

# Paris

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Meeting the needs of  
our clients in France  
and around the globe





Our Paris partners are recognized as leaders in the fields of international arbitration, dispute resolution, environment, projects and energy, corporate/commercial, and real estate by *Chambers Europe*.

King & Spalding opened an office in Paris in 2009 to build on its growing international arbitration practice. The firm has been consistently recognized by *Global Arbitration Review* as one of the top global law firms serving as arbitration counsel. The addition of real estate, tax, commercial litigation, environment, and energy and infrastructure teams has contributed to its growth and development.

King & Spalding's Paris office is proud to serve the global needs of our clients.

# Our International Arbitration Practice

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King & Spalding is a world leader in international arbitration, recognized by *Chambers Global*, *Global Arbitration Review*, *The Legal 500* and *The American Lawyer's Focus Europe*, and has more than 80 expert practitioners in this group across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the U.S. Winner of both the *Chambers USA* and *Chambers Latin America* Awards for Excellence, the team has represented clients in matters involving parties or projects in more than 130 countries across six continents, and it is currently handling claims totaling more than US\$60 billion. A world leader in investment arbitration and international commercial arbitration, the practice has represented clients in more than 50 investor-State cases. The group's international commercial arbitration experience includes disputes involving energy, healthcare/pharmaceuticals, intellectual property, the environment, construction, mining, technology, telecommunications, finance, insurance and real estate.

*In recent GAR 30 surveys, Global Arbitration Review has consistently recognized King & Spalding's international arbitration practice as one of the top 5 in the world.*

# Paris International Arbitration

## Partners

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**JAMES E. CASTELLO, PARTNER** | +33 1 7300 3906 | [jcastello@kslaw.com](mailto:jcastello@kslaw.com)

A lawyer for more than 30 years, James Castello has advised and represented diverse clients in a range of commercial and treaty arbitrations involving everything from large infrastructure projects to disputed control of an oil refinery, privatization of a power plant, and long-term gas supply and price readjustments.

Since 2001, he has served on the U.S. delegation to UNCITRAL's Arbitration Working Group, and he now serves as president of European Users' Council and member of the board of directors of the London Court of International Arbitration. A former deputy White House counsel and associate deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration, he began his legal career as a law clerk at the U.S. Supreme Court and at the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal. He is listed in *The International Who's Who of Commercial Arbitration*, *The Legal 500*, *Chambers Global* and *Who's Who Legal: Construction* and is admitted to practice in New York, Washington, D.C., and Paris.



**KENNETH R. FLEURIET, PARTNER** | +33 1 7300 3910 | [kfleuriet@kslaw.com](mailto:kfleuriet@kslaw.com)

Ken Fleuriet has handled more than 80 international arbitration matters as both counsel and arbitrator. He specializes in investment treaty arbitrations and has successfully obtained some of the largest treaty awards in recent memory. The majority of Mr. Fleuriet's treaty engagements have involved the energy and mining

sectors, including one of the largest recent cases under the Energy Charter Treaty. In addition to handling treaty disputes under the ICSID and UNCITRAL rules, Mr. Fleuriet has extensive experience representing clients in commercial arbitrations under the rules of the ICC, SCC and LCIA. Mr. Fleuriet has practiced in the field of international arbitration throughout his legal career, all of which has been spent in Europe.



**AMY R. FREY, PARTNER** | +33 1 7300 3914 | [afrey@kslaw.com](mailto:afrey@kslaw.com)

Amy Frey is a partner in King & Spalding's International Arbitration Practice Group, where she specializes in investment treaty arbitration, public international law and human rights law. Ms. Frey concentrates her practice on international litigation and arbitration matters, including proceedings under the ICSID, ICC,

SCC and UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. She has represented or is representing investors in claims against many Latin America and European states, and has extensive experience in requests for interim, injunctive relief and in annulment proceedings.

# Our Litigation Practice

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King & Spalding is consistently recognized as a top commercial litigation firm by Chambers and Partners and was ranked among the top 20 global litigation firms by *The Lawyer* in 2013. Our litigation practice has a deep bench of lead trial lawyers with substantial experience in winning difficult high-stakes cases, including those in the most challenging jurisdictions. Our litigators globally, in the past five years alone, have handled hundreds of high-stakes matters, appearing as lead counsel before international government agencies, in national courts including the U.S. Supreme Court, and in federal and state courts across the U.S.

