



KETEVAN BETANELI



Betaneli Arbitration
Paris, France

ketevan@betaneliarbitration.com
<https://betaneliarbitration.com/>

Nationalities: Georgian and French

OVERVIEW

Ketevan Betaneli is an independent arbitrator based in Paris, who has extensive experience as an arbitrator and counsel in complex commercial and investment treaty disputes. Ms Betaneli has acted as sole arbitrator, chair, and counsel in arbitrations administered under a wide range of institutional and ad hoc rules, including the ICC, SCC, HKIAC, ICSID, GIAC, FIBA, and UNCITRAL, as well as under the ICC Expedited Procedure Rules.

Prior to establishing Betaneli Arbitration in 2024, Ms Betaneli practiced international arbitration at leading international law firms in Paris and Tbilisi and worked at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

Ms Betaneli is admitted to the New York and Georgian bars and holds degrees in international law, international arbitration, and corporate law from New York University, Stockholm University, the University of Helsinki, and Tbilisi State University. She is multilingual and has handled arbitrations involving Georgian, Russian, English, and French.

Ms Betaneli actively contributes to the development of international arbitration through publications, speaking engagements, teaching, and capacity-building initiatives. She has developed and led written and oral advocacy training courses for arbitration lawyers worldwide.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Betaneli Arbitration (Paris, France)

Independent Arbitrator

August 2024 – Present

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP (Paris, France)

Senior Knowledge Lawyer and Knowledge Lawyer, International Arbitration Group

November 2016 – July 2024

Shearman & Sterling LLP (Paris, France)

Senior Associate and Associate, International Arbitration Group

June 2011 – October 2016

Ministry of Justice of Georgia (Tbilisi, Georgia)

Deputy Head of State Representation in Arbitration and Foreign State Courts Department

October 2010 – April 2011

Ministry of Justice of Georgia (Tbilisi, Georgia)

Head of State Representation in Arbitration and Foreign State Courts Division

October 2009 – September 2010

White & Case LLP (Paris, France)
Secondment from the Ministry of Justice of Georgia
April – May 2010

DLA Piper Gvinadze & Partners LP (Tbilisi, Georgia)
Associate
June – July 2008

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP (Paris, France)
Legal Trainee
October 2007 – March 2008

European Union Project (Tbilisi, Georgia)
Legal Consultant (part-time)
November 2005 – August 2007

International Advocates Amirashvili & Gogishvili LP (Tbilisi, Georgia)
Associate
January 2006 – August 2007

ICC International Court of Arbitration (Paris, France)
Legal Trainee
November – December 2006

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State (USA)
Georgia (Caucasian State)

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law (New York, USA)
LL.M. in Corporate Law
2008–2009

Stockholm University (Stockholm, Sweden)
Master's in International Commercial Arbitration Law
2004–2005

Helsinki University (Helsinki, Finland)
Master's in Public International Law
2003–2004

Tbilisi State University (Tbilisi, Georgia)
Bachelor's in International Law (with Honours)
1998–2003

SELECTED ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

Ms Betaneli's arbitration experience as an arbitrator and counsel includes:

Commercial Arbitration

Acting as the President of the Arbitral Tribunal in a dispute under the GIAC Arbitration Rules, seated in Tbilisi, Georgia, involving corporate law issues.

Acting as the Sole Arbitrator in a dispute under the ICC Expedited Procedure Rules, seated in Paris, France, concerning the wholesale and retail trade sector.

Acting as the Sole Arbitrator in a dispute under the SCC Arbitration Rules, seated in Stockholm, Sweden, involving an agricultural project.

Representing three European chemical companies as Claimants in an ICC arbitration in Paris against the European subsidiaries of a large North American chemical concern. The dispute arose from the confidentiality provision contained in a joint venture agreement formed to manufacture a product used for the production of nylon. French law applied and the languages of the arbitration were both French and English. The dispute concluded with a settlement.

Representing a European company and its affiliate as Claimants in an arbitration in Hong Kong against an Asian company in the automotive industry and its affiliate. The dispute arose from an agreement for the manufacture and distribution of automobiles in a CIS State. The arbitration was conducted under the UNCITRAL Rules and administered by HKIAC.

Representing a Ukrainian Premier League basketball club as Respondent against a U.S. professional basketball player and his sports agents in an arbitration under the FIBA Rules.

Advising a Georgian company in relation to a potential ICC arbitration concerning the purchase and installation of warehouse facilities in Georgia.

