

PHILIP DUNHAM

Partner

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**Biography**

With over 30 years' experience as counsel in international arbitration, Philip represents multinational corporations, States, and State-owned entities in commercial and investment treaty arbitrations conducted under the rules of the world's leading arbitral institutions, including the ICC, LCIA, SCC, DIAC, HKIAC, ICSID, and UNCITRAL.

Philip has represented clients in numerous high-value, multi-jurisdictional disputes. He is widely recognised for his expertise in disputes involving construction and engineering, oil and gas, telecommunications, aviation, pharma, military procurement, and shareholder, agency, and joint venture matters.

Philip is particularly renowned for his work in South-East Asia and the MENA region, though his experience spans numerous jurisdictions worldwide, including Africa, South America, and the Balkans.

Philip's international arbitration practice increasingly encompasses appointments as arbitrator, serving sole arbitrator as well as co-arbitrator and as chair of tribunals.

In the recent Chambers France 2026 Guide, Philip is ranked for his international arbitration expertise and the Guide notes he "is very experienced lawyer with deep knowledge in commercial transactions and commercial arbitration." Commentators describe him as an "experienced advocate who knows what he is doing", and praise him for dealing "with very complex legal issues [for us] excellently." He is also recognised for paying "attention to the slightest details, both on factual and legal issues."

Philip has been recognised in the Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) every year since 2016 for his arbitration expertise in France. He is also ranked in Chambers France 2026 and in The Legal 500 EMEA 2026 Guide for international arbitration.

The Legal 500 notes Philip "is well versed in complex construction disputes and has a remarkable ability to master the multitude of facts that arise in such disputes. He offers clients sound advice and a measured perspective. He has deep experience in Asia and the Middle East, is perfectly fluent in English and French, and also sits as an arbitrator." The Guide also notes that Philip will "go to great lengths to learn about his clients – their industries, strengths, assets and liabilities, as well as their concerns, so as to be sure that the solutions he provides would be the most suitable and innovative solutions to suit his clients' needs." It further highlights Philip's "great analytical skills, such that he can parse through complex legal situations to reveal the critical issues at the core, and to then arrive at logical conclusions to resolve them." The Guide also states that Philip has "excellent people skills" and is "personable, persuasive and able to read others well."

Prior to joining Signature, Philip was a partner in Dechert's international arbitration practice in Paris for 18 years, and before that spent 13 years at Coudert Brothers in London and Paris.

Philip is a member of the International Bar Association, the Franco-British Lawyers Society, the French Arbitration Committee, the European Chinese Arbitrators Association and the Society of Construction Law. He also serves on the Steering Committee for the Delos Dispute Resolution Remote Oral Advocacy Programme (ROAP) and as a faculty member on the Delos ROAP programmes for EMEA and Construction.

Philip is admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales and to the Paris Bar.

He is a fluent English and French speaker, and also conversant in Spanish.

Selected Cases**Infrastructure and Construction Disputes**

- Representing a country in the MENA region in USD 2.6bn ad hoc investor-state arbitration involving issues of full protection and security, expropriation and fair and equitable treatment in the context of the Arab Spring events and concerning an investment into local infrastructure (e.g. water supply, roads) in remote regions.
- Representing a South American company in an ICC dispute against a state-owned company in the MENA region in a dispute exceeding USD 1bn in relation to the artesian wells drilled as part of the Great Man-Made River project in Libya, one of the largest engineering projects ever undertaken.
- Representing a joint venture of European construction companies in a c. USD 330m ICSID investment dispute with a Middle Eastern State relating to the construction of an urban highway.
- Representing a major Turkish construction company in a USD 80m ICC arbitration dispute against a Russian company arising out of the construction of a significant commercial high-rise development in Eastern Europe.
- Representing a UAE subsidiary of a major U.S. diversified security technology and manufacturing leader in a dispute against

a European contractor related to the expansion of an international civil airport in the UAE including issues of variations to the works, payment, delay and disruption and with the total value of claims and counterclaims c. USD 20m.

- Representing the Saudi affiliate of an Asian construction company against its Middle Eastern subcontractor in a c. USD 20m claim arising from the construction of the residential campus for a large energy research centre in the Middle East.

