

ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

Independent Tribunal Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing legal assistance to arbitrators on international commercial and investment arbitration cases	10/2022 - Present
School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary University of London <i>Teaching Fellow</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Teaching the LLM practice seminars on international commercial and investment arbitrationSupervising dissertations at the LLM programme focused on investment arbitration	10/2021 – Present London, UK
Twenty Essex <i>Arbitral Assistant to Professor Julian D M Lew KC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided legal assistance on international commercial and investment arbitration cases, including: reviewing and summarizing the parties’ submissions and evidence, drafting factual chronologies, drafting and reviewing procedural documents, researching discrete questions relating to witness and expert evidence, as well as questions of law, organising and attending procedural meetings and hearings, as well as tribunal’s deliberationsWorked on cases under variety of institutional and ad hoc rules (incl. the LCIA, ICC, SIAC, ICSID, PCA and UNCITRAL Rules); most cases involved questions of English law, but there have also been issues of New York law, EU law and PIL	07/2019 - 09/2022 London, UK
Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr <i>Foreign Legal Consultant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Worked on ICSID, OIC and <i>ad hoc</i> investment arbitration cases in the oil and gas and construction sectors involving issues such as denial of justice, expropriation, dual nationality issues and the doctrine of <i>res judicata</i> (e.g., performed legal research, assisted in the preparation of claim assessment memoranda, researched arbitrators’ backgrounds for appointments, etc.)Worked on commercial arbitration cases involving questions of English law including breach of warranties, assessment of damages, loss of chance and piercing the corporate veilAnalysed and provided legal opinion on joinder and consolidation applications under the SIAC Rules, as well as <i>prima facie</i> jurisdictional challenges under the same RulesAdvised on arbitration reform projects of certain developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region: analysed and proposed amendments to arbitration laws to ensure compliance with best practices in the fieldResearched and drafted expert opinion reports, articles and book chapters on various topics, such as the impact of the CJEU’s judgment in <i>Slovak Republic v Achmea</i>, AI in international arbitration, the adoption and application of the SIAC Cross-Institutional Consolidation Protocol, the so-called “due process paranoia”, transparency and othersWorked on an International Arbitration Study of the 53 Commonwealth Member States led by WilmerHale and the Commonwealth Secretariat focused on providing a comprehensive overview of those States’ arbitration laws	09/2017 - 06/2019 London, UK

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Lauterpacht Centre for International Law <i>Case Summary Writer for International Law Reports</i>	04/2021 - Present
Romanian Arbitration Journal <i>Assistant Editor</i>	11/2020 – 12/2022
Velchev & Co <i>Trainee Lawyer</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted in the drafting of contracts, arbitration clauses, a request for arbitration under the ICSID Convention, legal memoranda, letters of advice and cease and desist letters in English and BulgarianConducted legal research and provided legal opinion on gambling legislation in certain countries, concession agreements, EU’s sanctions against Russia and their effect on the Russian banks located in the EU	03/2017 - 08/2017 Sofia, Bulgaria
European Parliament <i>Legal Trainee at Member of European Parliament’s (MEP) Office</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Attended sessions of the Legal Affairs Committee, analysed different legal and policy considerations, and prepared follow-up reports; proposed and drafted amendments to proposed legal textsResearched various issues related to the CETA Agreement and the international investment court systemTranslated legal and policy documents from English to Bulgarian and Russian and vice versa	09/2016 - 11/2016 Brussels, Belgium

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Bulgaria 12/2014 – 01/2015
Legal Intern at the Litigation Department of the Ministry Sofia, Bulgaria

- Familiarised myself with the procedure for addressing investment arbitration claims against Bulgaria handled by the Litigation Department, and the factors determining the extent of involvement of external counsel; assessed and summarised legal documents
- Analysed Bulgarian law and its consistency with EU law when assisting with a project related to the insolvency of a Bulgarian bank and the State's alleged failure to comply with the relevant EU law

The Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Kingdom of the Netherlands 06/2013 - 12/2013
Legal Intern The Hague, The NL

- Worked as a legal assistant to the Deputy Head of Mission and Legal Adviser of the Embassy in which capacity attended meetings at the PCA, wrote follow-up reports and memoranda to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Conducted research on legal issues concerning EU and international law, drafted reports and diplomatic notes, analysed Bulgaria's legal and economic advancement as a Member State since its admission into the EU

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Burgas Free University 09/2017-06/2020
Qualifying Law Degree (LL.B/LL.M.) Burgas, Bulgaria

- Courses: civil law, civil procedure law, administrative law, administrative procedure law, EU law, financial law, commercial law, public and private international law, constitutional law, law of obligations, IP law and others

The Brussels Diplomatic Academy and the Association for International Arbitration 09/2016-10/2016
Master Class Certificate on Investment Arbitration Brussels, Belgium

- The master class is designed to provide a concentrated educational experience and practical knowledge in the areas of law of foreign investment protection, investment arbitration and the Energy Charter Treaty

London School of Economics and Political Science 09/2015-08/2016
Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Business Law London, UK

- Courses: international commercial arbitration (fundamentals and advanced issues), investment treaty law, theory and practice of international dispute resolution, international economic law, global trade governance, human rights
- Thesis: "The application of MFN clauses to dispute settlement provisions in BITs to import more favourable procedures from third-party BITs: a legitimate extension of rights or 'disruptive treaty shopping'?"
- LSE Arbitration Practice Seminars conducted by Constantine Partasides QC, Georges Chalfoun, and others
- Represented LSE as an oralist at the 23rd Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

The Hague University of Applied Science 09/2011-08/2015
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in International and European Law, *Cum Laude* The Hague, The NL
Specialisation: Public International Law and Human Rights

- Courses: international commercial and investment arbitration, theory and sources of PIL, international trade law, contract law, EU decision making, private international law, use of force, international environmental law, and others
- Thesis: "Is there an international obligation upon the Sending State to prosecute its own diplomats for committing a crime in the Receiving State?"
- Research assistant to Professor William Worster (PIL and ICL Professor)

LANGUAGES

Bulgarian	Native or bilingual proficiency	Russian	Limited working proficiency
English	Fluent professional proficiency		

PUBLICATIONS

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- Stavros Brekoulakis, Julian D M Lew KC & Simona Valkova, "The Growth of the Funding Market in the UK and Beyond", in S Petit and N Vakil, *Funding International Arbitration*, Global Law and Business (2024)
 - Julian D M Lew QC & Simona Valkova, "Cultures and the Taking of Evidence" in F. Ferrari and F. Rosenfeld, *Handbook of Evidence in International Commercial Arbitration: Key Issues and Concepts*, Kluwer (2022)
 - A Study of International Commercial Arbitration in the Commonwealth [published](#) by the Commonwealth Secretariat (2020)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

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- Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, January 2024: "The Importance of Oral Advocacy and the Art of Persuasion – Practical tips and Doss and Don'ts when Answering Questions from the Tribunal"
 - The Singapore VYAP & The IAMC, June 2023: "[Tribunal Secretaries Demystified](#)"
 - Queen Mary University of London, October 2022: "Tribunal Secretaries in International Arbitration"