International dispute resolution (IDR) update

Read about recent news in our field and how we are working to impact change.

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Local Connections. Global Influence.

Welcome to the IDR update from our world-ranked International Dispute Resolution Practice Group. This is a series of announcements that we send to our clients, friends and colleagues about recent news in our field and how we are working to impact change.

Our update includes:

Secured enforcement of ICSID award for the Slovak Republic 3

Singapore court dismisses all of Tata Power's challenges to US$490 million arbitration awards in favor of Kleros 3

Victory for Republic of Colombia 3

IDR team secures hard-fought arbitration victory for Mercedes-Benz, saving the client US$95 million 4

Events 4

- Webinar: Should AI replace humans in international arbitration? September 22 4
- GAR Live Civil Law Summit – September 28-29 5
- Singapore Office LNG luncheon event 5

Recognitions 6

Forbes 2026 America's Top Lawyers 6

ALB Super 50 Disputes Lawyers in Asia 2026 ranking 6

Chambers 7

- Latin America 7
- USA 7
- France 7

Best Lawyers in America 8

Décideurs (Leaders League) 8

Legal 500 EMEA 8

Publications 10

Let's Talk: A career in international disputes with Letizia Ceccarelli 10

LNG Industry 10

2026 Update 10

Mealey's International Arbitration 11

- "International Arbitration Experts Discuss The Major Challenges For Arbitration In 2026" 11
- "Commentary: Battle Of The Arbitration Seats: Contrasting The 2025 English Arbitration Act Reform With France's Reform Proposal" 11

Jus Mundi 2025 Arbitration Year in Review 12

Commercial Dispute Resolution 12

- "Strait of Hormuz: Energy disputes inevitable amidst war in Iran" 12
- "Dutch real estate giant fails in EUR 425 million arbitral claim against Romania" 12

Global Arbitration Review 12

- "Cambodia takes Thailand to conciliation over maritime border" 12
- "Mercedes-Benz sees off claim by Guatemalan distributor" 13
- "Panel sides with Kazakhstan in oilfield dispute" 13
- "Turkmenistan sees off ICSID claim" 13
- The Guide to Energy Arbitrations (7th Ed.): "From Europe to Asia: how international arbitration is reshaping the global natural gas price war" 13

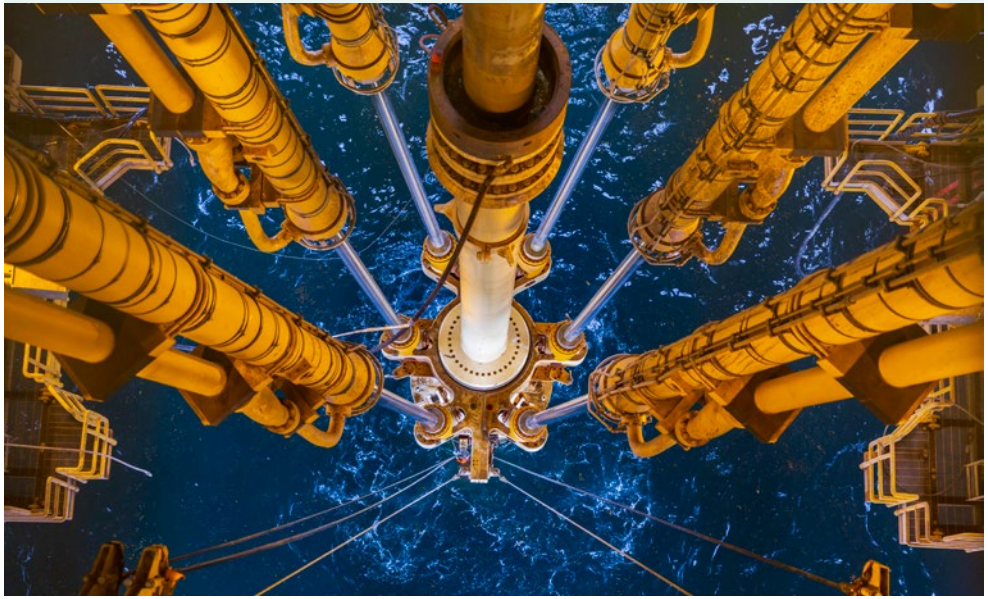
Contacts 14

Secured enforcement of ICSID award for the Slovak Republic

We successfully represented the Slovak Republic in obtaining a US federal court order enforcing an International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) arbitration award against Discovery Global LLC, a Texas-based oil and gas company. The award arose from an investor-state arbitration in which Discovery Global sought up to US$2.1 billion in damages under a bilateral investment treaty, alleging that the Slovak Republic had interfered with its oil and gas exploration activities. An ICSID tribunal rejected all claims, finding that the Slovak Republic had acted lawfully and reasonably, and ordered Discovery Global to reimburse the Slovak Republic for arbitration costs, legal fees and interest.

