outstanding lawyer" who is certainly "one of the leading oil and gas lawyers in the UK" and "stands alone in terms of experience and quality".
Who's Who Legal – Arbitration 2021
- The 'excellent' Paula Hodges QC leads the firm's global arbitration practice. London-based Hodges advises on large scale disputes spanning a broad spectrum of industry sectors. She attracts widespread praise for her representation of major energy clients.
Chambers Global 2020
- Paula Hodges QC is widely renowned for her capabilities in disputes, most significantly in the energy sector. She is active in arbitrations across the region and is particularly renowned in the market for her presence in the Nigerian market. Sources note that she is "at the sharp end" with "a first-place reputation; she is a real leader."
Chambers Global 2020
- The 'superb' Paula Hodges QC "is a legend of the market" and a "very knowledgeable arbitrator".
Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2020
- "Paula Hodges QC... brings a wealth of talent to the team."
Legal 500 UK 2020 – International Arbitration
- Paula Hodges QC demonstrates high-level expertise in commercial arbitration as both advocate and arbitrator, handling complex cases in the energy and technology sectors. Sources say she is a "very able cross-examiner" who "knows what tribunals want, has tons of experience and is top drawer."
Chambers UK 2020 - International Arbitration: Arbitrators and International Arbitration: Commercial Arbitration
- Paula Hodges QC is an esteemed lawyer in the energy sector, acting for clients in international arbitrations. Her core expertise is in disputes involving oil and gas assets in Africa. Sources appreciate that "she really understands the industry," while one client notes: "She does a terrific job of making sure she presents the case concisely and addressing issues appropriately."
Chambers UK 2020: Energy & Natural Resources: Disputes
- Paula Hodges QC is an authority on energy litigation and international arbitrations, particularly those stemming from African developments. One source states: "She stands out because she has a very good way of delivering a message."
Chambers UK 2019
- Paula Hodges QC attracts praise from market commentators for her depth of experience as an advocate, with sources recognising her to be a "well-known" practitioner who is "very good - and rightly in Band 1."
Chambers UK 2019
- One client says: "I've been very impressed. She is very commercial, practical, has good judgement, and is measured in what she does."
Chambers UK 2019
- Global international arbitration head Paula Hodges QC is 'a seasoned arbitration lawyer who is very good at handling client relationships at a senior level as well as reassuring nervous witnesses'. She is named as a Leading Individual, featuring in Legal 500's Hall of Fame.
Legal 500 UK 2019 – International Arbitration
- Paula Hodges QC, ranked in Band 1, is a vastly experienced energy lawyer with a strong arbitration and litigation practice. She is particularly well versed in advising on Africa-related disputes. "She's a very good lawyer - calm, direct and a dangerous opponent," says one source.
Chambers UK 2019: Energy & Natural Resources: Disputes

Recent publications

- Contributed to "Clear Path or Jungle in Commercial Arbitrators' Conflict of Interest?" (ed. Felix Dasser) on: "**The Debate: Is There Enough Uniformity? Not Enough? More than Enough?**", delivered on 7 February 2020 and published in ASA Special Series No. 48 (2021)
- "**Austrian Yearbook on International Arbitration 2015**" – contributed chapter entitled "**The proliferation of "Soft Laws" in International Arbitration: Time to Draw the Line?**".
- "**Arbitration in England**" 2013 – contributed chapter entitled "**Duties of Arbitrators**".



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- **"Drive for Efficiency and the Risks for Procedural Neutrality – Another Tale of the Hare and the Tortoise?"** October 2012 – Dispute Resolution International.
- **"The perils of complete transparency in international arbitration – should parties be exposed to the glare of publicity?"** July 2012 – The Paris Journal of International Arbitration.
- **"Liquefied Natural Gas – The Law and Business of LNG – Second Edition"** 2012 – contributed chapter entitled "LNG – a minefield for disputes?"
- **"Arbitration World" 2010** – contributed ICC chapter.
- **"The Relevance of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights in the context of Arbitration Proceedings"** – International Arbitration Law Review 2007.
- **"Arbitration World" 2006** – contributed ICC chapter.
- **"PLC Legal Risk Management" 2005 – contributed chapter entitled "Minimising the risk of litigation".**
- **"Reflections on International Law" 2004** – contributed chapter entitled "Arbitrating International Energy Disputes".

Memberships

- LCIA (London Court of International Arbitration) – President of the LCIA Court and Member of the LCIA Board
- IDRC – Director
- ICC London (International Chamber of Commerce)
- IBA (International Bar Association)
- Member of the PLC Arbitration Consultation Board
- Member of Board of Advisers to *The Gravitas Review of Business & Property Law*, Nigeria
- BIICL (British Institute of International Comparative Law)
- ASA (Association Suisse de l'arbitrage)
- ILA (International Law Association)
- AIA (Association for International Arbitration)