Investment Disputes

Representing the majority shareholders in the former Yukos Oil Company as Claimants in a series of three UNCITRAL arbitrations in The Hague against the Russian Federation in relation to the expropriation of their investment in the company. The claims were brought under the Energy Charter Treaty. The Tribunal ordered the Russian Federation to pay over USD 50 billion in damages, the largest award ever rendered by an arbitral tribunal.

Representing the Republic of Lithuania as Respondent in an ICC arbitration initiated by OAO Gazprom. The dispute related to Gazprom's investment in the Kaunas Heat and Power Plant (Kauno Termofikacijos Elektrinė). The proceedings were brought under the Russia-Lithuania BIT. After Gazprom withdrew the claim, the Republic of Lithuania secured the reimbursement of the entirety of the arbitration costs and of the legal fees and expenses incurred in the proceedings.

Representing Viorel Micula et al. in an ICSID arbitration brought under the Sweden-Romania BIT against Romania, concerning the Claimants' business activities in Romania pertaining to the production and sale of alcoholic spirits in the country.

Representing Georgia as Respondent in an ICSID arbitration brought by Karmer Marble Tourism Construction Industry and Commerce LLC under the Turkey-Georgia BIT (ICSID Case No. ARB/08/19).

Representing Georgia as Respondent in a UNCITRAL (ad hoc) arbitration brought by Ina Gudavadze under the Georgian Foreign Investment Law, related to the alleged taking of a TV station and a park (overlooking Tbilisi) without receiving compensation. The dispute concluded with a settlement.

Additional Information

Ms Betaneli's experience includes cases involving:

Parties from: Georgia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, the Russian Federation, Cyprus, Isle of Man, Turkey, France, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, USA, Canada, China

Seated in: Paris, Stockholm, The Hague, Tbilisi, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan

Applicable laws of: Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, France, England and Wales, New York, the CISG

Languages: Georgian, Russian, English, French

Applicable arbitration rules: ICC, SCC, HKIAC, ICSID, GIAC, FIBA, and UNCITRAL, as well as the ICC Expedited Procedure Rules

Issues addressed as arbitrator: interim measures, admissibility and jurisdictional objections (including the scope of the arbitration agreement and its applicability to non-signatories), document production, bifurcation, unsolicited submissions, applications for the admission of late-filed evidence and submissions, allocation of costs

Industries and sectors: agriculture, food and beverages, hospitality, wholesale and retail, automotive, chemicals, oil and gas, energy, power generation, construction, infrastructure, telecommunications, real estate development, sports

Types of disputes: corporate and shareholder, management contracts, joint venture and confidentiality agreements, distribution agreements, supply and installation agreements, contract interpretation, performance and termination, international sales, multi-party and multi-contract disputes

Types of parties: States and State entities (including ministries, local governments, governments of autonomous republics and their departments, and State-owned entities (SOEs)), as well as private parties (including shareholders, corporations and individuals)

Public international law and investment treaties: representing investors and States in investment treaty arbitrations across various sectors, including tunnel construction, tax measures, oil and gas, power plants, concessions, telecommunications, hospitality, and food and beverages; as well as acting in post-award proceedings involving investment treaty awards

ARBITRATOR PANEL AND LIST MEMBERSHIPS

HKIAC List of Arbitrators

DIAC List of Arbitrators

GIAC List of Arbitrators

SIAC List of Rising Arbitrators

KCAB International Panel of Arbitrators

Shanghai Arbitration Commission Panel of Arbitrators

RECOGNITION AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recognized by Who's Who Legal: Arbitration Future Leaders - Non-Partners (2019–2024)

Recognized by Lexology Index: Arbitration Future Leaders - Non-Partners (2025) and Arbitration Future Leaders - Partners (2026)

Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR

VIAC Ambassador for Georgia

Co-founder of the Caucasus and Central Asia Arbitration Series

Co-founder of OUR IDR CLUB

Former Court Member for Georgia, the ICC International Court of Arbitration

Former Chairperson and member of the GIAC Arbitration Council

Member of the GIAC Arbitration Rules Drafting Committee

Former Research Assistant, New York Convention Guide

PUBLICATIONS

Chapter

Governing Law and Dispute Resolution in the Oil and Gas Industry, 2022 (Edgar Energy Law and Practice), author of the chapter on Georgia, starting at page 405 (book overview available [here](#)).

Articles

“Clarity or confusion? The implication of domestic court rulings for arbitration”, Freshfields’ yearly publication on International Arbitration Top Trends (2024) by Ketevan Betaneli, Christophe Seraglini, Katherine Khan and Guy MacInnes-Manby.

“The impact of AI on the legal profession - update from Paris”, Freshfields blog, 5 April 2023 (available [here](#)).

