

Ramona Elisabeta CIRLIG

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Nationality: Romanian

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PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Founder
RC International Disputes
Bucharest, Romania
(July 2023 - present)

Attorney-at-Law
Litigation & Arbitration
Mușat & Asociații, Bucharest
(2012 – July 2023)

Communication Assistant
United Nations Population
Fund (UNFPA), Bucharest
(2008 – 2009)

Internship
United Nations Information
Center (UNIC), Bucharest
(2007 - 2008)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Private International
Law / International
Arbitration (*magna cum
laude*), Faculty of Law,
University of Bucharest (2017
– 2021), with a thesis on
“Conflict of laws in
international arbitration”

LL.M in International and
European Law (*magna cum
laude*), Institute for European
Studies, Vrije Universiteit

Mrs Cirlig is a Bucharest (Romania) based attorney-at-law, with over 12 years’ experience, specialized in international arbitration, as well as domestic arbitration and litigation, with a focus on construction, infrastructure, IT, telecommunications, movie industry, energy, natural resources, FIDIC contracts, EFET contracts, joint venture agreements, corporate disputes. She is notable for her expertise in private international law (conflict of laws) and EU law, and has developed particular knowledge in business and human rights matters. Furthermore, she provides legal assistance in arbitration related litigation, including recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, annulment proceedings, as well as provisional and interim measures in support of arbitration.

Mrs Cirlig has been involved, as Counsel or Tribunal secretary, in institutional arbitrations (governed by ICC, VIAC, DIS, IFTA, CCIR-CICA rules), and ad hoc arbitrations (UNCITRAL rules), with the seat of arbitration in Bucharest, Paris, Geneva, Bonn.

After more than 10 years of working in the Litigation & Arbitration Department of a top-tier Romanian law firm, Mrs Cirlig has recently founded RC International Disputes in order to be able to focus on Arbitrator and Tribunal secretary work.

Mrs Cirlig is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Panel Member of the Business Arbitration Scheme. She is also listed on AIAC Panel of Arbitrators, and included in LCIA Database of Arbitrators.

Prior to joining the Bucharest Bar as an attorney, she gained valuable experience in human rights law while working for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and interning with the United Nations Information Center.

Mrs Cirlig obtained her Ph.D at the Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest focusing her research on conflict of laws in

Brussels, Belgium (2010 – 2011)
Thesis: *“Public policy and the enforcement of international commercial arbitration awards and of foreign judgements: comparative analysis of English, French and German Laws”*

LL.B
Faculty of Law, “Nicolae Titulescu” University, Bucharest, Romania (2004 – 2009)

BA in PR and Communication – specialization in Advertising
Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political and Administrative Studies (SNSPA), Bucharest, Romania (2004 – 2008)

CERTIFICATIONS

FIDIC Claims – Making, Defending and Resolving Claims under the FIDIC 1999 Contracts, Cornerstone Seminars and ARIC Romanian Member Association. Trainer: Mr. Taner Dedezade (May 2016)

International Summer School in IT Law - Leibniz Universität Hannover, Institut für Rechtsinformatik, Germany (July – August 2011)

Francois Negotiation Course Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Doctoral School of Human Sciences; Training conducted by Prof. Dr. Alain-Laurent Verbeke based on the materials and the model developed by the Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School (April – May 2011)

international arbitration. She holds a BA in Law from the University Nicolae Titulescu in Bucharest, and a LLM in International and European Law – Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, graduated *magna cum laude*. She also holds a BA in PR and Communication Sciences from the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations, National School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest.

Mrs Cirlig regularly publishes and lectures on private international law (conflict of laws), international arbitration, and business and human rights matters.

Mrs Cirlig was awarded by the Romanian Lawyers Union the 2022 "Viorel Mihai Ciobanu" Award, in the field of civil procedural law and private international law, for the book *Conflict of Laws in International Arbitration*.

