



Aija Lejniece

Date of Birth: 27 December 1986
Address: 45 rue Saint-Dominique, 75007, Paris, France
Nationality: Republic of Latvia
Current Position: Independent Counsel & Arbitrator, Paris, France

Professional Experience

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- **Independent Counsel & Arbitrator**, Paris, France | May 2021–Present
- **Latham & Watkins LLP**, Paris, France
Senior Associate, International Arbitration, Litigation & Trial Practice | April 2016–April 2021
- **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**, Paris, France
Associate, International Arbitration and PIL Practice Group | November 2012–February 2016
- **Shearman & Sterling LLP**, Paris, France
Trainee Lawyer, International Arbitration Group | April 2012–July 2012
- **White & Case LLP**, Paris, France
Trainee Lawyer, International Arbitration Group | September 2011–February 2012

BAR ADMISSIONS

- **Latvian Bar** / 2025 (*EU Directive 98/5/EC*)
- **Paris Bar** / 2014
- **New York Bar** / 2013

Arbitration Experience

Select State Representations

- An African State in French-language ICC proceedings related to the reopening of an arbitration under French law due to corruption allegations.
- An Eastern-European State in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning the bankruptcy of one of the largest national banks following the 2014 financial crisis.
- Republic of Colombia in multiple ICSID arbitrations against North American gold miners.
- An Eastern-European State in three UNCITRAL arbitrations relating to the bankruptcy of an oil company.
- Hellenic Republic in an ICSID arbitration against a Cypriot bank arising out of government bond restructuring in the context of the Greek financial crisis.
- Arab Republic of Egypt in an ICSID arbitration relating to an investment in the tourism sector.

Select Investor Representations

- Strategic advice on treaty-based claims for an Eastern European investor in a dispute over withheld funds during the liquidation of a Northern European financial institution.
- A Lithuanian investor against an Eastern European State in an SCC arbitration under the Energy Charter Treaty concerning the renewable energy sector.
- A Lithuanian investor against Belarus in an ICSID arbitration arising out of the host State's interference with an infrastructure project in the Minsk Airport vicinity.
- Photovoltaic investor Novenergia in an Energy Charter Treaty-based SCC arbitration against the Kingdom of Spain concerning the national renewable energy scheme, and the consequent dealings with the European Commission and annulment proceedings before the Svea Court of Appeal in Sweden.
- A State-owned energy company against a Northern European State in an UNCITRAL arbitration regarding the unbundling of the national gas sector.
- A State-owned oil & gas company against an Eastern European State in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning the forced takeover of the investor's company, as well as in subsequent annulment proceedings before the Paris Court of Appeal.

Select Commercial Arbitration Representations

- A multi-billion-dollar North American automotive business in corporate and EU regulatory contexts.
- A Middle Eastern industrial agency and trading company in a pre-arbitration dispute under an ICC clause governed by French law, concerning breach of an agency agreement for upstream oil & gas opportunities.
- Crypto traders in a multi-claim dispute against a prominent crypto trading platform under the HKIAC Rules.
- An individual in an arbitration concerning a crypto-related shareholders' agreement under the HKIAC Rules.
- A LATAM State-owned oil & gas company in two LCIA arbitrations in connection with a dispute relating to Health & Safety and arising out of a Unit Operating Agreement.
- A Ukrainian construction company in ICC award enforcement and annulment proceedings in before the Paris Court of Appeal.
- The family of a high-ranking international organization representative in a dispute against the organization.
- Advising various fintech actors in matters relating to their ventures.

Arbitrator Appointments

- Co-arbitrator (appointed by the respondent) in an SCC commercial arbitration relating to debt recovery under a construction contract (Latvian law).
- Co-arbitrator (appointed by the respondent) in an *ad hoc* arbitration under the French Code of Civil Procedure relating to the sale of a real estate company (French law).

Education Background

- **Saïd Business School, University of Oxford**
Artificial Intelligence Program / 2023-2024
- **Harvard Law School**
LL.M. / 2010–2011
- **University of Latvia**
LL.M. / 2008–2010
- **Utrecht University**
LL.M., Erasmus / 2009
- **University of Latvia**
LL.B. / 2005–2008

Expertise

Specialization

Investment Treaty Arbitration | International Commercial Arbitration | PIL | Cross-Border Disputes | French Enforcement & Annulment Proceedings | EU Law | ADR

Areas of Expertise

Litigation | Pre-Dispute Advice | Investment Corporate Structuring Advice | Regulatory Advice | Strategy | Securing Funding | Settlement Negotiations | Contracts | Corporate

