

BACKGROUND

MEJIA IDR, Madrid, Spain

Independent practitioner, 2021 – Present

Acting as consultant/counsel, administrative secretary and arbitrator.

Consultant to Innsworth Advisors Limited on the financing of litigation matters in the EU.

ALLEN & OVERY, London, United Kingdom

International Arbitration, Senior Associate, 2019 – 2021

International Arbitration, Associate, 2017 – 2019

Acting as counsel in commercial and investor-state arbitrations.

BAKER & MCKENZIE, Madrid, Spain

International Arbitration. Associate, 2012 – 2016

Acting as counsel, secretary and assistant to an arbitrator in commercial, investor-state and sports arbitrations.

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID, Madrid, Spain

Public International Law, Adjunct Professor, 2015 - 2016

BAR STATUS

Abogado, Spain, 2012.

Attorney at law, New York, 2020.

Passed England & Wales QLTS MCT. Pending OSCE examination.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, NY, USA

LL.M. in International Business Regulation, Litigation and Arbitration (IBRLA), May 2017.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS, Oxford, United Kingdom

Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, 2014.

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA COMILLAS (ICADE), Madrid, Spain

Double degree in Law and Business Administration, 2009 (Law), 2010 (Business).

LANGUAGES

Spanish, English (bilingual) and French (reading).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb).

Co-Chair and International Coordinator of the Spanish Arbitration Club under 40 group (CEA-40), 2019-2020.

Nationality: Spain and Colombia.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

AS COUNSEL

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

Representing:

- A Belgian private equity entity against a multi-billion post-M&A CEPANI claim for alleged fraud and breaches of warranties arising from the sale of an OTC pharmaceutical company. Successfully reduced awarded damages by nearly 90% over the claimed amount. Belgian law applicable. English language. Brussels seat. In excess of EUR 2bn in dispute.
- A litigation funder in an LCIA arbitration to ensure the enforcement and validity of the funding agreement in related insolvency. Obtained all requested relief. English law applicable. English language. London seat. In excess of EUR 320M in value.
- (Pro-bono) a European NGO in an LCIA arbitration against an app developer in defence and counterclaim in relation to an app development agreement. Resisted an application for interim measures and a challenge to the arbitrator before both the LCIA and the English Commercial Court. Favourably settled. English law applicable. English language. London seat. EUR 2M in dispute.
- A European industrial company in an ICC arbitration against a European equipment manufacturer for gross negligence in the construction of a manufacturing plant. Favourable decision obtained. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. EUR 15M in dispute.
- A Spanish industrial company against a Northern-European equipment manufacturer in a Madrid Court of Arbitration (CAM) dispute involving claim and counterclaims in relation to the performance of an EPC contract for the construction of a renewable energy production plant. Favourably settled. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. EUR 12M in dispute.
- A large Spanish industrial company in an insurance claim under the rules of the Spanish Court of Arbitration (CEA) against a Spanish insurer in relation to the loss of grants as a consequence of Sequestration measures adopted by the Congress of the United States in 2013. Obtained all requested relief. Successfully defended the award against set-aside proceedings. Spanish and US (NY and Federal) law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. EUR 40M in dispute.
- A European industrial company in an arbitration before the Civil and Mercantile Court of Madrid (CIMA) against an East Asian company in relation to a contract for the sale of patents and the application of related non-compete agreements. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. EUR 8M in dispute.
- A major tobacco manufacturer in an ICC arbitration against another global player in relation to a joint venture agreement for a sale of certain brands in a Latin American Country. Equity and national law applicable. English language. Paris seat. Over EUR 200M in dispute.

INVESTOR-STATE ARBITRATION

Representing:

- A European investor in an ICSID arbitration against an Eastern European State for breaches of a BIT in relation to an investment in the financial services sector. Defeated challenges in relation to intra-EU BITs. Successfully settled. English language.
- A Spanish utilities company in an UNCITRAL claim for expropriation of its assets in Bolivia. Favourably settled. Spanish language. EUR 200M in dispute.

Provided advisory and pre-claim analysis for numerous clients, including (i) a Fortune 500 company in relation to several claims against various Latin American countries under NAFTA, USMCA and other applicable BITs;

(ii) several investors against European countries for changes in renewable energy feed-in tariffs; (iii) a Spanish infrastructure company against an Asian country for breaches of toll-road construction and concession agreements; and (iv) a Spanish infrastructure company against a West-African country for breaches of an agreement for the construction and maintenance of water infrastructure.

