



Christian Leathley Partner

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Experience

Christian is co-head of the Latin America group and specialises in international commercial and investment arbitration. He is New York and English law qualified (and is now based full time in New York). He has acted for and advised individuals, corporations and sovereign states in cases arising from all major industry sectors, including under the rules of the ICC, ICSID, LCIA, AAA (ICDR), CAS and UNCITRAL.

Christian regularly appears as an advocate before arbitral tribunals in many different jurisdictions in both English and Spanish. He also frequently lectures on international arbitration, is currently adjunct professor at New York University School of Law, and was formerly a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Christian has a particular focus on disputes relating to Latin America, and has authored a number of books, articles and other legal publications including *International Dispute Resolution in Latin America: An Institutional Overview* (published by Kluwer Law International in 2007, new edition forthcoming in 2015). His sectoral experience includes the energy sector (oil and gas as well as renewables), mining, infrastructure and telecommunications.

Christian has extensive experience in the practice of public international law and has appeared before a number of different international courts and tribunals. He also has experience of working at the Organisation of American States in Washington, D.C., where he worked at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

He is fluent in both English and Spanish and has a working knowledge of Brazilian Portuguese.

Key credentials*

- **The Kingdom of Spain** in various Energy Charter Treaty arbitrations under the UNCITRAL and SCC rules
- **The Republic of Costa Rica** in a CAFTA-DR claim commenced under the UNCITRAL rules
- a **Spanish** construction company in a dispute regarding its energy project in Peru
- a **major Brazilian oil company** in a series of infrastructure claims
- advising a **Colombian oil company** in international proceedings involving the alleged wrongs committed to workers including allegations of violations of Human Rights
- a **French oil company** in a series of potential ICSID claims against a South American country
- a **South American NOC** in a US\$500 million post-acquisition arbitration governed by New York law
- a **major Spanish infrastructure company** in a number of ICC arbitrations regarding a central Asian investment
- a **South American energy company** in a contractual dispute with consortium members arising out of its investment in Bolivia
- a **German and Peruvian joint venture** in an UNCITRAL bilateral investment treaty claim against a South American state
- a **South American corporation** in an ICC dispute against a state telecommunications enterprise, and a specialised organisation of the United Nations, governed by Swiss law, seat of arbitration in Geneva
- **The Republic of Venezuela** in a number of oil and gas related investment arbitrations including *ConocoPhillips Company and others v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (ICSID Case No. ARB/07/30); and *Mobil Corporation and others v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (ICSID Case No. ARB/07/27)*
- **The Republic of Venezuela** in *CEMEX Caracas Investments B.V. and CEMEX Caracas II Investments B.V. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (ICSID Case No. ARB/08/15); and *Holcim Limited, Holderfin B.V. and Caricement B.V. v. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela* (ICSID Case No. ARB/09/3)*
- a **Chilean mining company** in a series of construction related disputes governed by Chilean law



- a **Jamaican construction company** in an AIA international commercial arbitration with South East Asian contractors
- the **Governing bodies of tennis** in a CAS arbitration in the first match fixing case in tennis
- a number of **high profile Russian and American investors** in a multi-billion joint venture ICC dispute, governed by English law, seat of arbitration in London
- a **major New York Bank** in a US\$22 billion dispute with the Russian Federal Customs Service, before the Moscow courts
- a **leading German infrastructure company** in an ICC environmental arbitration with various UK manufacturing companies
- an **American manufacturing company** in an ICC arbitration governed by Hindu law, seat of arbitration Mumbai
- a **number of foreign investors** regarding their options following Bolivia's withdrawal from the ICSID Convention
- a **high profile Mexican businessman** in proceedings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights against Mexico
- a **major oil company** in both ICSID and expert determination proceedings (the latter run in accordance with the ICC Rules of Arbitration), against Bangladesh governed by Bangladeshi law, seat in Washington, D.C.

**This list includes experience prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills*

Accolades

- Christian Leathley shows '*deep technical knowledge*' and '*complete dedication to his clients' matters*', in addition to his '*valuable*' Spanish fluency and '*useful experience on both claimant and respondent side*'
[Legal 500 Latin America 2015](#)
- Christian Leathley is "*very good and very involved in the region,*" say interviewees. Peers are particularly impressed by his fluency and ability to plead in Spanish.
[Chambers Latin America 2015](#)
- Christian Leathley is 'a fantastic lawyer' with whom 'one can build a very comfortable working relationship'.
[Legal 500 Latin America 2014](#)
- Christian Leathley "*is the greatest international rising star.*" He acts as lead counsel on several of the team's most significant cases, and several sources highlight his impressive command of the Spanish language.
[Chambers Latin America 2014](#)
- "He is singled out by market commentators as "an excellent lawyer" and "a rising star," pointing to his assured handling of several sophisticated cases."
[Chambers Latin America 2013](#)
- "He's an experienced international arbitration lawyer, especially in handling Latin America disputes," say clients, "plus he's bright, proactive and efficient."
[Chambers Latin America 2012](#)
- "Very sharp, very smart"
[Legal 500 Latin America 2012](#)
- "He is fast becoming a prominent figure in the field and sources say: "He is a hugely talented lawyer."
[Chambers Latin America 2011](#)

Selected publications

- Author of Book: *International Dispute Resolution in Latin America: An Institutional Overview*, Kluwer Law International (The Netherlands), 2007 and forthcoming 2015 (also to be published in Spanish by Legis (Colombia))

Positions and memberships

- IBA Arbitration Committee member
- Member of Kluwer Arbitration Editorial Advisory Board since 2009
- Rapporteur for ICCA/ASIL Task Force on Issue Conflict in Investment Arbitration
- Member of the ICC Commission Task Force on Emergency Arbitrators