Industry Sectors

Oil & Gas | Renewable Energy | Mining | Banking | Fintech | Crypto | Construction | Insolvency | Taxation | Sovereign Debt | Tourism | Consumer Protection | Corporate

Rules & Institutions

ICSID | SCC | HKIAC | LCIA | ICC | UNCITRAL | PCA

Practice Location/ Jurisdiction

Paris, France

Working Languages

- **Latvian** (native proficiency)
- **English** (native proficiency)
- **French** (fluent)
- **Russian** (fluent)
- **Spanish** (professional grasp)
- **Italian** (notions)
- **German** (notions)

Other Relevant Experience

INSTITUTIONAL POSITIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Permanent Court of Arbitration, The Hague, Netherlands | April 2023–Present

Member of the Court, appointed by the Republic of Latvia

Latvian National Unified Lawyer Qualification Exam, Riga, Latvia | September 2023–Present

Member of the International & EU Law Committee, appointed by the Ministry of Justice

Vienna International Arbitration Center, Vienna, Austria | January 2023–Present

Co-Chair of the VIAC LegalTech Think Tank

Chambre Arbitrale Internationale de Paris, Paris, France | May 2025–Present

Member of Working Group on Arbitration and Artificial Intelligence

Constitutional Court of the Republic of Latvia, Riga, Latvia | May 2022

Legal expert on International Arbitration in Constitutional Case No. 2022-03-01 (*Vzaimnij Kredit*)

ARBITRATOR PANEL & LIST MEMBERSHIPS

- Hong Kong International Arbitration Center / since June 2022
- Blockchain Lawyers Forum / since September 2024
- Asia Pacific International Arbitration Chamber / since February 2025
- Caspian Arbitration Society / since March 2022

ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIETIES

- Young ITA Mentorship Program Mentor / 2025
- Paris Arbitration Center by Delos Founding Member
- Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje
- ArbitralWomen

Selected Publications

- ‘Планирование инвестиционных соглашений: определение, характеристики и подходы арбитражных трибуналов’ (*‘Planning of Investment Agreements: Definition, Characteristics, and Approaches of Arbitral Tribunals’*) with Anna Guillard Sazhko (upcoming)

- 'Latvia: Arbitration Reform and New Arbitral Award Set-Aside Mechanism' | ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin (2025) Issue 1
- 'Good Governance Principles for the Use of Artificial Intelligence by Law Firms' | Chapter in "Blockchain, Metaverse, and AI in Arbitration: Navigating the New Future of Dispute Resolution" (Radboud University Press) (January 2025)
- 'Kā Latvijas investoriem optimizēt savu investīciju starptautisko aizsardzību' (*How Latvian Investors Can Optimize the International Protection of Their Investments*) | Jurista Vārds, No. 44 (1362) (29 October 2024)
- Book Review "The Technological Competence of Arbitrators: A Comparative and International Legal Study, Katia Fach Gómez (Springer 2023)" with *Elizabeth Chan* | ICSID Review - Foreign Investment Law Journal (2024)
- 'Navigating the Bermuda triangle: Finding the optimal balance between Client, Counsel and Funder' with *Malte Stubinger* | Austrian Yearbook on International Arbitration
- 'French Idealism vs. English Pragmatism: The Alternative Endings to the Kout Food Saga' | Spain Arbitration Review, Vol. 47 (2023)
- 'You Can't Have Your Cake and Eat It too: The Refusal to Pay an Advance on Costs Renders Subsequent Objection to the Jurisdiction of State Courts Inadmissible' | Spain Arbitration Review, Vol. 44 (2022)
- 'Crypto Takes Center Stage in Russia's War Against Ukraine' | La Revue européenne du droit, August 2022
- 'Delos Tech Channel Anniversary Edition – Editor's Note' | Delos, 15 June 2022

Selected Interviews & Commentary

- 'Latvia's lack of set-aside provisions ruled unconstitutional' | Global Arbitration Review, S. Moody, 15 March 2023
- Venezuela challenges "corrupted" Conoco annulment committee | Global Arbitration Review, C. Sanderson, 21 June 2022
- 'Born to Run' | The Wire China, K. Northrop, 8 May 2022
- 'Malaysia challenges mega-award in French court' | C. Sanderson, Global Arbitration Review, 18 March 2022
- '\$76 Billion a Day: How Binance Became the World's Biggest Crypto Exchange' | The Wall Street Journal, P. Kowsmann & C. Ostroff, 11 November 2021
- 'Binance Traders Line Up \$5m for Compensation Claim' | The Financial Times, J. Oliver & L. Fletcher, 19 August 2021
- 'Crypto traders want payback after losing millions to Binance glitches' | NBC News, O. Solon, 19 August 2021
- 'Swiss funder backs HKIAC claim against crypto exchange' | Global Arbitration Review, C. Sanderson, 19 August 2021