After Discovery Global failed to satisfy the award or respond to enforcement proceedings, the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas entered default judgment recognizing and enforcing the award. The court emphasized the limited scope of judicial review for ICSID awards and held that the award must be enforced as binding under US law.

The team representing the Slovak Republic included Stephen P. Anway, Jonathan R. Mureen, Raúl B. Mañón and Douglas Pilawa.



Singapore court dismisses all of Tata Power's challenges to US$490 million arbitration awards in favor of Kleros

The investment company Kleros Capital Partners Limited and our firm today confirmed that the Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC) has dismissed every application brought by The Tata Power Company Limited (Tata Power) to overturn the arbitration awards issued in Kleros' favor. The ruling confirms and upholds the immediate final and binding nature of the awards. As a result, Tata Power is required immediately to pay Kleros a sum now exceeding US$640 million, comprising principal damages of US$490.32 million plus interest accruing at 5.33% per annum since November 2020, currently around US$71,600 every day, together with Kleros' legal costs.

Read more in our recent article.

Victory for Republic of Colombia

We are pleased to report a victory for the Republic of Colombia in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. Our team included José Feris, Raúl Manon, Ellen Phillips and Douglas Pilawa.

The case arose from a US$311 million International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) arbitration award obtained by Perimetral Oriental de Bogotá (POB) against Colombia's National Infrastructure Agency (ANI) in connection with a highway project near Bogotá. Although Colombia was not a party to the underlying contract or arbitration, POB sought to enforce the award against both ANI and Colombia in US court.

Representing Colombia in the enforcement action, our team successfully argued that Colombia was entitled to sovereign immunity under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and could not be held liable for ANI's obligations absent a showing that ANI was Colombia's alter ego. The court agreed, stating that "Colombia is correct," and dismissed the claims against Colombia for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

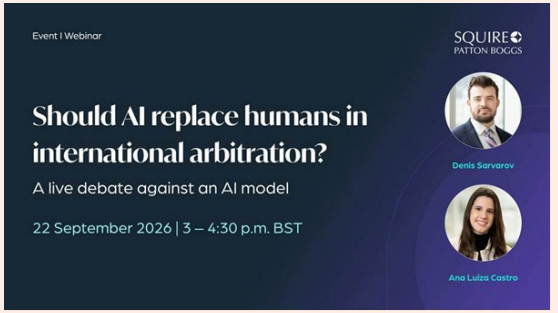
IDR team secures hard-fought arbitration victory for Mercedes-Benz, saving the client US$95 million

A team led by Raúl Mañón, José Feris and Paulina Rodríguez has secured a significant victory for Mercedes-Benz in a long-running feud with its former distributor for Guatemala, with an International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) tribunal unanimously dismissing the claimants' US$95 million claim and also awarding our client all of its costs and most of its fees.

Events

Webinar: Should AI replace humans in international arbitration? September 22

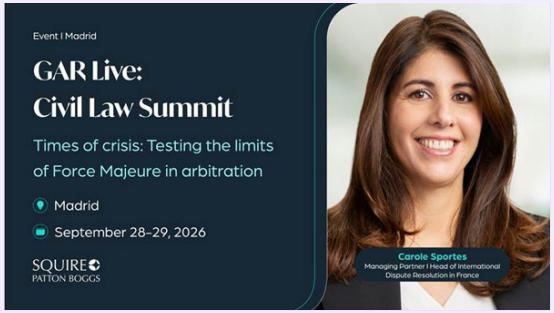
Join associates Denis Sarvarov and Ana Luiza Castro for a live debate exploring whether AI should replace human counsel, arbitrators, experts and tribunal secretaries. In a series of short Oxford-style debates, each mentee will argue in real time against an AI model on whether AI should replace each role. The debate will take place on September 22, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.



Register to attend.