Chambers Global  
*ranks King & Spalding  
among the top firms in  
the world for global  
dispute resolution.*

# Paris Litigation Partners

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**JOËL ALQUEZAR, PARTNER** | +33 1 7300 3917 | [jalquezar@kslaw.com](mailto:jalquezar@kslaw.com)

Recognized as a leader in his field by *The Legal 500*, *Euromoney Guide of the World's Leading Commercial Arbitration Lawyers* and *Euromoney Guide of the World's Leading Litigation Lawyers*, Joël Alquezar has extensive experience in the fields of international business litigation and arbitration, particularly before the French commercial, administrative, civil and criminal courts on matters involving French and international company law, white-collar crime, and competition law. Mr. Alquezar has participated in numerous domestic and international arbitrations, both as counsel and as arbitrator under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce, the American Arbitration Association and the ICSID as well as French arbitration rules.



**VANESSA R. BENICHOU, PARTNER** | +33 1 7300 3919 | [vbenichou@kslaw.com](mailto:vbenichou@kslaw.com)

Vanessa Benichou concentrates her practice on international litigation and arbitration as well as mediation matters, both as counsel and as mediator. Her experience includes matters involving unfair competition, advertising, entertainment, intellectual property disputes, commercial lease and contract, construction and business litigation, and product liability. Ms. Benichou also has extensive experience regarding distribution arrangements, franchise agreements and all agreements in the distribution fields, and assists clients in litigation or noncontentious matters in this area. She is also considered one of the leading attorneys on gaming law issues under French and EU law.

## Our Environmental/ Environmental Litigation Practice

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Twice winner of the Law360 “Environmental Group of the Year Award,” King & Spalding’s environmental practice has a deep bench of first-chair trial lawyers with expertise in the law and science of environmental litigation. Many of the world’s leading companies choose us to handle their most significant environmental litigation across Europe, throughout the U.S. and in developing countries. Our lawyers represent clients with virtually every type of

*Chambers Europe counts King & Spalding’s environmental practice among the top 5 in France, and Legal 500 ranks the practice in Tier 1. Legal 500 also recommends our tax practice as among the best in France.*

environmental lawsuit: administrative rule challenges, permit appeals, enforcement defense, cost recovery claims, and trials and arbitrations regarding alleged environmental contamination. They all have deep experience in the energy, chemical manufacturing and manufacturing industries.

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## Our Tax Practice

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King & Spalding’s tax practice covers the full range of tax issues presented in planning and executing complex business transactions in both domestic and cross-border settings, including acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, financings, restructurings and investment fund formations. In addition to advising on corporate, partnership and international tax matters, the firm’s tax

practice provides advice on the employee benefits and executive compensation aspects of business transactions and post-transaction integration. The lawyers of the tax department work closely with the real estate team, who have gained international recognition for their creativity in investment fund structuring, including, in particular, real estate acquisitions, restructuring and financing.



# Paris Environmental/ Environmental Litigation Partner

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**JOËLLE HERSCHTEL, PARTNER** | [+33 1 7300 3918](tel:+33173003918) | [jherschtel@kslaw.com](mailto:jherschtel@kslaw.com)

Joëlle Herschtel's practice encompasses litigation in environmental and energy law as well as counseling and transactions. She has significant experience in toxic tort environmental litigation before administrative, civil, commercial and criminal courts. She assists clients in the context of large infrastructure projects or for acquisition and conversion of former industrial sites. She also counsels her clients in the management of impacts and risks as well as in the implementation of environmental regulations. *Chambers Europe* and *Legal 500* both ranked Ms. Herschtel as one of the top environmental lawyers in France in 2017, and *Best Lawyers* awarded her the title of Lawyer of the Year 2016 for environmental law in France.

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## Paris Tax Partner

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**AURÉLIA DE VIRY, PARTNER** | [+33 1 7300 3902](tel:+33173003902) | [adeviry@kslaw.com](mailto:adeviry@kslaw.com)

Aurélia de Viry advises in all areas of tax. She has substantial experience in the tax aspects of domestic and cross-border real estate investments, acquisition finance, structured finance, group restructuring and acquisitions. She is an expert on VAT matters, particularly in relation to real estate and finance transactions, and also represents corporations in connection with tax audits, disputes and litigation.

