



**JULIE SPINELLI**

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## BIOGRAPHY

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Julie Spinelli heads the arbitration practice of Le 16 Law, a Paris-based law firm focused on dispute resolution.

She enjoys a strong and recognised expertise in international arbitration. She acts as counsel in domestic or international arbitration proceedings, ad hoc or institutional (ICC, LCIA, ICSID, SCC, CMAP and UNCITRAL), for States, state-owned entities as well as French and foreign companies concerning disputes arising out of international commercial contracts, cross-border investment, construction projects and investment protection under international law. She has been particularly active in the sectors of energy, mining, construction and engineering, aeronautical and defence projects, pharmaceuticals, luxury and hospitality.

Ms Spinelli regularly acts as an arbitrator.

She also represents clients in annulment, enforcement and arbitration-related court proceedings before French courts.

Ms Spinelli regularly writes, speaks and teaches on issues related to international arbitration.

In addition to her practice, Ms Spinelli is a Delegate of ICC France for the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, a member of the ICC Commission Task Force on Expedited Proceedings. Ms Spinelli is also a founding member and a board member of Africarb, a group of young legal professionals with a shared interest in arbitration and Africa and was co-chair of the below-40 organisation of the French Arbitration Committee (CFA).

She has working proficiency in English in addition to her native French and is regularly involved in bilingual proceedings. She is a member of the Paris bar and holds a Master degree (First Class Honours) from University Paul Cezanne Aix-Marseille III, France and an LLM from UCL, UK.

## QUOTES AND AWARDS

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Julie Spinelli has been identified in international arbitration by Chambers since 2023 with clients and peers saying inter alia that she is “*amazing*”, “*an excellent international dispute resolution practitioner*”, “*an excellent advocate who is very effective and has strong analytical skills*”, their “*go-to person for arbitration cases. She is very personable, easy to work with and very competent*”, “*a diligent, hard-working and efficient lawyer who excels in arbitration and litigation strategy*”.

Julie’s arbitration practice has been ranked by Legal 500, which reported that:

- “*Julie Spinelli is particularly remarkable, not only for her mastery of procedures and her files, but also for her level of English which I find much superior to what I have encountered in other firms.*” (Legal 500, 2021)
- “*Julie Spinelli is outstanding. Julie is comfortable handling both international commercial and investment treaty arbitrations with an enviable track record of success in both. A good oral advocate.*” (Legal 500, 2021)
- “*Julie Spinelli [...] possesses a sixth sense when analysing matters, identifying and addressing highly complex issues, which will make her one of the best lawyers of her time. She possesses a rare perspicacity when dealing with clients and difficult matters.*” (Legal 500, 2021)
- Julie Spinelli is “*a bright lawyer who impresses with her ability to sum up complex ideas in very simple terms. She is truly tactical and greatly reactive. She is a good person to have at one’s own side in a difficult case.*” (Legal 500, 2020)

She has been identified several years in a row as a leading practitioner and Thought Leader globally and nationally by *Who’s Who Legal, Arbitration*, which stated that:

- Julie Spinelli “*is a talented arbitration lawyer who is smart and quick*” (WWL, 2025)
- Julie Spinelli “*has a natural ability to identify the best arguments to win a case*” (WWL, 2025)
- “*Julie is excellent - very articulate, charismatic and knowledgeable*” (WWL, 2025)
- “*A fantastic advocate*” (WWL, 2025)
- Julie Spinelli is “*truly excellent*” and “*quickly becoming one of the biggest stars of the Parisian arbitration bar*” (WWL, 2021)
- Julie Spinelli is “*an excellent arbitrator*” who is hailed by peers as “*a very talented lawyer of her generation*”. She is “*known for the quality of her work as well as her great communications skills*” (WWL, 2020)
- “*Julie stands out as ‘a very convincing advocate who gets straight to the core of any problem’*” (WWL, 2019)
- Julie Spinelli is “*always a pleasure to work with*” say peers, one of whom comments, “*Julie is one of the best French lawyers I have worked with and is highly respected.*” (WWL, 2019)
- Julie was identified as one of the Most-Highly Regarded Future Leaders in Europe in 2019 (WWL, 2019)