Mrs Cirlig has been ranked as a Rising Star (Legal 500, 2021), with clients saying: *“Ramona Cirlig impressed us with her excellent knowledge of international trade law, by finding solutions where none seems to exist. She moves easily through various legal systems, civil law and common law, always considers the EU law impact, and provides clear and effective legal advice on cross-boundary disputes.”*

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Selection of cases

Member of the legal team representing a major Romanian energy supply and trading company in three complex international arbitrations before the German Arbitration Institute (seat of arbitration: Paris, Bonn), and before the Court of International Commercial Arbitration attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania (seat of arbitration: Bucharest), deriving from EFET international agreements for the sale of electricity and involving multiple claims, with an amount in dispute in excess of EUR 8,000,000.

Member of legal team advising and representing a major European energy group in an ICC arbitration (seat of arbitration Paris) deriving from the agreement for the privatization of a branch of the national electricity supply and distribution company, involving multiple claims in excess of USD 1,200,000,000. The dispute raised challenging issues related to the corporate, commercial, taxation, environmental and energy sectors.

Member of the legal team advising and representing a major European energy group in connection with a high-stake ICC

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (London)

Member of the Bucharest Bar Association

Member of ICCA

Member of EAPIL (European Association of Private International Law)

Member of the Swiss Arbitration Association

Member of the Luxembourg Arbitration Association

LANGUAGES

Romanian – native

English C2

Certificate of Participation - Legal English Training, British Council (2010); Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (2007)

French C1

Diplôme de Français Professionnel Juridique (2011), Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Paris; Diplôme de Langue Française (2003), Alliance Française.

German A1

Goethe Institut

COMPUTER SKILLS

Operating systems: Windows, Ubuntu

Microsoft Office tools (ECDL Certificate 2008)

Adobe Acrobat suite

Legal software and databases

international arbitration with an amount of dispute in excess of EUR 500,000,000.

Member of legal team advising and representing a world leader in the construction and maintenance of infrastructure for transport, urban development and facilities, in multiple ICC arbitrations (seats of arbitration Geneva, Paris and Bucharest), with amounts in dispute exceeding USD 150,000,000 arising out of international construction agreements regarding major road infrastructure projects.

Member of legal team advising a major Austrian constructor regarding ways to enforce through arbitration dispute adjudication decisions issued under FIDIC auspices.

Member of legal team advising and representing an international joint venture in arbitration proceedings instituted against the Romanian State under ICC auspices in connection with rehabilitation works a major national railway.

Member of the legal team representing a major Spanish Engineering Design company in connection with an arbitration before the Court of International Commercial Arbitration attached to the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry involving claims in excess of EUR 2,000,000 deriving from a Joint Venture agreement.

Member of legal team advising a leading international provider of facilities solutions to the oil & gas production and processing industry, in connection with potential disputes deriving from a Production Enhancement Services Agreement, tackling also aspects related to the liability of a parent company for the contractual obligations of its subsidiary and disclosure obligations under ICC arbitration proceedings.

Representing the Romanian National Railway Company “CFR” S.A. in a high-stake international commercial arbitration under the ICC Rules entailing multiple claims and counterclaims regarding a multitude of complex contractual, jurisdictional, and legal matters. The dispute arose in connection with one of the largest infrastructure project in Romania estimated at EUR 828 million and financed by the European Investment Bank and the European Union regarding the rehabilitation of a major railway border line.

Representing Romanian Television Broadcasting Network in a complex arbitration administered under the Independent Film Television Alliance Arbitration Rules (seat of arbitration: California) arising out of a film license agreement, involving claims of approximately EUR 5,000,000. The dispute entailed the analysis of complex aspects of international arbitration procedure, the application of international private law and

European Union law, as well as various issues of substantive law pertaining to the film and media industry.

Representing an important local construction and engineering company in a complex arbitration in front of the Court of International Commercial Arbitration attached to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania, in relation to claims in excess of EUR 1,500,000 deriving from a FIDIC contract regarding a major project for the extension of water and sewage systems.

Representing the Romanian National Railway Company “CFR” S.A. in a complex ICC arbitration concerning the performance of a FIDIC agreement for the modernisation of Timisoara rail station, one of the oldest and major rail hubs in Romania. The aggregate amounts claimed by the parties in arbitration round up to EUR 3,500,000.