- Representing a leading European cement manufacturer in a USD 155m breach of warranty dispute with two Asian parties arising from widespread hidden defects in both the civil works and electrical and mechanical components of a newly-acquired industrial plant in the Philippines.
- Representing a European company in its defence of a series of arbitrations with a total value of c. USD 20m alleging defects in the design and construction of an offshore oil terminal in Europe.

- Representing a UAE company in two separate ICC arbitrations with the total value in excess of c. USD 30m related to the construction of oil storage facilities in the UAE and in Europe and involving issues of delay, variations, and unpaid IPCs.
- Representing a Balkan State in a EUR 12m claim arising from the construction of an international bridge and associated rail and road infrastructure against a Western European construction company and involving issues of delays and variations to the works.

Oil and Gas Disputes

- Representing a natural gas seller in a series of ICC and CRCICA arbitrations in Cairo and Madrid commenced by the buyer and owner of a liquefaction plant and arising out of a tolling agreement and a related long-term gas supply agreement with the total value of claims exceeding USD 4bn.
- Representing a South American country in a USD 3.5bn ICSID arbitration with a major US oil company in relation to the termination of a participation contract for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons involving issues of expropriation, as well as discriminatory and abusive conduct.

- Representing the Republic of Ecuador in two separate major, and high profile investor-state disputes with the total value of c. USD 3bn commenced by two consortium partners claiming expropriation of their oil & gas concessions.
- Representing a South American country in a USD 1.5bn ICSID arbitration with a major US oil company arising from the termination of a participation contract to explore and exploit oilfields, and a counterclaim for environmental harm.
- Representing a major U.S. oil company in USD 20mn ICC arbitration dispute against a West African state arising under a production sharing agreement and relating to the interpretation of the allocation of cost oil and profit oil.

- Representing a Middle Eastern multinational company in a claim brought by a major U.S. offshore drilling company for payments due in the amount of c. USD 15m under an alleged JV agreement for the provision of oil & gas drilling services in a Middle Eastern country.
- Representing a West African national oil company in a USD 8mn ICC arbitration dispute with an Asian party arising out of payment provisions under a contract for the acquisition of seismic data.
- Representing a Balkan State in an ICC arbitration in connection with the acquisition of a refinery and the purchaser's willingness and ability to produce guaranteed volumes of certain petroleum products.

Technology, Media and Telecommunications Disputes

- Telecoms, MENA, ICC – Representing a leading European telecoms company in a JV shareholders' dispute exceeding USD 1.5bn in relation to the largest mobile phone operator in a country in the MENA region.
- Telecoms, Africa, LCIA – Representing a European telecommunications company in a USD 30mn dispute arising out of SPAs for the acquisition of mobile networks in two African States and involving issues of contractual entitlement to payments made under the SPAs in the circumstances of non-completion of the underlying transactions.

Pharmaceutical Disputes

- Representing a European pharmaceutical in LCIA and HKIAC arbitrations arising from a dispute against its Asian joint venture partner pertaining to the promotion and distribution of its products in a South-East Asian state.
- Representing a US pharmaceutical company in an ICC arbitration brought by an Eastern European State entity regarding the acquisition of the latter's pharmaceutical stocks and outlets.
- Representing a US pharmaceutical company against an Eastern European State in an ICC arbitration involving expropriation of the client's local subsidiary, and a contractual dispute over the development of various cancer drugs.
- Representing a French subsidiary of an Asian pharmaceutical group in an ICC arbitration brought by a French manufacturer of generic pharmaceutical products in a dispute arising from a distribution and marketing agreement for a pharmaceutical product.

Procurement Disputes

- Representing an Asian state entity, over twenty years, in five arbitrations arising from two major military procurement contracts and the wrongful recourse to commissioned agents.