In addition, Julie Spinelli has been:

- identified among the “30 rising stars of the Paris bar recognized in their specialty for their talent, their commitment, their extraordinary career” in an article entitled “Business Lawyer: the next generation of 2020” published by *Décideurs Juridiques* magazine
- ranked in the 2024 Arbitrators list of *Décideurs Magazine* in the “Excellent” category
- profiled on the Mute Off Thursdays’ Compendium of Unicorns – A Global Guide to Women Arbitrators

## EDUCATION

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- Paris Bar since 2009
- LLM, International arbitration and litigation, University College London
- Master 2 / DJCE International Business Law, Business Law Institut, Université Paul Cézanne (Aix-Marseille III)
- Master 1 International and EU Law, Université Paul Cézanne (Aix-Marseille III)

## CAREER

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- Associate – Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP – 2008-2016
- Senior Associate – Derains Gharavi International – 2016-2018
- Partner – Le 16 Law – 2018-to date
  - Head of the International Arbitration Practice
  - Managing Partner from 2021 to 2023

## RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

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- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, Delegate of ICC France
- Member of the International Law Association (ILA), ASA, ICCA
- Founding member of Africarb, a group of young legal professionals with a shared interest in arbitration and Africa
- Visiting lecturer at the Centre for Mediation and Arbitration of Paris (CMAP)
- Visiting lecturer at the DESU Economic Law and the Master 2 Litigation, Arbitration and Mediation at University Paul Cézanne Aix-Marseille III
- Former co-chair of the below-40 organisation of the French Arbitration Committee (*Comité Français de l’Arbitrage* (CFA-40))
- Former member of the arbitration group at the French National Bar Council (CNB)

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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### Experiences as arbitrator

- Presiding arbitrator in an ad-hoc domestic arbitration proceedings relating to the price determination of a steam supply agreement
- Presiding arbitrator in an ICC arbitration regarding a family loan agreement between a Lebanese and a Luxembourg company governed by Luxembourg law
- Presiding arbitrator in a CMAP domestic arbitration in the software and insurance industry
- Co-arbitrator in an ad-hoc domestic arbitration in the mass distribution industry
- Co-arbitrator in a CMAP case relating to the abrupt termination of a franchise agreement between two French companies in the individual houses construction industry
- Co-arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration relating to post-MA dispute relating to the sale of two department stores
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC EPP arbitration between an African company and a French company over defects on a mini-grid solar network in an African country
- Sole arbitrator in a DIAC arbitration between two UAE entities over an agreement for manpower outsourcing services agreement
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC Arbitration between a Spanish company and an Algerian state-owned entity regarding an alleged force majeure event due to the suspension by Algeria of the treaty of friendship and co-operation between Spain and Algeria, affecting the performance of contracts for the sale and supply of cement
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case between a North-African water and electricity state entity and a contractor relating to a construction dispute in the context of a public works agreement for a water supply project in the region
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case related to the alleged wrongful termination of three consultant agreements concluded between a Korean and a French company in the submarine/defense industry
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case related to the alleged wrongful termination of a distribution agreement concluded between a German and a French company in the biotech sector
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case related to the termination of a distribution agreement between an Italian and a US company in the retail industry, where a number of IP and trademarks issues arose and where the respondent failed to participate in the proceedings
- Sole arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration relating to a failed real estate deal in Guadeloupe and the payment of an immobilization indemnity
- Sole arbitrator in a CMAP case related to a construction dispute between two French

companies and where bankruptcy issues arose as the respondent was placed in liquidation

- Sole arbitrator in a CMAP case related to the alleged wrongful dismissal of a French company director in the IT sector