Representing two important local construction companies, in a complex ICC arbitration arising from the performance of several construction agreements for the rehabilitation of the Cluj East City Belt, in relation to claims in excess of EUR 300,000.

LITIGATION

Selection of cases

Representing an important local construction and engineering company in a high-stake preliminary ruling procedure in front of the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding the interpretation of article 57 (4) letter g) of the Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC. The preliminary ruling arose in connection with the interpretation of “significant or persistent deficiencies”, as grounds for exclusion.

Member of the legal team representing a Turkish infrastructure company in connection with various claims deriving from FIDIC contracts.

Member of the legal team representing a major Spanish engineering design company in connection with various claims deriving from different supervision and design agreements regarding infrastructure works of national interest.

Member of the legal team having assisted an important Belgian bakery group in relation to an investigation conducted by the Control and Anti-Fraud Directorate of the Payments Agency for Rural Development and Fishery (APDRP) regarding the alleged misuse of European funds.

Member of the legal team having assisted and represented one of the Romanian major mutual insurance company, with regard to a series of disputes arising from insurance contracts.

Member of the legal team having assisted and represented a privately owned Romanian company specialized in construction-installation of telecommunications networks, low current installations, facilities of water and sewer, in relation to various commercial litigations, as well as execution proceedings initiated by one of its providers in order to recover an alleged commercial debt.

Member of the legal team having assisted and represented various clients in the area of family law, in relation to divorce proceedings in front of the notary public or in court, partition of common assets, establishing the residence of the child and the form of parental authority, including the emergency proceedings for establishing the temporary residence of the child.

Member of the legal team having assisted and represented a public figure in relation to litigation on a claim for a restraining order.

SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

Conflictul de legi in arbitrajul international (Conflict of laws in international arbitration), Ed. Universul Juridic, Bucuresti, 2022.

Cadrul procedural adoptat de ICANN pentru rezolvarea disputelor privind numele de domenii ca sursa de inspiratie pentru procedurile arbitrale contemporane (The procedural framework adopted by ICANN for solving domain name disputes as a model for contemporary arbitral proceedings), in Ciprian Raul Romitan, Paul-George Buta, In Honorem Viorel Ros, Studii de drept privat si public, Ed. Hamangiu, Bucuresti, 2021, co-authored with Gheorghe Buta.

International execution against Judgment Debtors, Thomson Reuters, 2021, co-author of the chapter on Romanian jurisdiction

International execution against Judgment Debtors, Thomson Reuters 2020, co-author of the chapter on Romanian jurisdiction.

The Interplay Between Courts and Tribunals Assures Access to Justice (Chapter 4) in Leonardo Valladares Pacheco de Oliveira and Dr Sara Hourani (Eds.), Access to Justice in Arbitration: Concept, Context and Practice, Wolters Kluwer, Nov 1, 2020.

Atragerea raspunderii contractuale pentru incalcarea conventiei arbitrale (Undertaking contractual liability for breaking the arbitration agreement), Revista Romana de Arbitraj (Romanian Arbitration Journal) 2/2020.

Competenta tribunalului arbitral in disputele privind anularea documentului constatator emis de autoritatile contractante (Jurisdiction of arbitral tribunals over disputes for annulment of public procurement certificates issued by contracting authorities), Revista Romana de Arbitraj (Romanian Arbitration Journal) 1/2020.

Party Autonomy in Determining the Rules of Law Applicable in International Commercial Arbitration and its Limits derived from the New York Convention, Spain Arbitration Review, No. 34/2019.

The Arbitral Tribunal's Authority to Determine the Applicable Law in International Commercial Arbitration: Patterns and Trends, Tribuna Juridica, Vol. 9, nr. 1, martie 2019.

O noua paradigma la inceputul mileniului al III-lea: drepturile omului in arbitrajul international (A New Paradigm at the Beginning of the Third Millenium: Human Rights in International Arbitration), in Marian Nicolae, Radu Rizoii, Laura Toma-Dauceanu (editori coord.), In Honorem Valeriu Stoica. Drepturi, libertati si puteri la inceputul mileniului al III-lea (Rights, Freedoms and Powers at the Beginning of the Third Millenium), Ed. Universul Juridic, Bucuresti, 2018, co-authored with Gheorghe Buta.

