



Michael Stepek

Partner

Chair, International Arbitration Practice

Admitted to practice only in England & Wales and Illinois

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Michael focuses on international commercial arbitration and litigation, investment treaty arbitration, and complex, high-value disputes. He advises on matters involving the control of corporate entities, foreign direct investment, concession agreements, major infrastructure projects, and joint ventures.

Michael is chair of Winston's International Arbitration Practice, and he appears regularly before the leading international forums throughout Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. He represents clients before numerous international forums in arbitrations conducted pursuant to all the major institutional rules, including ICSID, ICC, LCIA, HKIAC, SCC, and UNCITRAL. Michael has over 30 years of experience in international law conducted pursuant to various institutional rules as well as ad hoc. He also appears as an arbitrator in such disputes.

Licensed to practice in both England & Wales and in the United States, Michael has a particular focus in the energy, power, mining, telecommunications, and transportation industries. He is a member of the firm's Videogame, Gaming and Esports Group dedicated to providing comprehensive legal solutions to companies in these industries.

Michael is renowned as a top-tier practitioner by leading legal directories. He has been listed in the “Hall of Fame” in *The Legal 500* since 2022, where he is described as “uniformly excellent” and a “rare lawyer who knows his practice area inside and out”. He is also recommended as a leader in his field by *Chambers Global* and *Best Lawyers in Switzerland* in the fields of Arbitration and Mediation, Energy Law, and International Arbitration.

Key Matters

Examples of recent work include:

- Representing Dominion Minerals Corp., a listed U.S. junior mining company, in an ICSID bilingual English-Spanish arbitration concerning Dominion’s claims arising under the treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Panama concerning the treatment and protection of investments arising out of Dominion’s investment in a copper and gold concession in western Panama.
- Representing a Luxembourg company as part of a German public company in a US\$2B dispute with a Saudi Arabian joint venture partner in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration pending in Dubai, UAE.
- Secured a multimillion-dollar victory in a final award on behalf of a Turkish consortium comprised of three of the largest engineering and construction companies in Turkey in an ICC arbitration in Zurich arising out of a supply contract dated 10 June 2010 that was concluded between the consortium and one of the largest manufacturers of tunnel boring machines, which was to supply the consortium with a tailor-made tunnel boring machine, together with related services for use in the excavation of a six-kilometer tunnel as part of the Eskişehir Köseköy high-speed railway project on the segment between Istanbul and Ankara in Turkey.
- Representing two scions of a very well-known private bank in Geneva, Switzerland, in an arbitration proceeding ad hoc in Switzerland in a bilingual French and English arbitration against the former partners of the private bank for having concealed and misappropriated the claimants’ rights to participate as partners in the bank, capital that had been set aside for their entry into the partnership, and their family’s good will dating back to Napoleonic times.
- Represented Professional Football Club CSKA-Sofia JSC in an appeal before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in which our client – one of the most prominent football clubs in Bulgaria – was adverse to the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).
- Represented a listed U.S. company in the medical aesthetics business in a London based LCIA arbitration against PRC respondents which had, inter alia, set up a competing businesses in China and in Hong Kong, operated a confusingly similar website, and infringed his client’s patents and trademarks. In support of these arbitrations, obtained three freezing injunctions (known as Mareva injunctions) from the Hong Kong courts against the respondents’ properties.
- Represented a private equity fund in its defense of claims brought against it in the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre by the PRC corporate group which purchased an automobile component manufacturer in a transaction that spanned three continents.
- Represented a major oil and gas company and its holding company in two arbitrations arising out of alleged breaches of a Shareholders Agreement and Sale and Purchase Agreement between a major English oil and gas company and its joint venture partner, which formed one of the largest oil and gas production companies in the world.
- Represented Virasa Technologies on a US\$700M ICC arbitration in Singapore brought by Korean industrial manufacturer and Hyundai affiliate KCC in relation to a technology transfer agreement for monosilane based polysilicon production technology used in the making of photovoltaic solar panels.
- Represented a Swiss engineering company against a German engineering and construction company in an arbitration in Zurich, Switzerland under Swiss law for the supply and erection of eight air-cooled condensers at four combined cycle power plants in the United States.

Recognitions

- Ranked in *Legal 500 UK* 2023 in the “Hall of Fame” for International Arbitration
 - Recognized in *Legal 500 US* 2023–2024 for International Arbitration
 - Named in *Legal 500 International Arbitration Powerlist* UK 2019
 - Recognized in *Legal 500 Latin America International Firms* for International Arbitration (2024)
 - Ranked in *Chambers Global* for Arbitration (2009–2025)
 - Featured as one of 10 practitioners in *Financier Worldwide: Power Players - Distinguished Advisers - International Arbitration* 2021
 - Named in *Best Lawyers* in Switzerland in the fields of Arbitration and Mediation, Energy Law, and International Arbitration
 - Recognized in *Global Arbitration Review* (GAR) 100
 - Recognized in the 2023 and 2024 editions of *Lawdragon* “500 Leading Global Litigators” guide for International Arbitration & Litigation
 - Peer nominated for 2021 Commercial Arbitration Expert Guides
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Activities

Michael is an adjunct faculty member of the Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy, an organization that provides practical trial skills to practicing international arbitration lawyers. Michael is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Institute for Transnational Arbitration and a founder of the Institute for Law and Development Policy, an NGO focused on providing practicing legal practitioners to various publicly and privately funded, rule-of-law programs in post-conflict states.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Michael received a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame and a B.S. from Northern Illinois University.

ADMISSIONS

- England & Wales
- Illinois

Related Insights & News

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2025

JUNE 12, 2025

CLIENT ALERT

International Arbitration Boost in the UK: The Freshly Passed 2025 Arbitration Act

MARCH 13, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Recognized in *Chambers Global* 2025

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

IN THE MEDIA

Michael Stepek Discusses Representation of Dominion Minerals in Arbitration with Panama

DECEMBER 12, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500* UK 2025

OCTOBER 3, 2024

SPONSORSHIP

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SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

NEWS

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AUGUST 21, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Lawyers Featured on the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Litigators List

JULY 25, 2024

CLIENT ALERT

Argentina: Steps in the Right Direction – Ley de Bases

JULY 3, 2024

PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston's London Office Supports Zambian Government's Goal of Serving As a Leading Global Arbitration Center

APRIL 2024

ARTICLE

Green Hydrogen in Latin America: Opportunities, Challenges and Effective Dispute Settlement Through International Arbitration

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Global Arbitration Review's* GAR100 17th Edition

MARCH 22, 2024

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials	International Arbitration	Commercial Litigation & Disputes		
Private Equity	Public Companies	Energy	Financial Services	Oil & Gas