

MICAEL TOTARO

SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



Bar admission: Geneva, Switzerland 2018
Nationality: Swiss
Languages: French, English, Italian,
German (passive), Spanish (passive)

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- > Commercial Arbitration
- > Sports Arbitration
- > Commercial Contracts
- > Sports Law

INDUSTRY SECTORS

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

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Micael Totaro is a Swiss qualified attorney-at-law 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 governance and associative matters, players' eligibility and transfers, clubs or agents-related disputes, 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

- > Senior Associate, Peter & Kim, Geneva/Sydney (2024-)
- > Associate, Peter & Kim, Geneva (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)

OTHER ACTIVITIES & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- > Member of the FIVB Tribunal (contractual matters) (2021-)
- > Member of the UCI's Arbitral Board and Disciplinary Commission (2020-)
- > Member of the Geneva Bar and the Swiss Bar associations (2018-)

MICHAEL TOTARO

SENIOR ASSOCIATE
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

- > Member of the Swiss Association of Sports Law (ASDS) (2012-)

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- > Co-counsel in a > USD 150 million dispute representing a trader in an ICC arbitration against one of the leading cryptocurrencies' centralised exchanges
- > 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 sports clothing company in a sponsorship dispute
- > Associate in a > EUR 850 million dispute related to long-term gas supply agreements
- > Secretary to the Tribunal in a commercial arbitration concerning a licensing and construction dispute (SCAI)
- > Secretary to the Tribunal in a commercial arbitration concerning a dispute between an asset management company and a bank (SCAI)
- > Assistant to the President of a CAS Panel in a multimillion TV & Media Rights arbitration

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