GAR Live Civil Law Summit – September 28-29

We are pleased to sponsor the upcoming GAR Live Civil Law Summit in Madrid on September 28–29. Our colleague Carole Sportes will be a featured speaker during the session "Times of crisis: testing the limits of force majeure in arbitration." Carole will examine how different legal systems respond to contractual disruption and the evolving treatment of *force majeure* in arbitration. Representing our Paris International Dispute Resolution team alongside Carole will be Laure Perrin and Camille Cretin. We look forward to engaging in discussions throughout the summit.



Register to attend.

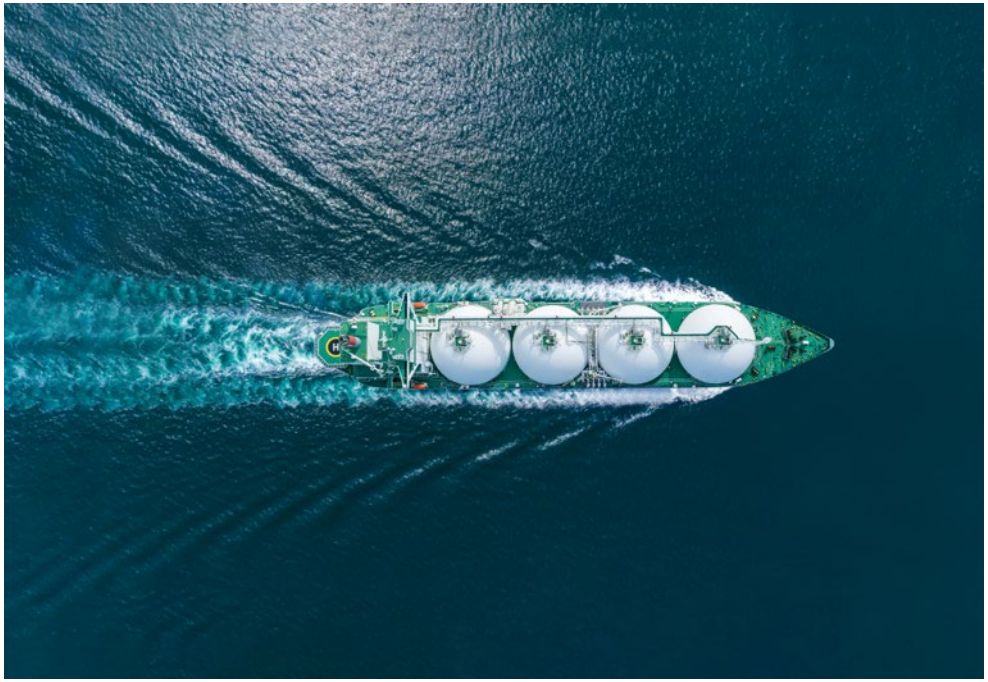
Singapore Office LNG luncheon event

Our Singapore office recently hosted its first liquefied natural gas (LNG) luncheon event – "Navigating the Middle East crisis: Legal and commercial impacts on Asia's energy markets," in collaboration with the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Young Arbitration and ADR Forum (YAAF).

The event included a panel discussion with outstanding speakers with decades of hands-on experience across the global energy sector, including:

- Rod Duke, a former energy industry CEO and now partner at TWCOG
- Jane Liao, the former CEO of the natural gas business at CPC Corporation
- Max Rockall, our head of Asia Pacific Energy Disputes and LNG practice.

The panel engaged in a lively discussion regarding the impact of the Middle East crisis on oil and LNG flows into Asia; the commercial responses adopted by market participants; key contractual and legal risks; and what energy companies and lawyers should be doing now to prepare for what lies ahead.



Recognitions

Forbes 2026 America's Top Lawyers

Congratulations to Stephen Anway, who was recognized in the third annual *Forbes* 2026 America's Top Lawyers list. This distinction recognizes his exceptional professional achievements, deep industry knowledge, and meaningful contributions to the legal field.

Read our press release

ALB Super 50 Disputes Lawyers in Asia 2026 ranking

We are delighted to share that our own Maximilian Rockall has been selected for the annual *ALB* Super 50 Disputes Lawyers in Asia 2026 ranking, which recognizes the region's most outstanding dispute resolution practitioners. This prestigious honor reflects Maximilian's exceptional expertise, strategic advocacy, and success in handling complex cross-border disputes, underscoring his reputation as a leading disputes lawyer in Asia.

Congratulations to Maximilian on this well-deserved achievement!

Read more at Asian Legal Business online

Chambers

Latin America

We are pleased to congratulate the team and individuals from our International Dispute Resolution Practice Group who have been recognized in the *Chambers Latin America* 2027 rankings.