SPORTS ARBITRATION

Representing:

- An Olympic Athlete before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (TAS-CAS) ad-hoc committee for the 2012 London Olympic Games in an appeal against their Federation's decision to exclude them from the Olympic team. The appeal and favourable decision were achieved in less than 48 hours. Olympic Charter applicable. English language.

ARBITRATION-RELATED LITIGATION

Representing:

- A Spanish arbitrator against claims for liability, following the annulment of an award. Spanish Courts.
- A Spanish industrial company against a challenge to a favourable award. Spanish Courts.
- A European NGO against the challenge to a sole LCIA arbitrator. English Courts.

AS ARBITRAL SECRETARY

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

- An ICC arbitration between a European company and an African State and various state entities in relation to the failed construction of transport infrastructures. Complex conflicts of law issues on the applicable law between the company's and the State's national law. Paris seat. English language. Over EUR 100M in dispute.
- An ICC arbitration between a European joint venture and an Eastern European public entity in relation to the construction of water distribution infrastructure. Romanian law applicable. English language. Bucharest seat. EUR 12M in dispute.
- A CAM arbitration between four Spanish construction groups over a joint venture for the financing and construction of road infrastructure and the sell-out provisions of the agreement. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. Over EUR 300M in dispute.
- A CAM arbitration between a Spanish industrial manufacturer and a European equipment supplier in relation to the supply and construction of a plant for the production of steel beams. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. EUR 14M in dispute.
- An ad-hoc arbitration seated in Spain between a Spanish company and a European insurer, regarding a civil liability insurance policy and its application to securities fraud in the United States. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. EUR 40M in dispute.

SPORTS ARBITRATION (AD-HOC CLERK)

- A TAS-CAS arbitration related to the internal governance of a Latin American National Olympic Committee. English language. Domestic law of the NOC, Olympic Charter and Swiss law applicable. (Award publicly available: CAS 2013/A/3052).
- A TAS-CAS arbitration on the interpretation of the Rio 2016 qualifying criteria for an Olympic sport, with more than a dozen participating entities. Olympic Charter and Swiss law applicable. English language. (Award publicly available: CAS 2015/A/4222).

Sebastián Mejía García

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- Four consolidated TAS-CAS arbitrations between various players and an Eastern European football club regarding claims of contractual stability and breach of contract. FIFA Regulations and Swiss law applicable. English language. (Award publicly available: CAS 2013/A/3331 and 3332).
- A consolidated TAS-CAS arbitration between various parties and national and international federations, including claims and counterclaims, in relation to the contractual stability clause in a football player's employment contract and their transfer from Brazil to a European club. Swiss law applicable. English language.

IN SUPPORT OF ARBITRAL TRIBUNALS

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

- A consolidated ICC arbitration between two Argentinian companies, including claim and counterclaim, arising from a sale-of-gas agreement for industrial purposes. Argentinian law applicable. Spanish language. Buenos Aires seat. EUR 20M in dispute.
- An ICC arbitration between a Taiwanese and a Spanish company in relation to a contract for the supply of high-voltage cables for a project in Brazil. English law applicable. English language. London seat. EUR 13M in dispute.
- An ICC arbitration between two Spanish companies and a Colombian company in relation to a joint venture agreement for the construction of a wind farm in Chile. Chilean law applicable. Spanish language. Miami seat. EUR 10M in dispute.
- A AAA-ICDR arbitration between a major US car manufacturer and a regional distributor, in relation to the application of an exclusive distributorship agreement. NY law applicable. English language. Miami seat. EUR 50M in dispute.
- A CAM arbitration between an English insurer and a Spanish bank in relation to a banc-assurance agreement and its winding up following the 2010 financial crisis. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language. Madrid seat. Over EUR 250M in dispute.

SPORTS ARBITRATION

Assisted an arbitrator in over 20 TAS-CAS and TAF (Tribunal Arbitral del Fútbol of the Spanish Football Federation) proceedings, including:

- An appeal against an international federation's decision to ban a national federation in relation to the registration and trade of underage players. Swiss law applicable. English language.
- Several related appeals against numerous disciplinary measures taken against a high executive of an international sporting federation. Swiss law applicable. English language.
- An ordinary proceeding and a parallel appeal in relation to the alleged breach by a state and its National Federation of a contract to hold the world championship on the sport. Swiss law applicable. English language.
- An appeal against an International Federation's decision to impose a fine and temporal ban to trade players against a national club affiliated to it. Swiss law applicable. English language.
- A contractual dispute between two Spanish clubs on the payment of performance-related fees and solidarity payments following the transfer of a player. Spanish law applicable. Spanish language.
- Numerous contractual disputes between clubs, agents, and athletes.