



Hannah Ambrose

International Arbitration and Public International Law

+44 20 7466 7585

Email: hannah.ambrose@hsf.com

Hannah is an experienced Senior Associate & Solicitor Advocate in the international arbitration group at Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, advising clients globally on complex issues relating to arbitration, dispute resolution and public international law. Hannah has represented clients in ad hoc commercial arbitrations and proceedings under the auspices of major arbitral institutions, including the ICC, LCIA, and SCC. She has represented clients in a number of investment treaty claims under the ICSID Rules and the UNCITRAL Rules. She also has experience in advising on a range of other matters of public international law, including sanctions, state immunity and immunity of international organisations. Hannah has broad sectoral experience, with a particular focus on energy, banking and finance and pharmaceuticals.

Business Address

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, Exchange House, Primrose Street, London, EC2A 2EG.

Nationality

British

Academic background

MA Hons Jurisprudence, Merton College, University of Oxford.

Professional background

Hannah spent six years as a Professional Support Consultant (**PSC**) advising clients and colleagues across Herbert Smith Freehills' global arbitration practice. As PSC, Hannah was tasked with remaining at the cutting edge of developments in the field of arbitration law and practice. Her work included advising colleagues and clients globally on complex issues concerning arbitration, public international law and dispute resolution, engaging with practitioners across Herbert Smith Freehills' global practice to educate and share knowledge, drafting the firm's responses to various consultations and reviewing and commenting on various sets of draft institutional arbitration rules.

Hannah qualified as a solicitor of England & Wales in 2004 and before joining Herbert Smith Freehills in 2012, Hannah was a Senior Associate in the international arbitration practice of Allen & Overy LLP. Hannah holds Higher Rights of Audience for Civil Advocacy.

Accolades

- Recognised in Legal 500 as a Rising Star for international arbitration and public international law.
- Profiled in Legal Business' Next Generation of Arbitration Talent, 2022.
- Recognised for Arbitration in 11th edition (2023) of Best Lawyers.

Selected credentials

Commercial Arbitration

- Acting for a pharmaceutical company in an ICC arbitration in connection with the termination of a supply and distribution agreement in the Middle East.
- Acting for a consumer goods company in an ICC arbitration arising out of a business sale.
- Acting for an investor in an investment treaty claim to be brought under the ICC Rules.
- Acting for a global supplier of ambulances and security vehicles on English law in an ICC arbitration arising from a consultancy agreement.

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- Acting for the subsidiary of a multinational telecommunications company in an LCIA arbitration arising out of the sale of its majority stake in an Africa-based telecommunications company.
- Acting for a professional services company in an LCIA arbitration arising out of non-payment of fees.
- Acting for an energy company in an arbitration under the LCIA-MIAC Rules arising out of a Power Purchase Agreement.
- Acting for a Russian individual in an LCIA arbitration concerning a dispute about a hotel project.
- Acting for multinational packaging company in an LCIA arbitration (English seat, English law governed policy) against its insurer.
- Advising a pharmaceutical manufacturer on a dispute arising out of a business sale.
- Acting for a private equity group in an SCC arbitration under Swedish law against a multinational provider of power and automation technologies arising from a sale and purchase agreement.
- Advising a European investment bank on the impact of Brexit on dispute resolution choices in the context of novation of part of its business.
- Advising a commercial and retail bank on the possible arbitration on an expedited basis of disputes with a number of its corporate customers arising out of a fraud at the bank.
- Advising a global banking and financial services provider on complex dispute resolution choices and multi-party and multi-contract arbitration issues in relation to a prepayment facility.
- Advising on the arbitration and enforcement aspects of the settlement of a dispute between a client and a former partner.
- Advising on issues relating to arbitration and the immunity of international organisations in connection with a gas project in west Africa.
- Acting for multinational pharmaceutical company in four ad-hoc arbitrations (English seat, Bermuda Form, New York law governed policy) against its excess liability insurers, including one expedited arbitration.
- *C v. D* [2007] EWHC 1541 (Comm) and *C v. D* [2007] EWCA Civ 1282 (Court of Appeal). Acting for a multinational pharmaceutical company in anti-suit injunction proceedings to prevent insurer from challenging an arbitral award in the United States.
- Advising a French pharmaceutical company in a coverage dispute with its insurers concerning the interpretation of a Bermuda Form policy governed by English law.
- Advising a subsidiary of a multinational petroleum company in a contractual dispute with a sub-contractor regarding the development of a Eurasian oil field.