Practice Areas

Dominican Republic

Dispute Resolution

Latin America – International Counsel

Arbitration (International)

Individuals

Dispute Resolution in the Dominican Republic

Carolina O. Soto Hernández

Arbitration (International)

José Feris (France, Latin America – International Counsel)

Raúl Mañón (USA, Latin America – International Counsel)

USA

We are pleased to congratulate the team and individuals from our International Dispute Resolution Practice Group who have been recognized in the *Chambers USA* 2027 rankings.

USA – Nationwide

- International Arbitration: Highly Regarded – Band 1

International Arbitration: Counsel

- Stephen Anway – Band 3
- Douglas Pilawa – Associates to Watch

France

We are pleased to congratulate our International Dispute Resolution team in Paris and José Feris for their group and individual recognition in the *Chambers France* 2026 rankings. Highlights include:

> **"Squire Patton Boggs is highly approachable and attentive to the client's interests. They don't just offer recommendations, they listen carefully and provide well-considered, practical advice."**

> **"Squire Patton Boggs has a huge team and expertise in a number of areas. It could quickly engage different team members to address all the issues we needed."**

Best Lawyers in America

Best Lawyers

- Raúl Mañón – International Arbitration – Commercial
- Stephen P. Anway – International Arbitration – Commercial
- George M. von Mehren – Arbitration
- Digna B. French – Commercial Litigation; International Arbitration – Commercial

Ones to Watch (2027)

- Isabel Manfredonia – Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Douglas Pilawa – Alternative Dispute Resolution

Décideurs (Leaders League) 2026 Rankings

We are pleased to share that the Paris' IDR team has been ranked in the latest *Décideurs* (Leaders League) rankings for Dispute Resolution in France:

International Arbitration: Ranked Excellent

- Carole Sportes
- José Feris
- Sabrina Aïnouz
- Jérôme Léhucher

Commercial Litigation up to €100M: Ranked Excellent

- Carole Sportes

Arbitrators: Ranked Highly Recommended

- José Feris

Legal 500 EMEA

We were ranked Band 2 in France and José Feris was also ranked yet again as a "Hall of Fame" lawyer for Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration.

Testimonials included:

> **"The team brings together lawyers with diverse specialisations, ensuring comprehensive coverage of legal issues. Team members work together efficiently to deliver high-quality legal solutions. The team approaches legal challenges with a strategic mindset, aligning legal advice with business objectives and long-term goals. The team handles complex or high stakes matters with confidence."**
>
> **"Extremely meticulous work."**

Legal500

2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Litigators

We are honored to introduce the 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Litigators. Congratulations to all of our partners recognized. The list includes:

Sabrina Aïnouz – Paris

Stephen Anway – New York and Washington DC

Ravinder Bhullar – Dubai and Abu Dhabi

Michelle Glassman Bock – Brussels

John Branson – New York

Naomi Briercliffe – London

Rodman Bundy – Singapore

Peter Crossley – London

Horst Daniel – Frankfurt

Michael Davar – London

José Feris – Paris

Ali Gursel – New York

Jérôme Lehucher – Paris

Raúl Mañón – Miami

Luka Misetic – New York

Rostislav Pekar – Prague

Vladimír Polách – Prague

Matej Pustay – Prague and Bratislava

Maximilian Rockall – Singapore

Sam Song – Dubai

Carole Sportes – Paris

Nicoleta Timofti – Geneva, New York and Astana

George von Mehren – London and Cleveland

Thomas Wilson – Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Beirut

Let's Talk: A career in international disputes with Letizia Ceccarelli

What does a cross-border career look like in practice? In our latest Let's Talk video, Milan senior associate Letizia Ceccarelli shares her experience of working across different jurisdictions and how those experiences have shaped her both professionally and personally. A great insight into Letizia's career journey, with some thoughtful advice for junior lawyers looking to build their own careers.

Take a look at the video.

LNG Industry

"Open waters, open questions: Allocation and priority after the Hormuz crisis"

Max Rockall, Sagar Gupta and Henry Spence write, "Much of the market's attention has understandably been fixed on the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and the immediate consequences for force majeure and non-delivery. The next phase, however, may prove no less contentious. When operations resume, the question will not simply be whether LNG can move again, but which cargoes move first, for whom, and on what contractual basis. In that sense, the reopening of the Strait may mark not the end of the present disruption, but the beginning of a different and potentially more complicated contractual and operational problem."

