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Press Release

Le 16 Law strengthens its international arbitration practice with the arrival of Gabriele Ruscalla

Le 16 Law, French law firm dedicated to the prevention and resolution of complex business disputes, is pleased to announce the arrival of Gabriele Ruscalla as Partner. This appointment further strengthens the firm's international arbitration practice, successfully developed under the leadership of Julie Spinelli since she joined the firm in 2019.

Gabriele Ruscalla joins Le 16 Law with over fifteen years of experience in international arbitration, including four and a half years at the Belgian firm Liedekerke. He advises and represents companies, states, and public entities in both commercial and investment arbitration.

He acts in proceedings conducted under the main arbitration rules (ICC, LCIA, SIAC, ICSID, CCJA, UNCITRAL), involving both civil law and common law systems. His expertise covers high-stakes, complex disputes, particularly in construction, energy, and mining projects. Throughout his career, he has developed a focus on arbitrations relating to projects in Africa and the Middle East, or involving parties from those regions, with applicable laws as diverse as Algerian law, Congolese law, and the laws of Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE, and Libya.

Gabriele also advises clients on investment protection, public international law, and European and international economic sanctions regimes.

In addition, he assists clients in proceedings related to the enforcement or annulment of arbitral awards. He also serves as arbitrator in both ad hoc and institutional proceedings (ICC, Milan Chamber of Arbitration, Swiss Arbitration Centre).

Under the leadership of Julie Spinelli, Partner, Le 16 Law has built a well-recognized arbitration practice. The team includes four associates and one Of Counsel, Denis Mouralis, a tenured professor of law.

This growth responds to increasing market demand and is fully aligned with the firm's positioning: to provide a high-quality alternative for resolving complex business disputes. The strong synergies between the arbitration practice and the other areas of expertise of the firm (commercial litigation, corporate and finance, industrial risks, white-collar crime, real estate, digital (TMT) law, restructuring and insolvency, and international sanctions) combined with a robust international network, enable Le 16 Law to deliver clients an integrated, efficient, tailor-made service of the highest standard.

"I am particularly excited to be joining Le 16 Law and its team. The firm's positioning, reputation, culture of excellence, and ability to innovate and meet clients' specific needs perfectly align with

“my vision of international arbitration practice, in which partners are fully engaged. I look forward to contributing to the development of both the practice and the firm, and to bringing my expertise to support our clients in their most strategic challenges,” comments Gabriele Ruscalla, partner at Le 16 Law

“The arrival of Gabriele marks a major milestone in the development of our arbitration practice. His deep understanding of the issues our clients face in international disputes and arbitrations, together with his legal expertise, represent a real asset for our team. This appointment is fully in line with our targeted growth strategy, strengthening our ability to support both French and international clients in complex and strategic matters,” says Julie Spinelli, partner in charge of the international arbitration practice

About Gabriele Ruscalla, partner Le 16 Law

A member of the Paris Bar, Gabriele Ruscalla began his career in 2011 at Shearman & Sterling in Paris before joining the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in 2015 as Counsel of the Italian-Swiss team. From 2021, he worked as Counsel at the Belgian firm Liedekerke. He joined Le 16 Law as a partner on 1 October 2025.

In addition to his work as counsel and arbitrator, he teaches international arbitration at the Paris Campus of the Catholic University of Lille as well as at the United Nations Training Center (ITC/ILO) in Turin. He also served as Adjunct Professor at IE Law School in Madrid (2021–2024), where he taught a course on “Business and Human Rights”.

He is an active member of the IBA Arbitration Committee, features on several panels and rosters of arbitrators (ICC France, SIAC Reserve Panel, DIAC Panel, CEPANI, ASA, IAI Paris, VIAC, among others), and is a member of ICC Italy and the Associazione Italiana di Arbitrato (AIA). He regularly collaborates with arbitral institutions (ICC, Kigali International Arbitration Centre, among others) to deliver training in international arbitration for lawyers and in-house counsel.

Of Italian origin, Gabriele Ruscalla practices in French, English, and Italian. He studied law and international relations at the University of Milan, the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and Columbia University in New York. He obtained a PhD in international law from Bocconi University in 2015.

About Le 16 Law - <https://le16law.com>

An independent firm specializing in business litigation, Le 16 Law was founded in March 2017 by Alexandra Szekely, Jean-Luc Larribau, and Samuel Sauphanor, formerly of Freshfields LLP. Today, the firm brings together a team of 27 lawyers and legal professionals, including eight partners. The team combines top-level legal expertise, extensive litigation experience, and an in-depth understanding of the international business environment. It advises and represents clients in the prevention and resolution of disputes, including matters relating to international arbitration, commercial and financial litigation, corporate law, industrial risks, white-collar crime, real estate, digital (TMT) law, insolvency proceedings, and international sanctions.

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