## **Experiences as counsel**

### **• Commercial arbitration**

- Advising and representing a French company that designs, supplies and installs components, fuel, and control systems for nuclear power plants, in ICC arbitration proceedings against a US/UK titanium supplier regarding a call option on the shares of a joint venture
- Advising and representing a leading investment and brokerage firm in UAE against a French public investment bank in relation to a dispute stemming from a bank guarantee
- Advising and representing a French company that designs, supplies and installs components, fuel, and control systems for nuclear power plants, in ICC arbitration proceedings against a French industrial group specialized in metallurgy and its applications, operating in the nuclear and naval energy industry in a dispute stemming from a disagreement over the selling price of business assets determined by an independent expert
- Advising and representing two US companies created to design, build, launch and operate a constellation of linked communications satellites in lower earth orbit in ICC arbitration proceedings against a leading company in the space industry
- Advising and representing one of the world's largest beauty companies in an ICC arbitration relating to the wrongful termination of a distribution agreement against the licensor of the luxury brand
- Advising an Iranian company in ICC arbitration proceedings against a Danish company (seat in Geneva, French law applicable), relating to the performance of a license agreement and a supply agreement for the supply of equipment necessary to operate a methanol plant in Iran, stemming from a breach of the obligation to deliver the equipment in the context of the re-imposition of U.S. sanctions on Iran during the performance of the agreements
- Advising a biomass-fuelled thermal power plant in Mauritius, which has been producing renewable energy against the electricity state-entity regarding a force majeure dispute triggered by the sudden increase in the price of coal due to the Ukraine war
- Advising and representing a French world-leading hospitality company in a Geneva-seated ICC arbitration proceedings against the owner of a five-star hotel in Morocco in relation to the violations of a management contract and a trademark license agreement
- Advising and representing a Dubai-based subcontractor company against one of the largest company specialized in entertainment in Paris in a fast track ad-hoc arbitration in relation to wrongful termination of contractual relationship

- Advising and representing a Dutch company specialised in the construction of steel structures in the context of an ICC arbitration against the largest European company specialised in the steel production relating to allegations of design defects on a tandem mill
- Advising and representing an Israeli company in ICC arbitration proceedings against an Algerian company in relation to a dispute relating to an alleged defective construction of hectares of greenhouses
- Advising a Dutch company specialized in the design and construction of complex and immersive subsea structures for oil and gas extraction in pre-contract negotiations in relation to an offshore project in Angola
- Advising and representing a Malaysian company specialized in the engineering, procurement, construction, and management of subsea and offshore projects in an ICC arbitration against a major Iranian oil and gas company, in connection with a contract for the engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning of an offshore gas field in Iran. The estimated value of the dispute was USD 100 million
- Advising and representing a European chemical company in ICC arbitration proceedings launched against a French pharmaceutical company relating to a claim for breach of representations and warranties in a post-merger dispute
- Advising and representing an American pharmaceutical company in ICC arbitration proceedings launched against a French pharmaceutical company in a post-M&A dispute relating to representations and warranty in a license agreement dispute (seeking a price reduction for the entry on the market of a competing generic product)
- Advising and representing a Spanish distribution company in an ICC arbitration against a French luxury cosmetics company in a commercial dispute under French law relating to the abrupt termination of a long-standing business relationship
- Advising and representing a French hotel management company in *ad hoc* arbitration proceedings against the owner of a luxury hotel in French Polynesia in relation to the wrongful termination of a management contract due to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis
- Advising and representing a French hotel management company in ICC arbitration proceedings against the owner of a famous five-star hotel brand in French Polynesia in relation to the wrongful termination of a management contract for alleged material breach
- Advising and representing a French armament company (in bankruptcy) in an ICC arbitration against another Germano-Italian armament company in a commercial dispute governed by French law relating to alleged violations of IP rights arising out of the sale of bomb shells
- Advising and representing a Lebanese company in an ICC expedited arbitration proceedings against a European aeronautical company in relation to a EUR 60 million claim for the wrongful termination of three different contracts governed by French and Spanish law due to allegations of corruption in the context of the aeronautical industries (both civil and military) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