Read the full insight.

2026 Update

"LNG and Gas Developments in Europe in the Wake of Conflict: Is 2026 the New 2022?"

The role of liquified natural gas (LNG) in Europe has evolved significantly in the last five years, with every indication that the ship-transported fuel – and the disputes that go with it – will continue to be a mainstay in the European energy mix.

This article, written by Michelle Glassman Bock, Letizia Ceccarelli and Christina Luo, reflects on the changed role of LNG in Europe over the last several years and addresses certain of its ongoing challenges, including those arising in light of the 2022 Russian cuts to pipeline gas and the latest developments in the Middle East. For those European buyers entering the LNG market or expanding their portfolio within it, a close consideration of contractual terms and the context in which they may be exercised will be an issue of top priority.

Read the full insight.

Mealey's International Arbitration

"International Arbitration Experts Discuss The Major Challenges For Arbitration In 2026"

Naomi Briercliffe and Karolina Latasz discuss the major challenges for arbitration in 2026: "Among many challenges facing international arbitration in 2026, two stand out in particular: sanctions and artificial intelligence. Sanctions loom large in arbitration, shaping who can arbitrate, what can be decided, and whether awards mean anything. We expect more investor-state claims brought by sanctioned individuals and entities over measures affecting their assets (such as Fridman v Luxembourg or Belaruskali v Lithuania). If the sanctioned investors succeed, drawn-out enforcement proceedings are likely to ensue. For example, Council Regulation 2025/1494 prohibits courts of EU member states from enforcing ISDS awards relating to measures imposed under the EU's Russia sanctions. Sanctions are also taking centre stage in commercial arbitrations. As we have seen in the wave of cases brought against Gazprom over gas under-deliveries, these disputes tend to revolve around impossibility, illegality, frustration or force majeure."

Read the full article (subscription required).

"Commentary: Battle Of The Arbitration Seats: Contrasting The 2025 English Arbitration Act Reform With France's Reform Proposal"

The "battle of seats" in international arbitration is not new, spanning over half a century. Various global capitals have developed favorable legal ecosystems – either through enacting legislation ensuring legal certainty or issuing court decisions viewed as favorable towards arbitration. The "rivalry" between London and Paris as arbitration seats is particularly noteworthy and has been put in display in cases where their courts have taken opposing approaches on the same issues. José Feris and Natalia Rodríguez Álvarez explore the recent reform of the English Arbitration Act and France's proposed reform of arbitration, focusing on the reasons, principles and solutions adopted in each system, viewed through the lens of their respective legal philosophies.

Read the full article (subscription required).

Jus Mundi 2025 *Arbitration Year in Review*

We are pleased to share that our contribution to the Jus Mundi 2025 *Arbitration Year in Review* on arbitration developments in Italy has now been published. This year's edition includes contributions from more than 40 jurisdictions, and our chapter appears on pages 122–126.

Read the full publication.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

"Strait of Hormuz: Energy disputes inevitable amidst war in Iran"

Another situation that Asia Pacific energy disputes and liquified natural gas (LNG) head Max Rockall highlights is the opportunities for LNG arbitrage, where he expects sellers to attempt to "capitalise on the potential lack of supply in the market." He points out that for sellers with sophisticated and flexible operations, they might seek to take advantage of lucrative opportunities to "cancel or divert cargoes away from the lower priced contracts and markets towards the new higher priced Asian premium that we are seeing." He comments that for many energy companies, the temptation of windfall profits in the current situation might be too appealing to turn down, leading to an acceptance of a disputes risk. In the same vein, Max says claims may also arise over disputed *force majeure* restoration quantities. As the situation evolves, Max expects rescheduling, annual programming and potential contested flexibility disputes to become "the key battleground areas" in relation to the Strait of Hormuz. Parties will be negotiating the details of any *force majeure*, the rescheduling of deliveries to later dates, as well as navigating contested flexibility rights in contracts. "That includes ship changes and loading port nominations and changes (potentially impacting the force majeure analysis)," says Max.

Read the full article (subscription required).

