

Akosua Asirifi

Paris | +33661434858 | akosuaasirifi@yahoo.co.uk | [LinkedIn](#)



Nationality: Ghanaian
Languages: English (native); French (bilingual); Portuguese (elementary)
Bar Admission: Paris (January 2024); in preparation of SQE exams for admission as Solicitor at England & Wales (2026)
Interests: Africa related disputes, Sports Arbitration, Business and Human Rights, Hiking, Theatre, Tennis, Writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate | Derains & Gharavi **Since November 2023**
Drafted sections of Memorials in the jurisdictional phase of an ICSID arbitration, prepared a Stern Schedule in a production of documents phase, collaborated with Malaysian law experts for the drafting of a legal opinion when representing a Malaysian investor in relation to its investment in the financial sector.
Drafted legal opinions for three Middle Eastern investors in the financial sector on their prospects of success on jurisdiction *ratione materiae* for potential ICSID arbitrations.
Identified a party's assets, liaised with tracing companies and obtained the exequatur of an award for purposes of enforcement before the French courts when representing Middle Eastern investors in the financial sector.
Prepared summaries of party submissions, reviewed procedural orders and awards, and generally assisted in ICSID and CAS co-arbitrator cases in both French and English.

Legal Intern | Derains & Gharavi **January 2023 – June 2023**
Conducted legal research in international investment law and commercial arbitration. Cite checked and proofread Memorials and awards for ICC and ICSID proceedings. Assisted and attended ICC hearing on a commercial arbitration case on a breach of contract in the telecommunication industry in the Middle East.

Legal Intern | Clay Arbitration **September 2022 – December 2022**
Drafted sections of a counter-claim memorial, a jurisdictional memorial and a post hearing brief in ICC arbitrations in French and English. Assisted in preparing cross-examination questions, PowerPoint presentation and legal briefs for an ICC hearing in a dispute arising from a sale of shares in the banking industry.

Paralegal | Sherpa Association **September 2019 – September 2020**
Drafted an internal report on the links between the use of tax havens by companies and environmental destruction in French.

EDUCATION

Trainee Lawyer | Paris Bar School (EFB) **2022 – 2023**
Participated as a team in Skadden Arps' Foreign Direct Investment International Moot 2022 and was awarded the First Highest Ranked Respondent Memorial (published in Transnational Dispute Management Journal).

Master's Degree | CY Cergy-Paris University **2020 – 2021**
International and European law of economic activities and relations.
Master's thesis on "Sustainable development in international investment law".

Master's Degree | Sciences Po Paris Law School **2017 – 2020**
Economic law with specialisation in global governance studies.
International commercial arbitration, international investment law and investment arbitration, French civil procedure, French contracts and torts law.

Exchange Year | University of Glasgow **2016 – 2017**
Law and Business (subjects included business management, public international law, environmental law).

Bachelor's Degree | Sciences Po Paris **2014 – 2016**
Political and social sciences (Europe-Africa program with specialization in Sub-Saharan African laws).