Investment Arbitration and Public International Law

- Acting for Nord Stream 2 AG in its claim against the European Union under the Energy Charter Treaty (PCA Case No. 2020-07).
- Acting for Vedanta Resources PLC on a claim against India under the UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty arising from the imposition of retroactive tax (PCA Case No. 2016-05).
- Acting for Biwater Gauff (Tanzania) Limited on its claim against the United Republic of Tanzania under the UK-Tanzania BIT (ICSID Case No. ARB/05/22).
- Advising a number of utility companies and infrastructure funds on investor-State arbitration and investment structuring in a scenario of future nationalisation, including questions as to availability and scope of treaty protections and related quantum issues.
- Advising an energy company on aspects of a treaty being entered into between two states concerning the development and exploitation of a natural gas discovery.
- Advising an oil and gas company on application of international law in UK domestic court proceedings in response to a question raised by the UK Supreme Court.
- Advising a west African state on an investment treaty claim threatened against it.
- Advising a pharmaceutical company on its potential rights under investment treaties in respect of anticipated interference with its IP rights.
- Advising a multinational oil and gas company on issues relating to arbitration and the immunity of international organisations in connection with a gas project in west Africa.

- Advising an international financial institution concerning its options under public international law, including international investment, EU and WTO law, for bringing proceedings against a State, including to challenge its exercise of extra-territorial jurisdiction.
- Advising an international organisation on the interaction between its immunities and UK employment and data protection law, and its immunities before the English courts.
- Advising an oil and gas company on application of the EU Blocking Regulation in the context of the withdrawal of the US from the JCPOA.
- Advising a Chinese shipping company on the application of the EU Blocking Regulation in respect of contracts related to Iran.

Activities and Positions

Member of steering committee of HSF's Fair Deal Sierra Leone pro bono international development project, Fair Deal Sierra Leone: delivering capacity building training on arbitration to the Sierra Leone judiciary and private practitioners in Freetown; providing legislative drafting support to the Sierra Leone Law Reform Commission in connection with the revision of its Arbitration Act; supporting Sierra Leone with its accession to the New York Convention 1958; working with the Sierra Leone Investment and Export Promotion Agency, as well as arbitration and other disputes-related advisory work.

Trustee of the [International Lawyers Project](#), a leading international charitable organisation advancing economic justice and the rule of law through provision of pro bono legal expertise to civil society, parliaments and communities.

Selected publications

- Chapters on arbitration, ADR and enforcement of foreign judgments in Blackstone's Civil Practice (pub. OUP).
- *The Source of Ethical Obligations of Arbitrators in Commercial Arbitration: The Effectiveness of the Rules-Based System and a Role for Consequential Ethics* in International Arbitration in England: Perspectives in Times of Change (pub. Wolters Kluwer, forthcoming)
- Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, Dealing with sovereign wealth funds: immunity concerns and practical steps to mitigate them, December 2020
- Butterworths Journal of International Banking and Financial Law, Dispute resolution choices for banks and financial institutions in a post-Brexit world: opting for arbitration?, October 2019
- English Court finds that the foreign act of state doctrine may apply to arbitration proceedings, The Law of Nations Blog, August 2018
- Regular contributor to [HSF Arbitration Notes](#) and [HSF Public International Law Notes](#) blogs.

Recent speaking engagements

- Moderator: "Introduction to the PRIME Finance Arbitration Rules", PRIME Finance London Conference, 2022.
- Panellist: International Law Summit's 5th Annual Conference on Energy Arbitration & Dispute Resolution in Middle East & Africa, 2022.
- ICC Annual Arbitration and ADR Conference, June 2021.