Commercial Dispute Resolution

"Dutch real estate giant fails in EUR 425 million arbitral claim against Romania"

Plaza Centers' major dispute with Romania over a stalled development project, which has involved dual arbitrations, has seen the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) dismiss the company's claim on jurisdictional grounds. A long-running, high-stakes wrangle over the stalled "Casa Radio" project in Bucharest – which spurred Romania to launch its own arbitration claim against Plaza Centers for €2 billion – has resulted in Plaza's original arbitration claim failing at ICSID, which rejected the company's claim on jurisdictional grounds based on Plaza's conduct and agreements. Romania was represented by a team from our firm in New York and Prague, an MPR Partners team in Bucharest, and the Romanian Ministry of Finance.

Read the full article (subscription required).

Global Arbitration Review

"Cambodia takes Thailand to conciliation over maritime border"

Cambodia has initiated a compulsory conciliation procedure under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to resolve a long-running maritime boundary dispute with Thailand, saying it hopes to unlock exploration of energy resources estimated to be worth over US$300 billion. For the interpretation proceeding, Cambodia's counsel team included Rodman Bundy and Naomi Briercliffe.

Read the full article (subscription required).

Global Arbitration Review

"Mercedes-Benz sees off claim by Guatemalan distributor"

A Guatemalan banker's bid to overturn an award favoring Mercedes-Benz in a dispute over a distribution deal has shed light on an International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)-administered arbitration that saw five challenges to the arbitrators. Francisco Alvarado Macdonald and his company Comercial Omni (Omnisa) applied last month to the US District Court for the Southern District of New York to set aside a final award that dismissed their case against the luxury carmaker on jurisdictional grounds. The dispute is understood to have been worth around US$93 million. The firm is acting for Mercedes-Benz in the US court and also advised in the arbitration alongside Guatemalan boutique ALTA QIL+4 Abogados. *Francisco José Alvarado Macdonald and Comercial Omni De Guatemala v. Daimlerchrysler Aktiengesellschaft (Mercedes-Benz Group AG)*. Counsel to Mercedes-Benz: Raúl Mañón and José Feris. Counsel to Mercedes-Benz in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) arbitration: Raúl Mañón and José Feris.

Read the full article (subscription required).

"Panel sides with Kazakhstan in oilfield dispute"

Similar arguments are in play in a separate arbitration worth US$200 billion that Kazakhstan is pursuing against the operators of Kashagan, one of the world's largest offshore oil fields. The respondent in that claim is the North Caspian Operating Company (NCOC), in which Eni, Shell, Exxon and TotalEnergies hold equal stakes alongside KazMunayGaz. China's CNPC and Japan's Inpex hold smaller shares. We are acting for Kazakhstan in that case, while Three Crowns represents the NCOC consortium. Kazakhstan filed the claim under the Kashagan PSA in April 2023, saying NCOC has abused the contract's expense calculation procedures, which also grant the consortium a 98% share of post-royalty revenues. The state also alleges the project has been afflicted by development delays, environmental damage and corruption, based on subcontractors obtaining inflated contracts. Kazakhstan is also pursuing its corruption allegations in the Swiss and US courts through "PSA LLC." an entity that represents Kazakhstan's interests under production sharing agreements. In *Kazakhstan v. Eni, Shell, Exxon, TotalEnergies, CNPC and Inpex*. In the Texas Southern District Court, *PSA LLC v. Idenov* (Case no 4:25-mc-00536), counsel to PSA for the firm: Nicoleta Timofti and Amanda Price.

Read the full article (subscription required).

"Turkmenistan sees off ICSID claim"

An International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) tribunal has ended a bankrupt Turkish construction company's €100 million ICSID claim against Turkmenistan under the Energy Charter Treaty over a failure to pay security for costs. Turkmenistan used its regular counsel, our firm, in New York, with a team of Ali Gursel, John Branson, Carlos Guzmán Plascencia, Olha Madaan, Isabel Manfredonia, Kate Maguire, Bahar Charyyeva, Elgun Ganizade, Ruslan Galkanov and **Mekan Karayev** (associate, Ashgabat).

Read the full article (subscription required).

The Guide to Energy Arbitrations (7th Ed.): "From Europe to Asia: how international arbitration is reshaping the global natural gas price war"

In this latest contribution to *Global Arbitration Review*'s *Guide to Energy Arbitrations*, Stephen Anway, George von Mehren, Michelle Glassman Bock and Max Rockall examine how high-stakes price review arbitrations – often involving hundreds of millions to billions of dollars – are transforming global gas markets. The article traces the evolution of these disputes from Europe to Asia, highlighting how shifting market dynamics, geopolitical pressures and contract structures are driving a new wave of arbitration activity worldwide.

Read the full article (subscription required).

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