- 'Binance Froze When Bitcoin Crashed. Now Users Want Their Money Back' | The Wall Street Journal, P. Kowsmann & C. Ostroff, 11 July 2021
- Jaunais Jurists: Aija Lejniece (*interview and profile*) | Jurista Vārds, No. 46 (1052) (12 November 2018)

Selected Conferences & speaking engagements

- Arbitration and Artificial Intelligence | HEC Diversi Talks, Paris, 27 May 2025 (upcoming)
- #Crypto: Evidence and Law Enforcement | Paris Arbitration Week 2025
- AI Across Legal Domains Webinar | IFAL International Aspiring Leaders, 26 February 2025
- Digital Disputes: Arbitration in the Era of Cryptocurrency & Crowdfunding in Africa | Young ITA Talk, 18 February 2025
- Defining Technology Disputes Panel | DIS Industry Group Technology, 13 February 2025
- Arbitration à la Baltics: Latvia Adopts Set-Aside Procedure | Tallinn Arbitration Day 2024
- IT & LegalTech in Arbitration Panel: How Tech is Changing Evidence in International Arbitration | Baltic Arbitration Days 2024
- Workshop 'What types of disputes does the future hold?' | 5th Global Conference of the Co-Chairs' Circle, Frankfurt, May 2024
- The Technological Competence of Arbitrators | ARBinBrief Season 2 Episode 3, April 2024
- Decrypting Disputes: Tales from the Hearing Room | Crypto Arbitration Forum, Zurich, April 2024
- The Tide is Rising? Arbitration in Eastern Europe: Navigating Cultural, Legal and Practical Considerations | Paris Arbitration Week 2024
- Bringing & Pursuing Claims over Crypto & Digital Assets | FIRE Middle East, Dubai, November 2023
- 'Evidence in the Tech Age' | ArbMetaBlock Conference, University of Ghent, May 2023
- 'Arbitral Award Set-Aside Proceedure in France: Lessons for the Reform of the Latvian Code of Civil Procedure' | Riga Graduate School of Law, 9 June 2023
- World Café Workshop 'Maximizing efficiency in funded cases in the common interest of client, attorney and funder | Vienna Arbitration Days 2023
- The Future of Technology Disputes and Legal Tech | Young ITA & YIAG, London International Disputes Week 2023
- Litiges relatifs aux actifs numériques et aux plateformes de trading | Paris NFT Conference, 25 February 2023
- The Squid Scam: Hunting the NFT con artists | Audible podcast, Episode 5, January 2023
- Crypto and Blockchain Arbitration in the Investment Treaty Arbitration Context | Guest lecture, Université de Lyon, November 2022

- Tech Disputes Café – Cryptocurrency Disputes | Paris Tech Arbitration, November 2022
- Arbitration and Technology: Views from Eastern Europe | VIAC & YRAP, Bucharest, October 2022
- The Current State of Crypto Disputes | ArbTech Webinar, June 2022
- Cryptocurrencies in Arbitration: The Future is Now | Paris Arbitration Week 2022
- The ABC of Legal Tech | Vienna International Arbitration Center, 31 May 2022
- IT & LegalTech in Arbitration Panel: Crypto Disputes | Baltic Arbitration Days 2022
- ‘Arbitration and cryptocurrencies: Can arbitration bring a form of stability to this fluctuating market?’ | French & Mexican Chapters of the Club Español del Arbitraje, 22 November 2022
- ‘What Would the Average Man Do?’ | Young Mute-Off Thursdays, January 2021
- ‘Independence and Impartiality in Arbitration’ | 14th Riga Vis Pre-Moot Conference, Riga, Latvia, 27 February 2020
- International Business Law | Guest lecture, Université Paris Dauphine, November 2019
- ‘Security for Costs in Commercial Arbitration’ | ICC Young Arbitrators Forum, Vilnius, March 2019
- ‘EU State Aid Law and Investment Treaty Arbitration’ | 74th conference of the University of Latvia, Plenary session, Riga, Latvia, February 2016
- ‘Investment Treaty Arbitration’ | Guest Lecture, École de formation professionnelle des barreaux de la cour d’appel de Paris, 2015