



international disputes

MSK's international disputes practice gives emphasis to international arbitration, cross-border litigation, and international trade matters. We represent private parties and sovereign governments in US courts and before international arbitral tribunals (ICSID, ICC, ICDR, and UNCITRAL) in high-stakes complex matters. Our team of experts also provide advice and counsel in the area of international regulatory compliance and enforcement matters involving customs, export controls, and sanctions.

investor-state arbitration

Representation of both investors and states in arbitration arising out of bilateral investment treaties (BITs), multilateral investment treaties (such as NAFTA, CAFTA-DR, and the Energy Charter Treaty), investment agreements, and domestic investment laws.

international commercial arbitration

We have successfully represented corporate clients and individuals in a wide array of industries, and involving the substantive laws of numerous jurisdictions.

international litigation

We have extensive experience successfully litigating cross-border disputes in federal court. This includes lawsuits involving sovereign governments under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act; actions to confirm and enforce arbitration awards under the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, and, in collaboration with foreign counsel, disputes involving failed investments, ruptured transactions, and other business disputes arising in foreign jurisdictions.

cases

- *Orkin v. Swiss Confederation and Museum Oskar Reinhart am Stadtgarten*, 770 F. Supp. 2d 612 (2011), S.D.N.Y., aff'd 444 F. App'x 469, 471 (2d Cir. 2011). – obtained dismissal on FSIA grounds of suit for possession of a Van Gogh drawing sold by plaintiff's grandmother in Berlin in 1933 to a Swiss collector and eventually bequeathed to the Swiss government. Complaint alleged the drawing was a "flight asset" (sold to finance a Jewish family's escape from

practice contact

Mark Bravin

attorneys

Theresa B. Bowman

Albina Gasanbekova

Susan Kohn Ross

related practices areas

commercial litigation

international trade



Nazi-controlled Germany) for which good title could not be acquired under international law.

- Collaborated with a team of partners and associates representing Ecuador in a PCA investor-state treaty arbitration. Chevron claims Ecuador should pay a \$9 billion judgment against Chevron issued by Ecuadorian courts in an environmental suit, plus Chevron's legal fees reportedly in the range of \$1-2 billion. *Chevron Corp. and Texaco Petroleum v. Ecuador* (PCA Case No. 2009-13).
- Lead appellate counsel for a U.S. investor in Ecuadorian aqua-culture business in appeal from district court judgment recognizing and enforcing ICC arbitral award rendered by sole arbitrator, Horacio Grigera-Naon. Object of appeal was remand for discovery to explore arbitrator's failure to disclose ties to opposing party's arbitration counsel, *Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, as Receiver for Republic Federal Bank, N.A. v. IIG Capital LLC*, No. 12-10686 (11th Cir. 2013).
- Lead counsel representing the Israeli manager of Las Vegas-based real estate limited partnerships in an ICDR arbitration brought by one of Israel's largest construction magnates. Joined case as lead counsel after sole arbitrator resigned on self-created conflict of interest following five years of arbitration. Obtained dismissal of all claims against client and award of \$1 million in legal fees, which were collected. *Yossi Avrahami v. Dotan Melech*, Claim 50-181-T00078-08 (ICDR 2012).

headlines

Theresa Bowman Recognized in *Legal 500's* Inaugural "U.S. Elite Series"
Legal 500, February 26, 2025

Albina Gasanbekova Named to the 2024 Edition of Washington, D.C. *Rising Stars Super Lawyers*, April 22, 2024

Mark Bravin and Eleanor M. Lackman Recognized in the *Chambers Global Guide 2022*
Chambers Global Guide 2022, March 3, 2022

MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA 2021 Guide*
Chambers USA, May 20, 2021

U.S. News & World Report Recognizes Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp in 2021 "Best Law Firms" Rankings
November 2020

MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA 2020 Guide*
Chambers USA, April 23, 2020

MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA 2019 Guide*
April 25, 2019

MSK, Mark Bravin Featured in TWA Judgment Coverage
March 2019



MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA* 2018 Guide
May 3, 2018

Alexandra Meise Named to the *National Law Journal's* List of 2017 D.C.'s Rising Stars
August 28, 2017

Alexandra (Xander) Meise Named to *Law360's* 2017 list of "Rising Stars"
July 16, 2017

MSK Practices and Attorneys Recognized in *Chambers USA* 2017 Guide
May 26, 2017

Alexandra "Xander" Meise Featured in *Global Arbitration Review*, the *Washington Business Journal*, and *The Washington Post*
April 13, 2017

EPA's Actions Put US Commitment to Rule of Law Under Scrutiny
The Hill, April 20, 2016

Special Advocate at FISA Court Would Pass Constitutional Muster
The Hill, September 17, 2014

news

Mark Bravin and Theresa Bowman Highlighted in *Law 360* for TIG Insurance Co. Client Win
Law 360, July 31, 2024