“Paris Court of Appeal partially sets aside ICC award (Equatorial Guinea v Mr [C] & Bank [1])”, LexisNexis case analysis by Ketevan Betaneli, 14 April 2022 (available [here](#)).

“Tenke Fungurume Mining v. Katanga Contracting Services - Judgment of the High Court of Justice of England and Wales, 7 December 2021”, Jus Mundi case comment by Ketevan Betaneli and Veronika Timofeeva, March 2022 (available [here](#)).

“Paris Court of Appeal confirms pro-arbitration stance by enforcing ICC award set aside at seat” by Ketevan Betaneli and Christophe Seraglini, Lexology, 17 February 2022 (available [here](#)).

“Drives towards greater efficiency in international arbitration”, Freshfields’ yearly publication on International Arbitration Top Trends (2022) by Ketevan Betaneli, Nicholas Lingard, Patrick Schroeder and Hinda Rabkin, February 2022.

“Paris Court of Appeal maintains pro-arbitration stance by upholding ICC award” by Ketevan Betaneli and Noah Rubins KC, Lexology, 29 April 2021 (available [here](#)).

“Surviving COVID-19: arbitrations involving insolvent companies” by Ketevan Betaneli and Veronika Timofeeva, Lexology, 1 April 2021 (available [here](#)).

“How COVID insolvencies affect arbitration” by Ketevan Betaneli, Noah Rubins KC and Thomas Walsh, Global Arbitration Review (GAR), 18 March 2021 (available [here](#)).

“Insolvency and arbitration”, Freshfields’ yearly publication on Illuminating the Top Trends (international arbitration in 2021) by Ketevan Betaneli, Noah Rubins KC and Thomas Walsh, 17 February 2021.

“The 2021 ICC Rules: reflections on key changes and the ICC Secretariat’s guidance note” by Ketevan Betaneli and Amy Tan, Freshfields blog, 29 January 2021 (available [here](#)).

“The 2021 ICC Arbitration Rules further improve the efficiency, flexibility and transparency of the arbitral process” by Ketevan Betaneli, Freshfields blog, 16 November 2020.

“International arbitration in the time of COVID-19: a rapidly changing environment” by Ketevan Betaneli, Vasuda Sinha and Ashley Jones, Freshfields blog, 23 March 2020.

“Practical Tips for Effectively Conducting an Arbitration” by Ketevan Betaneli, published in The Financial, 15 April 2019 (available [here](#)).

“Why arbitration? A basic overview and pointers” by Ketevan Betaneli, published in The Financial, 4 March 2019 (available [here](#)).

“The new Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea: New Opportunities and New Challenges” by Ketevan Betaneli and Daniel Müller, Freshfields blog, 1 November 2018.

“The 2018 Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea” by Ketevan Betaneli and Noah Rubins KC, published in English and Russian in the Kazakh Journal on Subsoil Use and Law (2/2018 edition).

“Avoiding Disputes in the Context of Subsurface Contracting” by Ketevan Betaneli, published in English and Russian in the International Atyrau Legal Conference Materials (2012).

“Kazakhstan and Investment Protection Mechanisms in the Energy Sector” by Ketevan Betaneli and Yas Banifatemi, published in English and Russian in the Kazakh Journal on Subsoil Use and Law (2/2011 edition).

“Company Law in Georgia” by Ketevan Betaneli and Maik Masbaum, published in English and Georgian in the Georgian Law Review 2003 (6/2003-2/3).

SPEAKING AND TEACHING ENGAGEMENTS

2026 (30 June) – co-organizer and moderator of the panel discussion on “Expedited Procedures under the SCC Rules”, jointly organized with the SCC Arbitration Institute and Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes – Paris, France.

2026 (27 April) – speaker at a joint VIAC & ARBMENIA event on “Secret (and Not-So-Secret) Ingredients for Efficient International Arbitration Proceedings”, hosted by Yerevan State University – Yerevan, Armenia.

2026 (12 April) – moderator of the first ICCA Congress 2026 side event on “Aligning Expectations: Dispute Resolution Dynamics Between Latin American and Chinese Parties”, co-organized with the HKIAC, Cuatrecasas, Betaneli Arbitration, and OUR IDR CLUB – Madrid, Spain.

2026 (24 March) – moderator at “The Caucasus and Central Asia Arbitration Series”, held during Paris Arbitration Week (PAW), which was covered by GAR (article available [here](#)) – Paris, France.

2025 (21 November) – co-organizer of the First Uzbek Law Day in Paris and moderator of the panel on “Dispute Resolution in Central Asia and the Caucasus” – Paris, France.

