

Melissa Ordonez

Partner

Paris

Biography

As partner in our International Arbitration group, Melissa Ordonez focuses her practice on commercial and investment treaty arbitration. Melissa is French/Colombian and has lived in several countries including Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK. With a unique multicultural background, she is able to work on complex arbitrations involving various regions of the world. She is known for her strategic skills and brings extensive experience of arbitration under the rules of the ICC, LCIA, ICSID and UNCITRAL, acting for companies from diverse industries as well as on behalf of States.

Melissa has particular experience representing clients in the energy, technology and luxury sectors as well as in international investment disputes. She is also a member of the firm's Latin American practice with substantial experience in international arbitration in the region.

Prior to joining Hogan Lovells, Melissa trained in leading firms in Paris and London. She is a graduate of the Kings College London and the Sorbonne University in Paris where she benefited from a full scholarship from the French Government for her academic excellence. Melissa is fluent in English, French and Spanish and publishes regularly on topical issues in arbitration. In particular, she is currently writing a chapter on international investment law for a prominent Colombian university text book on international public law.



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Languages

English
French
Spanish

Practices

International Arbitration
Technology Litigation

Industries

Aerospace and Defense
Consumer
Energy and Natural Resources
Technology and Telecoms

Areas of focus

Representative experience

Representing a Central Asian state in an UNCITRAL arbitration brought by a Canadian mining company under the Energy Charter Treaty relating to uranium mining licenses.

Representing a French investor in an ICSID treaty arbitration against an Eastern European State regarding the introduction of tax reforms by the State.

Representing a Latin American state in an ICSID arbitration brought under bilateral investment treaty by a company in the coffee industry.

Representing a Swiss company in an ICC arbitral proceeding regarding the takeover of a Milan based fashion luxury goods company.

Representing a Latin American state in an ICSID arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty by a company having invested in the petrochemicals industry.

Advising a Spanish electric utility company in pre-arbitration proceedings against a North African petroleum company in relation to a gas price review dispute.

Assisting a French-aerospace company in a dispute against a Mediterranean Airline Company in an ICC arbitral proceeding regarding the performance of an engine maintenance services agreement.

Awards and rankings

- Future Leader: Arbitration, *Who's Who Legal*, 2021
- Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration (France), *Legal 500 EMEA*, 2020
- Recognized as a Rising Star in Commercial Arbitration, *Rising Stars Expert Guide*, 2021
- Winner of a Lawyer Monthly Women, *Law Award*, 2020

Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases

Fashion and Luxury Brands

Education and admissions

Education

LL.M., King's College London, 2009

Magistère in Business Law, Université Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2008

Master in Private International Law and International Business Law, Université Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2008

Master in Business Law, Université Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2007

Memberships

Member of the Hogan Lovells International Arbitration Women Steering Committee

Member of the Hogan Lovells Paris Diversity Committee

Member of ICC YAF, ICDR, YIAG

President of the Investment and International Commerce Commission of the Association des Juristes Franco-Colombiens (AJFC). The AJFC promotes cultural and academic exchanges between legal professionals in France and Colombia through debate, colloquia, forums and publications.

Bar admissions and qualifications

Paris

- Hogan Lovells rings in the New Year with 30 promotions to partner and 47 promotions to counsel
- Insights and Analysis
 - International arbitration: the mechanics of persuasion and how decisions are made
 - ■ Human rights, ESG and arbitration at a crossroad
 - ■ International arbitration: the mechanics of persuasion and how decisions are made
 - ■ Energy Reforms in Latin America : An impact for arbitration ?
 - ■ Arbitration : an effective remedy to life science disputes ?