SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Douglas Pilawa



Senior Associate

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Languages spoken
English | French

About Douglas

Douglas Pilawa is a senior associate in the International Dispute Resolution Practice Group. He serves as counsel in both international commercial arbitrations and international investment treaty arbitrations. He represents international commercial enterprises, state-owned entities and foreign governments in their most challenging disputes.

Douglas is one of only four associates in the US to have been selected as an "Associate to Watch" by *Chambers and Partner*s. He has been praised by clients for being "very astute in identifying the pertinent issues in international disputes and quick to grasp and understand complex and technical matters." (*Legal 500*, International Arbitration 2024). Others have commented that he is "a very strong advocate with excellent drafting skills and fantastic energy law experience." (*Chambers and Partners*, 2025).

Douglas acts in disputes in a wide range of sectors, including aerospace, energy, construction, telecoms and pharmaceuticals to name a few. As well as advising clients on disputes, Douglas also supports clients in avoiding disputes by assisting with contractual strategies and structuring foreign investments for investment-treaty purposes.

A dual national of the US and France, Douglas has law degrees from both countries and appreciates the cultural, business and legal differences between the two. He splits his time between the US and France.

Douglas is an adjunct professor at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where he coaches the school's Vis Moot court team. He has previously been an adjunct faculty member at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he taught a 12-week international arbitration course for several years. He also was a visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science in Law in Chongqing, China.

While in law school, Douglas was the captain of Case Western's Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court team, twice earning oralist honorable mention awards at the Moot in Vienna. He also served as the executive articles editor for *Case Western's Journal of International Law*.

Prior to law school, Douglas worked at several international companies in the US and France.

Experience

- Representing the Republic of Colombia before DC courts in an enforcement proceeding brought under New York Convention and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.
- Represented a South American nation in an oil cost recovery dispute with amounts in dispute over US$ 200 million.
- Representing Edison S.pA. in *Edison S.p.A. v. Venture Global LNG, Inc.*, LCIA Case No. 235874.
- Representing a European gas buyer in an liquified natural gas (LNG) price review with damages in excess of US$300 million.
- Representing a Central Asian national oil company in two disputes over a failed oil and gas project with damages over US$1 billion.
- Representing the Republic of Iraq in *GMS Ventures and Investment Holdings Co. LLC/Jordan (Exempt) and GMS Ventures and Investments Holdings Company – Jordan (Free Zones) v. Republic of Iraq*, ICSID Case No. ARB/22/8.
- Acted for an African state in defending investment treaty claims of more than US$3 billion brought by a multinational energy company.
- Represented the Slovak Republic in *Discovery Global LLC v. Slovak Republic* (ICSID Case No. ARB/21/51) and defeated a US$2 billion claim in its entirety relating to a failed oil and gas project in Northeast Slovakia.
- Represented a North American satellite company in a series of three arbitrations and one foreign court action, with claims totaling more than US$330 million, arising out of a national telecommunications project disrupted by force majeure and international sanctions.
- Represented Edison S.p.A. in *Ras Laffan Liquified Natural Gas Company Limited (II) v. Edison S.p.A.* (ICC Case No. 24707/GR) and defeated a price review claim for damages in the hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Defended a middle eastern state in a high-profile dispute relating to a media company that involved novel issues of public international law, with damages in excess of US$1 billion.
- Advised a North American mining company on a comprehensive strategy to address major private and governmental hurdles related to one of the largest mining projects in the world.
- Advised an international software company on a wrongful termination contract claim with damages in the tens of millions of dollars, leading to a successful settlement.
- Acted for the claimant, an Asian LNG buyer, in one of the first major Asia-based LNG price reviews known to proceed to final award in the region, administered under the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) Rules and worth hundreds of millions of US dollars.
- Advised Turkmenistan in *Dirk Herzig as Insolvency Administrator over the Assets of Unionmatex Industrieanlagen GmbH v. Turkmenistan*, ICSID Case No. ARB/18/35, concerning the construction of grain production facilities and bakeries.
- Represented Rand Investments in *Rand Investments Ltd. v. Republic of Serbia* (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/8).
- Represented the Republic of Croatia in *Marko Mihaljevic v. Republic of Croatia*, ICSID Case No. ARB/19/35.
- Represented a middle eastern state in a multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical dispute.

Credentials

Education

- Université Paris-Dauphine, Master II, droit européen et international des affaires, with honors, 2019
- Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2019
- Skidmore College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2012

Admissions

- District of Columbia, 2022
- Ohio, 2019

Recognitions

- Recognized in *Chambers Global* 2025 and 2026 as an Associate to Watch in International Arbitration: Counsel
- Recognized by *Chambers USA* 2024-2026 as an Associate to Watch for International Arbitration: Counsel
- Selected to *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2021-2027 for Alternative Dispute Resolution and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2021-2026 for Commercial Litigation

Expertise

Services

- International Dispute Resolution

Industries

- Aerospace, Defense & Government Services
- Construction & Engineering
- Energy & Natural Resources

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, French Lawyers and Friends in the USA, "Reform of French Arbitration Law: State of Play, Washington DC, October 2026.
- Speaker, French Arbitration Day – "The Transatlantic Trade Corridor: Arbitration Trends and their Role in Commercial Disputes between France and the United States," French Embassy, March 2026.

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.