2025 (9-10 October) – moderator of two sessions on (1) “Rethinking the Arbitration Process: Time for a Procedural Reset”; and (2) “Fast Track to Justice at the SCC and at GIAC: Emergency Arbitration and Other Ways to Quickly Resolve a Dispute” (event report available [here](#)), during the GIAC Arbitration Days – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2025 (9 April) – moderator at a GIAC event on “Key Industry and International Dispute Resolution Updates from the Caucasus and Central Asia: Where We Stand and What Lies Ahead”, held during Paris Arbitration Week (PAW) – Paris, France.

2025 (28 February) – speaker at the ArbitralWomen Breakfast on “The Future of Women in CEE: What Lies Ahead?”, hosted by VIAC – Vienna, Austria.

2024 (9-10 September) – taught two full days at the first summer school in arbitration in Georgia, jointly organized by the Commerce Law Development Program (CLDP) and the Georgian Association of Arbitrators (GAA), delivered in Georgian.

2024 (14 June) – speaker at the “Arbitration and ADR in Georgia and the Wider Region” conference, jointly organized by the ICC and ICC Georgia – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2024 (11 June) – speaker at the “Introduction to VIAC” conference, jointly organized by VIAC and GAA – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2022 (13 May) – speaker at the “Eastern Europe & CIS International Arbitration” conference, organized by the ICC Georgia – Tbilisi, Georgia (remote participation).

2021 (10 December) – speaker at the “ICC Arbitration Sessions for Central Asia: 3rd eChaikhana” virtual seminar (in Russian).

2021 (17 September) – speaker at the “ICC Arbitration Sessions for Central Asia: 2nd eChaikhana” virtual seminar (in Russian).

2021 (25 June) – speaker at the “ICC Arbitration Sessions for Central Asia: 1st eChaikhana” virtual seminar (in Russian).

2021 (7 May) – speaker at a virtual webinar on “Arbitration Proceedings and Insolvency Procedures”, organized by GIAC (in Georgian).

2021 (8 April) – speaker at a virtual webinar on “Arbitration boat in a sea of ethics”, organized by Nash Arbitrazh.

2021 (21 January) – sole presenter at a virtual webinar on “the ICC Rules and its 2021 modifications”, organized by GAA (in Georgian).

2020 (17 December) – moderator at a virtual conference on “Arbitral Institutions at times of COVID – ICC and GIAC experiences”, organized by the ICC and GIAC.

2020 (8 June) – moderator at a virtual webinar on “the ICSID and UNCITRAL Draft Code of Conduct for Adjudicators”, organized by the Young ISDS Club.

2019 (9-10 October) – moderator at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on the “ICC-GIAC Panel: Regional Development of Arbitration”, organized by GIAC – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2017 (2-3 October) – moderator at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on institutional interference, organized by GIAC – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2016 (1-3 December) – moderator at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on third party funding, organized by GIAC – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2015 (3 December) – speaker at the International Arbitration Day, organized by Shearman & Sterling LLP – Paris, France.

2015 (27 November) – speaker at the ICC *Lex Mercatoria* 4th International Conference on International Sales Law and International Commercial Arbitration on disclosure requirements by arbitrators under different arbitration rules, organized by the ICC – Minsk, Belarus.

2015 (8-10 October) – speaker at the GIAC Arbitration Days in Tbilisi on the regional development of arbitration, organized by GIAC – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2014 (25 April) – speaker at the 12th International Atyrau Legal Conference on investment arbitration, jointly organized by the Kazakhstan Petroleum Lawyers’ Association and Tengizchevroil – Atyrau, Kazakhstan.

2014 (11 March) – speaker at the conference dedicated to the creation of GIAC, jointly organized by the Government of Georgia and Transparency International Georgia – Tbilisi, Georgia.

2013 (29 November) – speaker at a luncheon dedicated to investment arbitration, organized by the Association of International Business Lawyers – Geneva, Switzerland.

2013 (19 November) – speaker at the International Arbitration Day, organized by Shearman & Sterling LLP – Paris, France.

2011 (22-24 June) – moderator at the 6th CIS Local Counsel Forum on “the Caucasus Panel”, organized by the Ukrainian Legal Group – Almaty, Kazakhstan.

2008 (1-4 May) – speaker at the “Conflict Avoidance and Resolution in the Eastern Mediterranean Region Conference”, organized by the European Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Istanbul, Turkey.

2007 (6-8 September) – speaker at the “First Mediterranean-Middle East Counsel Forum”, organized by the European Court of Arbitration – Rome, Italy.

LANGUAGES

Georgian (native); English, Russian, French (fluent); Spanish (basic).