

Micael Totaro

— Senior Associate

Professional practice

Micael Totaro is a Swiss qualified lawyer, member of the Geneva Bar, who specialises in international commercial and sports arbitration.

He has been involved as co-counsel and secretary in over 60 international arbitration proceedings (ICC, Swiss Arbitration, CAS). His practice encompasses a wide range of commercial topics, such as sponsoring, licensing, distribution & agency, employment, purchases and trading, web-based user agreements, mergers & acquisitions, joint venture and shareholder agreements. He has also acted in numerous arbitration-related proceedings, including debt enforcements and attachments, enforcement and recognition of arbitral awards.

Micael has more than 10 years of experience at the highest level of the sports industry. He has been involved in some of the most critical operations of the commercialisation of sports, including major sponsorship deals, development and organisation of international sports events, supply of equipment, licensing and distribution of TV/Media rights and broadcasting/live feed production agreements.

He has an extensive knowledge of the resolution of sports-specific disputes, having acted before the Court of Arbitration for Sport and major sports federations' judicial bodies (FIFA, UEFA, FIBA, FIVB, UCI), in a variety of cases related to players' eligibility and transfers, players/clubs and agents-related disputes, qualification for the Olympic Games, disciplinary and anti-doping proceedings.

He is also frequently involved in complex international commercial disputes stemming from a variety of industries, including oil, gas, mining, metals, commodities trading, cryptocurrencies and banking.

Career

- Counsel, Peter & Kim, Geneva/Sydney (2025-current)
- Senior Associate, Peter & Kim, Geneva/Sydney (2024-2025)
- Associate, Peter & Kim, Geneva/Sydney (2023)
- Associate, LBS Legal (formerly Schoeb Avocats), Geneva (2018-2022)
- Trainee lawyer, Schoeb Avocats, Geneva (2016-2018)
- Legal Intern, Martens Rechtsanwälte, Munich (2015-2016)
- Legal Affairs Manager, Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), Lausanne (2014-2015)
- Teaching assistant to Prof. Antonio Rigozzi, Chair of Sports Law of the University of Neuchâtel (2012-2014)

Education

- CAS-Ecole d'avocature (ECAV), University of Geneva (2012)
- MLaw, University of Neuchâtel (2012)
- BLaw, University of Geneva (2010)



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ADMISSIONS & COURTS

Geneva, Switzerland (2018)

LANGUAGES

French, English, Italian, German, Spanish

NATIONALITIES

Swiss

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

International Commercial Arbitration
International Sports Arbitration

INDUSTRY SECTORS

Sports
Media & Entertainment
Energy & Natural Resources
Commodities Trading
Web 3.0, Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies Trading
Retail, Luxury goods & Fashion
Events, Hospitality & MICE

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Representative cases

- Co-counsel for a football agent in a dispute related to agency fees in a >EUR 100 million transfer against an international football player.
- Co-counsel for an athlete regarding the qualification at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
- Co-counsel for an Australian football player in an anti-doping dispute at both national and CAS levels against a national anti-doping agency.
- Co-counsel for a national football federation in an appeal filed before the Swiss Federal Tribunal against an arbitral award issued by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- Co-counsel for a company in a dispute related to the management and the organisation of ATP (professional tennis) tournaments.
- Co-counsel for a top bicycle brand in a dispute related to major sponsorship agreements and agency's fees.
- Co-counsel for FC BARCELONA in a EUR 3 million dispute related to the purchase of an option right related to a rising-star player.
- Co-counsel for FC BARCELONA before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in a transfer dispute involving the Brazilian player NEYMAR JR. and his first club SANTOS FC.
- Co-counsel for a majority shareholder in the M&A operations related to the acquisition of the Haute Route Series by the Ironman Group.
- Co-counsel for a professional cycling team in a dispute against its bicycle sponsor.
- Co-counsel for a professional cycling team in the sale of the shares of its managing entity and the takeover of the UCI WorldTour licence.
- Co-counsel for a high-end sports clothing company in a sponsorship dispute.
- Co-counsel in a > USD 150 million dispute representing a trader in an ICC arbitration against one of the leading cryptocurrencies' centralised exchanges.
- Secretary to the Tribunal in a commercial arbitration concerning a licensing and construction dispute (SCAI).
- Assistant to the President of a CAS Panel in a multimillion TV & Media Rights arbitration.

Professional associations

- Member of the FIVB Tribunal (contractual matters)
- Member of the UCI's Arbitral Board and Disciplinary Commission
- Member of the Geneva Bar and the Swiss Bar associations
- Member of the Swiss Association of Sports Law (ASDS)

GENEVA

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