- Advising and representing the former shareholders of an Egyptian company that represented the French military aeronautical industry in Egypt in ICC arbitration proceedings against a French aeronautical group for the wrongful termination of contracts governed by Spanish law
- Advising and representing a group of multinational companies in ICC arbitration proceedings against a French aeronautical group for the wrongful termination of three different contracts governed by French law due to allegations of corruption in the context of the civil aeronautical industry in Russia and CIS countries
- Advising and representing several European energy companies in arbitrations (CCI/SCC/UNCITRAL) relating to the revision of gas prices in long-term gas sales contracts
- Advising and representing a European oil company in several ad hoc (UNCITRAL) arbitration proceedings against a North African State-owned oil and gas company relating to contractual and technical disputes in relation to a production sharing agreement
- Advising and representing the Cuban State telecommunication company in ICC arbitration proceedings against a Spanish telecommunication company in relation to a contract subject to French law
- **Investment arbitration**
  - Member (and lead counsel) of the team which represented Iranian investors against the Republic of Korea in an UNCITRAL arbitration initiated under the bilateral investment treaty between Iran and Korea in relation to the expropriation of an investment in home appliance industrial company (*Mohammad Reza Dayyani, et al. v. The Republic of Korea*, PCA Case No. 2015-38) that led to a favourable award for 68 million USD against the Republic of Korea on June 5, 2018
  - Member (and lead counsel) of the team which represented Muhammet Cap & Sehil İnşaat Endustri ve Ticaret Ltd. Sti. against Turkmenistan in an ICSID arbitration initiated pursuant to a bilateral investment treaty in relation to 31 disputed construction projects in Turkmenistan (*Muhammet Cap & Sehil İnşaat Endustri ve Ticaret Ltd. Sti. v. Turkmenistan*, ICSID Case No. ARB/12/6) (until November 2018)
  - Representing a Hong-Kong-based company in ICC arbitration proceedings against a sub-Saharan African state and its national telecommunications agency in connection with the state's expropriation of the company's right to operate a gateway international telecommunication
  - Member of the team that represented Romania in an ICSID arbitration related to the alleged expropriation of investments, including in the insurance and press industries (*The Nova Group Investments, B.V. v. Romania* (ICSID Case No. ARB/ 16/19))

#### **Experience before domestic courts in relation to actions to set aside / *juge d'appui***

- Assisting the Ukrainian oil and gas state-owned company in its efforts to have two arbitral awards for approximately USD 5 billion recognized and enforced against the Russian Federation's assets located in France

- Advising and representing one of the world's largest beauty companies before French courts to resist the application for provisional measures made the licensor of the luxury brand
- Advising and representing a Cypriot company against a Russian oligarch and his Cypriot investment vehicle to obtain conservatory measures in aid of an LCIA arbitration relating to the default on a EUR 20 million promissory note
- Advising and representing a Dubai-based subcontractor company against one of the largest company specialized in entertainment in Paris in an action to set aside against an arbitral award rendered in a fast track ad-hoc arbitration in relation to wrongful termination of contractual relationship
- Advising and representing a Portuguese construction investment and management company in the context of an action to set aside an ICC arbitral award against a Spanish company regarding a dispute arising from a shareholder agreement and an put option in the event of a substantial breach
- Advising and representing a Middle-Eastern state in an action to set aside an ICC award rendered against a French equipment manufacturer and industrial assembler, which alleged that the recognition and the enforcement of the award would violate international public policy and resisting a stay of enforcement
- Advising and representing the Cuban telecommunications company in the context of an action to set aside an ICC arbitral award against a Spanish telecommunications company
- Advising and representing two Indonesian companies in an action to set aside an ICC award rendered against a European aeronautical group, which alleges that the recognition and enforcement of the award would violate international public policy on account of allegations of corruption and resisting a stay of enforcement
- Advising and representing an American hospitality company in securing conservatory measures in aid of a possible ICC arbitration proceedings against the owner of a land in relation to the failure of real estate development project and the default payment of an exit indemnity
- Advising and representing a French hotel management company in domestic court proceedings to seek and obtain provisional and conservatory measures in aid of an *ad hoc* arbitration proceedings against the owner a hotel in French Polynesia in relation to the wrongful termination of a management contract due to the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis
- Advising and representing a French company specializing in chemicals in the context of action to set aside an arbitral award rendered in *ad hoc* arbitration against a French pharmaceutical company regarding a post-acquisition dispute relating to a liability guarantee (environment and pensions)
- Advising and representing a French national acting as an arbitrator in ad hoc arbitration proceedings against a challenge initiated before the Paris Court of Appeal
- Advising and representing a French national acting as an arbitrator in ad hoc arbitration proceedings against a challenge initiated before the Versailles Court of Appeal