Publications

15 October 2024: Rapport statistique 2023 de la chambre de commerce internationale : la résurgence de l'arbitrage international – *Gazette du Palais*

7 October 2024: Les chiffres-clés de l'arbitrage CCI en 2023 – *La lettre Option Droit & Affaires*

9 September 2024: Les enseignements des statistiques de la Cour d'arbitrage internationale de la CCI pour 2023 – *Le Monde du Droit*

23 July 2024: ICC Court's 2023 Statistics Reflect Resurgence in Global Arbitration – *Law.com International*

April 2020: Dispute Boards: Another Potential Means of Resolving COVID-19 Disputes – *Dechert On-Point*

2019: Construction Arbitration and Concession Contracts – *Global Arbitration Review Construction Guide* – 3rd edition

2018: Construction Arbitration and Concession Contracts – *Global Arbitration Review Construction Guide* – 2nd edition

2017: Construction Arbitration and Concession Contracts – *Global Arbitration Review Construction Guide* – 1st edition

2015: France – *The European, Middle Eastern and African Arbitration Review*

March 2012: Third-party funding: snapshots from around the globe – *Global Arbitration Review*

November 2008 : La consolidation de l'arbitrage commercial international au Brésil : état des lieux en 2008 – *Décideurs Stratégie Finance Droit*

July 2008: The Use and Abuse of First Demand Guarantees in International Construction Projects – *International Construction Law Review*

March 2008: Third-Party Litigation Funding and International Arbitration (France) – *Global Arbitration Review*

December 2008: After 10 Years of Positive Developments, does Confusion Remain in Brazil's Arbitration Law? – *World Arbitration and Mediation Report & Revista de Arbitragem e Mediação* – December 2006

April 2006: Balancing Sovereignty and the Contractor's Rights in International Construction Arbitrations involving State Entities – *International Construction Law Review*

December 2005: L'Arbitrage en Amérique Latine : l'éveil du Brésil – *Magazine des Affaires*

July 2005: L'américanisation de l'arbitrage international – *Magazine des Affaires*

May 2005: Arbitrage international en Asie: brèves considérations – *Décideurs Juridiques et Financiers*

May 2004: Current Trends in Investment Treaty Arbitration – *Focus Europe*

Speaking Engagements

2020-2026: Delos Dispute Resolution Center, Remote Oral Advocacy Programme – online (2020-2026)

March 2026: China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission's seminar at Paris Arbitration Week, moderating panel on 'Procedural Rules: Convergence and Innovation for Efficiency'

March 2026: Signature Litigation at Paris Arbitration Week, moderating panel on 'Split Claims: Navigating overlapping disputes in commercial and treaty arbitration'

December 2025: Hainan International Arbitration Court panel at London Arbitration Week, panel on 'Recent developments in arbitral legislation and caselaw from England, France, Korea, Hong Kong and Chinese mainland'

October 2025: Shanghai International Arbitration Centre seminar on "Decoding the Global Asset Development Strategy Offshore Structure Formation, Governance, and Cross-Border Dispute Resolution" at Hong Kong International Arbitration Week, panel 'Arbitrating Offshore Disputes: Optimal Practices and Procedures'

October 2025: Balkan Arbitration Conference in Sofia, moderating a panel 'POV: In House Counsel'

July 2025: Department of Justice of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR "Hong Kong Legal Services – Gateway to China and Beyond" seminar in Paris, panel 'China-Hong Kong-France: Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution'

June 2025: ARIAS webinar on 'L'arbitrage efficace: la possibilité d'un règlement du litige en 6 mois'

February 2025: Riyadh Arbitration Conference, panel 'A dialogue with Hui Zhong: What you need to know about resolving disputes involving Chinese elements'

September 2024: Balkan Arbitration Conference in Podgorica, panel on 'Fraud & Corruption in International Arbitration'

July 2024: GAR Live Shanghai co-chair and moderator of panel on 'Future of ISDS involving China and Chinese companies'

March 2024: Signature Litigation at Paris Arbitration Week, moderating panel on 'The use - and abuse - of investigations and forensic experts in international arbitration'

February 2021: GAR Interactive: DACH 2021 Conference, panel 'This house believes that parties expect the same from arbitration in Austria, Germany and Switzerland'

November 2019: 4th ICC & SCL Egypt Conference on Regional and International Developments in Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution, panel 'The innate complexity of construction arbitrations versus the demands of speed and cost-effectiveness: a new pitfall endangering the arbitral process and the award?'