Allegations and Findings of Corruption in Commercial and Investment Arbitration, Revista Romana de Arbitraj (Romanian Arbitration Journal), No. 1/2017, co-authored with Luminita Popa.

Business and Human Rights: from Soft Law to Hard Law?, Tribuna Juridica (Juridical Tribune), Vol. 6, No. 2, December 2016.

The Energy Charter Treaty and Settlement of Disputes – Current Challenges, Tribuna Juridica (Juridical Tribune), Vol. 6, No. 1, June 2016, co-authored with Iuliana Iacob.

Public Policy and the Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards: Comparative Analysis of English, French and German Laws, Studii și cercetări juridice (Juridical Studies and Research), No. 1/2016.

Universality and Personality Principles in the new Romanian Criminal Code in the context of Human Rights Universalization, in Mircea Dutu, Mihaela Tomita (Editors), New Criminal Legislation – an

important step in the development of Romanian Law, Publishing House: Medimond –Monduzzi Editore International Proceedings Division, Bologna, 2014.

Contract de antrepriză cu element de extraneitate. Competența materială (Contractor agreement with a foreign element. Subject-matter jurisdiction), *Revista Română de Jurisprudență* (Romanian Case Law Review), No. 1/2014.

Raport juridic cu element de extraneitate. Norme conflictuale. Determinarea legii aplicabile (Legal relationship with foreign element. Conflicting rules. Choice of Law), *Revista Română de Jurisprudență* (Romanian Case Law Review), No. 5/2013.

A common investment policy for the European Union: what does it mean for Romania and Bulgaria?, *Studii și cercetări juridice* (Juridical Studies and Research), No. 4/2013, co-authored with Victoria Petrikova.

Private International Law Today: Status, Content and Variability in a Global Society, *Studii și cercetări juridice* (Juridical Studies and Research), No. 3/2013, co-authored with Dr. Gheorghe Buta.

SELECTION OF CONFERENCES

Lecturer at the International Conference “The Energy Charter Treaty and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms”, Thessaloniki, 5 October 2024, organized by the International Hellenic University in collaboration with the University of Cyprus, under the auspices of ICC Hellas, with a presentation on “The Energy Charter Treaty before the European Court for Human Rights: energy disputes and human rights, friends or foes?”.

Lecturer at the International Conference “Access to Justice and Arbitration”, London, 7 June 2019, organized by the School of Law at Royal Holloway, University of London and the School of Law at Middlesex University, with a paper on “Interplay between courts and tribunals assures access to justice”.

Lecturer at the 12th Annual Graduate Law Conference and the Dean Maxwell and Isle Cohen Seminar on International Law, 8-9 May 2019, Montréal, Canada, organized by The Graduate Law Students Association (GLSA) of McGill University’s Faculty of Law, with a presentation on “Agile Law: between Reactive and Proactive law”.

Lecturer at the International Conference “60 Years of the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. Key Issues and Future Challenges”, Loyola University Andalusia, 4-6 April 2018, Sevilla, organized by: Universidad Loyola Andalucia, UNCITRAL, Universidad Zaragoza, Club Espanol del Arbitraje, with a paper on “Party Autonomy in Determining the Rules of Law Applicable in International Commercial Arbitration and its Limits derived from the New York Convention”.

Lecturer at the International Conference "Perspectives of Business Law in the Third Millennium", 16 November 2018, organised by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, with a paper on “The Arbitral Tribunal’s Authority to Determine the Applicable Law in International Commercial Arbitration: Patterns and Trends”.

Lecturer at the international conference "Perspectives of Business Law in the Third Millennium", organised by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, with a paper entitled “Business and Human Rights: from Soft Law to Hard Law?”, Bucharest, 25 November 2016.

Lecturer at the international conference “New Criminal Legislation – an important step in the development of Romanian Law”, organized by the Romanian Academy’s Institute of Legal Studies, with a paper entitled “Universality and Personality Principles in the new Romanian Criminal Code in the context of Human Rights Universalization”, Bucharest, 21 March 2014.