### Recent publications

- Chapter “France”, in Arbitration Handbook 2025 (Global Legal Post), edited by Volterra Fietta
- Regular publications for Lexis Nexis UK
- Chapter “Working with Other Members of the Tribunal” co-authored with Michał Kocur in "International Arbitration in Practice" under the editorship of Courtney Lotfi, Alicja Zielinska-Eisen and Veronica Sandler Obregon, (soon to be published)
- Chapter “France”, in GAR Know-How Litigation, Global Arbitration Review Insight 2024 (with Jean-Luc Larribau et Anne-Claire Hans)
- Chapter “France”, in Arbitration Handbook 2023 (Global Legal Post), edited by Three Crowns
- *L'influence des travaux de l'Association de droit international* (International Law Association) *sur la pratique de l'arbitrage international*, in the ILA 2023 150-year anniversary of the ILA White book
- CEPANI Newsletter, Stories from a Young Arbitrator: “Walking on thin ice when addressing corruption as an arbitrator”
- Chapter “France”, in Getting the Deal Through “Sovereign Immunity”, Lexology 2020, 2021 and 2022 (with Yann Dehaudt-Delville): <https://www.lexology.com/gtdt/workareas/sovereign-immunity>
- « ‘Avant l’heure, ce n’est pas l’heure ; après l’heure, ce n’est plus l’heure’ ou de l’effectivité du second alinéa de l’article 1526 du Code de procédure civile », CAPJIA 2020-4, co-authored with Yann Dehaudt-Delville
- Chapter “France”, in The International Comparative Legal Guide to Investor State Arbitration, ICLG 2020 and 2021 (with Yann Dehaudt-Delville): <https://iclg.com/practice-areas/investor-state-arbitration-laws-and-regulations/france>
- Chapter “France”, in GAR Know-How Litigation, Global Arbitration Review Insight 2020, 2021 and 2022, (with Jean-Luc Larribau et Anne-Claire Hans)
- “L’arbitrage et les petits litiges”, in 3ème édition des Cahiers de l’Arbitrage du Conseil National des Barreaux (with Jean-Robin Costargent)
- “The gathering and taking of evidence under the IBA Guidelines on party representation in international arbitration: civil and common law perspectives” (2014) 8 Dispute Resolution International 37 (with Gisele Stephens-Chu)
- “Bilateral option clause – importance of clear and unequivocal wording”, International Law Office, 2014, (with Elie Kleiman)
- “NML v Argentina: Supreme Court tightens waiver of sovereign immunity test”, International Law Office, 2013 (with Elie Kleiman)
- “Dallah: one test, two different findings”, International Law Office, 2011 (with Elie Kleiman)