Mark Bravin Quoted in *Law360*
July 3, 2019

Alexandra Meise Mentioned in *Global Arbitration Review* on Enforcement
October 31, 2018

Trials, Tribunals and Tribulations with Xander Meise
January 4, 2018

Alexandra Meise Featured in *Global Arbitration Review*
October 20, 2017

Alexandra Meise Quoted in *Law360*
October 10, 2017

Don Wallace, Jr. Mentioned in *Reuters*
December 2, 2016



Mark Bravin Mentioned in *Law360*
December 1, 2016

Don Wallace, Jr. Mentioned in *The Washington Post*
November 27, 2016

Don Wallace, Jr. Mentioned in *The Deal*
November 21, 2016

Don Wallace, Jr. Mentioned in *The Washington Business Journal*
November 18, 2016

Don Wallace, Jr. Featured in *Global Arbitration Review*
November 18, 2016

Don Wallace, Jr. Featured in *Law360* Article
November 17, 2016

Mark Bravin Featured in *Today's General Counsel* and *The Litigation Daily*
June 2, 2016

Mark Bravin Mentioned in *The National Law Journal*
May 30, 2016

Mark Bravin Featured in *GAR, Washington Business Journal, The American Lawyer, Thomson Reuters Westlaw*
and more
May 19, 2016

Mark Bravin Featured in *Lateral Link*
May 9, 2016

publications

The Guide to Investment Treaty Protection and Enforcement - Second Edition
Enforcement and Recovery: Practical Steps
Global Arbitration Review, December 21, 2023

GAR Investment Treaty Arbitration (2022)
Global Arbitration Review - Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how, March 2023

The Guide to Investment Treaty Protection and Enforcement - Enforcement and Recovery: Practical Steps
Global Arbitration Review, December 2021

GAR Investment Treaty Arbitration (2021)
Global Arbitration Review - Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how, September 2021



GAR Investment Treaty Arbitration (2020)

Global Arbitration Review - Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how, August 2020

The Secure Line

James Madison Center for the Constitution Podcast, June 2017

Investor-State Arbitration

Oxford University Press, Fall 2008

Introduction to Turkish Law

Kluwer Law International, Fall 2005

alerts

The FSIA Provides Exclusive Venue Options to Sue an International Organization – Or Does It?

MSK Client Alert, April 28, 2020

Hague Service Convention Out of Reach for Foreign Parties Who Select California Arbitration Forum and Agree to Informal Notice of Suit Methods

MSK Client Alert, April 10, 2020

Law360 Names Alexandra Meise a 2017 Rising Star

July 27, 2017

events & speaking engagements

Europe's Retreat from Investment Arbitration: Updates and Outlook

Sovereign & States Litigation Summit USA

September 24, 2025

Role of Business in Law – Lectures on Due Diligence: Contracts: Arbitration

June 27, 2021

African States, Foreign and Domestic Investments

February 14, 2019

The Practice of US Courts, *CRCICA Sharm El Sheikh VII*

December 10, 2018

Africa Calling: Building & Marketing an ADR Practice, *CIArb Nigeria Annual Conference*

October 26, 2018



Piercing the Corporate Veil in Domestic Law: A Comparative Approach, *International Arbitration Institute (IAI) Paris Conference*
October 5, 2018

Expropriation: Elements, Defenses and New Developments, *CCSI Executive Training on Investment Treaties and Arbitration for Government Officials*
July 31, 2018

Human Rights in Investor-State Arbitration: In or Out?, *ABA International Section Annual Meeting*
April 18, 2018

Technology, a Threat or an Opportunity for Legal Professionals?
April 18, 2018

Third-Party Funding in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Annual Conference*
April 3, 2018

Practical Strategies in the Arbitration of International Disputes Involving State-Owned Entities, *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Annual Conference*
April 3, 2018

Conformity and Creativity In Rules Of International Arbitration: Should Arbitral Institutions Be Choosing A Path Of Convergence?, *Women's Bar Association (of Washington, DC)*
July 13, 2017

Supreme Court Round-up, *Taking Ship Podcast*
July 10, 2017

ConLaw 101: How Lawyers Can Help You Save America, *2017 Truman National Security Project Annual Conference*
June 25, 2017

Best Practices in International Arbitration and Recent Developments
October 26, 2016

The TransPacific Partnership and the Politics of International Arbitration, *Dickinson Law School (Penn State University)*
January 29, 2016

Anatomy of an International Trade Case, *Metals Service Center Institute, MSCI Economic Summit 2016, Schaumburg, Illinois*
September 10, 2015

Investment Arbitration and WTO Litigation at Crossroads, *Madrid Arbitration Day II, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, Spain*



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May 22, 2015