

Hugo Barbier

— Partner, Prof.

Professional practice

Professor Barbier brings a depth of expertise and extensive practice as counsel, arbitrator and consultant in cross-jurisdictional commercial and investment disputes spanning the globe including Europe, Africa, South America, the Baltics and Central Asia. He regularly acts as counsel, legal expert, and arbitrator in international commercial and investment arbitrations (ICSID, ICC, LCIA, SCC, HKIAC, and SIAC).

Professor Barbier is a Professor of Law (professeur agrégé des facultés de droit) in France and is widely published. Among his various publications, Professor Barbier is a co-author, together with ICC Secretary-General Alexander Fessas, of the annual commentary on ICC awards published in the Journal du Droit International (Clunet). His most recent works concentrate on investment arbitration.

In addition to his expertise in arbitration, Professor Barbier specializes in contract law. He is the co-author, along with Professor Jacques Ghestin, of the "Treatise on Civil Law - General Introduction," which is published in two volumes (volume 1 in 2018 and volume 2 in 2020). Since 2013, he has also authored the quarterly commentary on court decisions related to contract law in the Revue Trimestrielle de Droit Civil.

Career

- Partner, Peter & Kim, Geneva (2025-current)
- Founder and Partner, Barbier Mehtiyeva Law, Paris (2019-2024)
- Founder and Partner, Barbier Arbitration (2012-2019)

Education

- Professor of Law, Concours d'agrégation de droit privé et de sciences criminelles (2011)
- Doctoral Thesis, Faculté de droit d'Aix-en-Provence (2004-2009)
- DEA de droit des affaires, Faculté de droit d'Aix-en-Provence (2004)

Representative cases

- Representing investors in a nephrite mining business against the Russian Federation in an *ad hoc* investment arbitration (UNCITRAL) based on the China-Russia 2006 investment treaty.
- Representing a private Algerian company specializing in production of petroleum products against a Spanish company operating in oil and gas sector in an ICC commercial arbitration.
- Representing 73 cryptocurrency traders (crypto products: futures contracts and leveraged tokens) against a cryptocurrency exchange company in a HKIAC commercial arbitration.
- Assisting a private equity fund incorporated in Luxembourg in a spin-off including the assignment of a claim in a SCC investment arbitration.
- Act as Arbitrator in ICC investment arbitration based on a BIT between France and an African country.



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ADMISSIONS & COURTS

n/a

LANGUAGES

French, English, Russian

NATIONALITIES

French

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arbitration
Investments & BITs
Corporate Law
Distribution/Agency
Joint-Ventures/Consortia
Mergers & Acquisitions

INDUSTRY SECTORS

Oil & Gas
Automotive & Heavy Industry
Construction & Engineering
Electricity Supply
Crypto Industry
Mining Industry

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- Act as Arbitrator in ICC commercial arbitration on a consultant agreement between an aircraft manufacturer and an agent in South America.
- Act as Arbitrator in SCC commercial arbitration on a lease agreement concluded to operate a heating system in a Baltic country.
- Advising the French Senate in the legislative implementation of the Agreement for the Termination of all Intra-EU Bilateral Investment Treaties.
- Advising in various proceedings related to BITs between African countries and France and other European countries.
- Representing numerous clients in Interpol proceedings, assisting clients in foreign judgement enforcement process, ECHR proceedings, EU proceedings.

Professional associations

- Member of the International Law Association
- Member of the International Arbitration Institute

Publications

- “*Traite de Droit Civil, Introduction Generale Au Droit*”, 5th ed., LGDJ (Volume I (2018, 960 pages) - Volume II (2020, 640 pages)), authors: Pr. Jacques Ghestin, Pr. Hugo Barbier.
- “*La Liberté de Prendre des Risques*”, PUAM (2011, 620 pages), author: Hugo Barbier.
- “*Annual Commentary of ICC Awards*” (since 2020), Journal du Droit International (Clunet), authors: Pr. Hugo Barbier, Mr. Alexander Fessas (Secretary General of the ICC International Court of Arbitration).
- “*Quarterly Chronicle on Contract Law*” (since 2013), Revue Trimestrielle de Droit Civil (RTD civ.).
- “*The Freedom of Risk-taking in European Legal Cultures*”, in Towards a European legal culture, Oxford Press, (2014), p. 209-222.
- “*Core Impacts on Sales of Shares of the French Reform of Contract Law Dated February 10, 2016*”, RTDF 2017, p. 45.
- «*Материальные нормы международного арбитражного права: современные тенденции и перспективы развития*», Ежегодный Сборник статей Международного третейского суда при торгово-промышленной палате Кыргызской Республики, 6/2023, стр. 170.
- «*Применимое право к снятию корпоративной вуали в международном арбитраже*», Ежегодный Сборник статей Международного третейского суда при торгово-промышленной палате Кыргызской Республики, 7/2025.
- “*De la place de la règle matérielle en droit de l’arbitrage international*”, in Mélanges en l’honneur d’Emmanuel Gaillard (2025).
- “*Contestation par la partie la partie impécunieuse du retrait de ses demandes par un centre d’arbitrage : compétence du juge de droit commun et non du juge d’appui*”, Les Cahiers de l’Arbitrage (The Paris Journal of International Arbitration), 2017-4, pp. 701-708.
- “*Le pouvoir de compromettre pour autrui en arbitrage international: l’extension de la règle matérielle et sa nécessaire mise en ordre*”, Les Cahiers de l’Arbitrage (The Paris Journal of International Arbitration), 2016-2, pp. 441-445.

QUOTES

According to clients and peers:

Dominique Hascher, arbitrator, former judge of the French court of cassation, and non-resident judge of Singapore’s Supreme Court, says about Prof. Barbier that he is “one of our most brilliant minds in the law”, adding that “the clarity and discernment of his legal writings display a perfect mastery of arbitration law and of its most complex issues”.

Canadian arbitrator **Henri**

Alvarez describes Prof. Barbier as a “rising star in international arbitration”.

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- “Les nouvelles frontières du principe compétence-compétence en matière de procédures collectives”, Les Cahiers de l'Arbitrage (The Paris Journal of International Arbitration), 2016-1, pp. 49-55.

Speaking Engagements

- Sovereign & States Disputes and Enforcement Summit - 4th Annual, London, 6 February 2026: Developments in Disputes Involving Sovereigns and State-owned Entities in Asia
- Azerbaijan Arbitration Days, Baku, 24 October 2025: Middle Corridor and the emergence of complex cross-border transportation, infrastructure and construction disputes
- Caucasus and Central Asia Construction Forum, VIAC's Introduction in Astana, 11 June 2025: Opening Doors to International Arbitration
- American Chamber of Commerce in Azerbaijan (AmCham), Conference, 27 May 2025: The Evolution of Arbitration in Azerbaijan under the New Law on Arbitration and Baku Arbitration Centre Rules
- GAR LIVE Turkic Region, 15 May 2025, Almaty: ISDS updates with a focus on the Turkic region
- Turkic Arbitration Association & International Court of Arbitration CCI Kyrgyzstan, Legal Training on International Arbitration, Bishkek, 12 & 13 May 2025: The Document Production Phase
- Azerbaijan Arbitration Days, Baku, 26 April 2024: The future of shareholders' claims in investment arbitration
- Paris, 15 June 2023: Cultural aspects of investment arbitration
- 2022 Balkan Arbitration Day: Investment Treaty Arbitration - the View from the Balkans

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