- “La réforme du droit de l’arbitrage, sous le double signe de la lisibilité et de l’efficacité”, Gazette du Palais, 2011, n° 26-27, p. 9 (with Elie Kleiman)
- “New arbitration law reform: the market’s verdict”, International Law Office, 2011 (with Elie Kleiman)
- “Long-awaited arbitration law reform finally passed”, International Law Office, 2011 (with Elie Kleiman)
- “La Haute juridiction écarte une nouvelle fois l’application de l’obligation de modérer le dommage en droit français de la responsabilité délictuelle”, Gazette du Palais, 2009, No 84-85, p 10 (with Shaparak Saleh)

### **Recent conferences**

- Les arbitrages accélérés, Colloque Les arbitrages Atypiques, Faculté de Droit, Economie et Administration de Metz, Juin 2025
- The Future of Infrastructure Disputes: Decarbonisation, Shifting Risk Dynamics, and Other Emerging Trends, Lalive PAW Event 2024, April 2025
- INSOL ADR Colloquium, Insol International PAW Event 2025, April 2025
- Arbitration and IT Disputes, CMAP, April 2025
- “The interplay between arbitration and State justice - Setting aside and Enforcement”, at the Paris Crime & Arbitration conference at Sciences Po, April 2024
- “The Morning After: What do ESG, Ethics (Anti-Corruption) and AI Reserve to Arbitration in the Future?”, Le 16 Law PAW Event 2024, March 2024
- “The Art of Persuasive Advocacy: Perspectives in Effective Cross-Examination”, Young ITA and YAWP PAW Event, March 2024
- “The Peculiarities of Arbitration Cases involving State Entities”, ICC Arbitration’s pre-moot conference on “International Arbitration Involving Allegations of Corruption and State Entities”, March 2023
- Cambodia Parliamentary Committee, ASEAN-EU International Day, The Legal Framework and the French Experience of Commercial Courts and Enforceable Mediation/Conciliation (Based on the arbitration Model), December 22-23, 2022
- “Interaction between Regulation Bruxelles I bis and arbitration following the London Steam-Ship ECJ Decision”, during the 7th interview on private international law of the CEDIN Centre de droit international de Nanterre, November 2022
- Moderating the dinner debate on the National Courts’ Stance on Public Policy in International Arbitration, co-organized by the CFA-40 and the Rising Arbitrators Initiative (RAI)
- “What are legitimate responses when facing guerrilla tactics (both as counsel and as arbitrator)”, CCC Conference - Brussels, June 2022
- “The role of state courts in enforcement and setting aside proceedings involving fraud or corruption”, Dutch Arbitration Days, Amsterdam, June 2022

- “Is Finality under Fire?”, Paris Arbitration Week, March 2022
- “New CMAP Arbitration Rules”, Paris Arbitration Week 2021, 23 September 2021
- “Arbitration and insolvency”, *Les jeudis du 16*, Special Paris Arbitration Week 2021, 23 September 2021
- “International Arbitration, current perspectives”, 4th edition of the seminar organised by UIA International Association of Lawyers, Session 2 “New Developments in Investment Arbitration”, 27 May 2021 : <https://www.uianet.org/fr/evenements/arbitrage-international-perspectives-actuelles-4e-edition#program>
- « *Les actualités de l'arbitrage* », MARDis du CMAP, 25 May 2021 : <https://www.cmap.fr/les-actualites-arbitrage/>
- “Why do you need the International Bar Association Rules on the Taking of Evidence?”, Keynote speech for the Eastern European Foreign Investment Moot Court Competition – EEFI, 20 mai 2021: <https://eefimootcourt.org/events/>
- « *Arbitrage : Quelle place aujourd'hui pour le Barreau de Paris?* », 12 November 2020 : [https://lnkd.in/g2\\_daz5](https://lnkd.in/g2_daz5)
- “Connecting points between criminal proceedings and arbitral proceedings », États Généraux de l'Arbitrage, CNB, 25 October 2020
- “The Control Of Potential Corruption Issues By State Courts In The Context Of Setting Aside And Enforcement Proceedings”, Conference on Allegations or Signs of Corruption in International Disputes, ICC Tel Aviv Arbitration Days, March 2020