October 2018: In-House Seminar in Beijing on 'How to manage your international construction projects from perspectives of avoiding and dealing with disputes'

September 2018: Kyiv Arbitration Days, panel 'Amendment of ICSID's Rules and Regulations'

June 2017: IBA/ICC Conference in Nairobi, panel 'The future of arbitration in Africa: Accommodating economic growth and concomitant challenges'

March 2016: ICC-FIDIC International Construction Contracts and Dispute Resolution in Istanbul, panel 'Jurisdictional issues in construction arbitrations'

June 2015: ICC Seminar on Hot Topics in International Arbitration in Sofia, panel 'Controlling Time and Costs: The Counsel's Perspective'

Speaking Engagements

March 2014: Development of Regional Arbitration in Tbilisi, panel 'Comparison of the draft Georgian International Arbitration Center Rules of Arbitration with the ICC Rules of Arbitration'

April 2013: ICC International Court of Arbitration in Dubai, panel 'International Arbitration in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)'

July 2012: LCIA India International Symposium "Innovation and Technology in Arbitration" in Bangalore panel, 'Third Party Funding of International Arbitration Claims'

September 2010: ICC Conference on Efficiency of Complex Dispute Resolution in the Current Economic Climate in Bucharest, panel 'Conservatory and interim measures under the ICC rules'

June 2010: ICC Workshop on International Commercial Arbitration under the ICC Rules in Sofia, panel 'Study of a mock case under the ICC Rules of Arbitration'

May 2010: Conference on International Investment Disputes: Best Practice for Treaty Negotiation and Case Management in Putrajaya, panel 'Conducting an investor-state arbitration procedure'

March 2010: Korean In-House Counsel Forum on Arbitration: What are the Options? in Seoul, panel 'Investment Treaty Arbitration'

October 2009: ICC-FIDIC Conference on International Construction Contracts and the

Resolution of Disputes in Istanbul, panel 'First Demand Guarantees: Their use and abuse in construction disputes'

November 2008: ICC Seminar in Sofia, panel 'Negotiating Arbitration Clauses with State Entities'

October 2008: PIDA Training on International Arbitration: Study of a Mock Case Under the ICC Rules of Arbitration, panel 'Strategy in Answering a Request for Arbitration'

June 2008: 3rd Annual Dallas Round Table in Dallas, panel 'Damages in International Arbitration: Practical Considerations'

January 2008: ICC/FIDIC's Conference on Resolution of Disputes under International Construction Contracts in Monaco, panel 'International Construction Contracts and the Resolution of Disputes'

December 2007: 3rd Spanish Arbitration Club Conference in Madrid, panel 'ADR in International Construction Disputes'

October 2007: ICDR Seminar on International Commercial Arbitration and Mediation in New York City, panel 'Seat of the arbitration: Pros and cons of various seats in the EU'

March 2007: Practising Law Institute Program in New York City, panel 'International Arbitration in Latin America: Recent trends'

December 2006: International Centre for Dispute Resolution in Philadelphia, panel 'Overview and update regarding the latest

developments and recent trends regarding international ADR in the Americas'

October 2006: ICC/FIDIC Conference in Paris, panel 'International Construction Contracts and the Resolution of Disputes'

February 2006: International Bar Association Conference on "International Arbitration in China: Recent Developments and Current Issues" in Shanghai, panel 'The Constitution of the Arbitral Tribunal in ICC Arbitration'

October 2005: ICC/FIDIC Conference on International Construction Contracts and the Resolution of Disputes in Paris, panel 'Dispute resolution options available in contracts with sovereign entities'

October 2005: ICC/Irish National Committee workshop on "Successfully Representing a Client in an ICC International Arbitration" in Dublin, panel 'Drafting the right ICC arbitration clause: The do's and don'ts'

April 2005: Falconbury Business Seminar in Paris, panel 'Reflections on tools and tactics in international commercial arbitration over the last 25 years'

February 2005: In-House Seminar on 'Practical Considerations to Minimise Risk, Cost and Time in Pursuing International Arbitrations' in Paris

September 2004: First ICC Latin-America Arbitration Day in Curitiba, panel 'Constitutional law and international commercial arbitration in Latin America'

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