# Our Real Estate Practice

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From market-setting deals involving multiple jurisdictions and complex investment and financing structures to traditional sales, purchases and financing, King & Spalding's capital transactions and real estate team comprises more than 70 lawyers located in 10 offices globally, and executes deals in every major U.S. metropolitan area and more than 40 countries. Our lawyers consistently rank among the top practitioners in their countries and regions in *Chambers Global*, *Chambers USA*, *Chambers Europe* and *The Legal 500* reports. We represent many of the industry's leading real estate advisors, funds, institutional investors, lenders and operating companies in strategic transactions of all varieties, and our real estate expertise extends to all aspects of the industry, with leading bankruptcy, tax and environmental practices.

*Chambers Europe has consistently ranked Benoît Marilhacy and Pascal Schmitz among the leading real estate lawyers in France.*

# Paris Real Estate Lawyers

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**BENOÎT G. MARCILHACY, PARTNER** | [+33 1 7300 3923](tel:+33173003923) | [bmarcilhacy@kslaw.com](mailto:bmarcilhacy@kslaw.com)

Benoît Marcilhacy's practice includes a variety of corporate real estate work and is centered on the sales and acquisitions of structured property folios, sales and leasebacks, and the establishment of real estate funds, as well as complex development deals. Listed in *Chambers Europe* as a leader in his field, he regularly advises Anglo-Saxon, German and Middle Eastern investment funds, as well as French-listed real estate companies.



**PASCAL A. SCHMITZ, PARTNER** | [+33 1 7300 3921](tel:+33173003921) | [pschmitz@kslaw.com](mailto:pschmitz@kslaw.com)

Recognized as a leading real estate lawyer by *Chambers Europe* and *The Legal 500*, Pascal Schmitz has more than 20 years' experience in all aspects of commercial real estate and real estate finance. He focuses his practice on fund structuring, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, direct asset, sales and commercial leases. He advises German funds, Middle-East investors, U.S. investment funds, and European and French funds. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute.



**BLANDINE HUGON-PAGÈS, COUNSEL** | [+33 1 7300 3925](tel:+33173003925) | [bhugon-pages@kslaw.com](mailto:bhugon-pages@kslaw.com)

Blandine Hugon-Pagès has experience in a range of property transactions for properties and/or companies holding real estate assets, including assets due diligence, drafting and negotiation of leases, sale and purchase agreements and other contractual documents (including warranty agreements), sale and leaseback transactions, and financing transactions. She also has experience with domestic and cross-border real estate funds, French tax -exempt investment funds and the establishing of property portfolios in an REIT (SIIC) context, and has advised on landlord-tenant, developer-owner and vendor-purchaser litigations involving real estate assets or entities.

# Our Energy and Infrastructures Practice

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Our team advises its clients on the different aspects of their projects in the areas of energy and infrastructures. This includes both general issues of corporate and commercial law (mergers and acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, restructuring) and those related to project development and finance, dispute resolution, public law and the specific regulations that apply to certain sectors. The team possesses extensive experience in all areas of energy (conventional and nuclear electricity, renewable energies, oil and natural gas, liquefied natural gas), natural resources, transport and telecommunications infrastructures. Our Paris-based team is fully integrated into the global energy practice of King & Spalding, thereby benefiting from the first-class experience of a team that is ranked among the global leaders by *Chambers Global*, *Chambers UK*, *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500*.

*Our Paris-based energy lawyers are ranked among the best in both France and Northern Africa by Chambers Europe and Legal 500 EMEA.*

# Paris Energy and Infrastructures Lawyers

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**MEHDIS. HAROUN, PARTNER** | +33 1 7300 3984 | [mharoun@kslaw.com](mailto:mharoun@kslaw.com)

Mehdi Haroun is a dual French/Algerian-qualified lawyer with a broad practice that covers general corporate and commercial matters (mergers and acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, restructurings), project development, finance and dispute resolution. He works principally in the energy, telecommunications and transport infrastructures sectors, handling major industrial projects, primarily in France, North Africa and francophone Africa. Mr. Haroun was the alternate representative for Algeria at the ICC Court of Arbitration for four consecutive years, and has served as vice president of the Board of the Arbitration and Conciliation Center of the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce. He is consistently recognized as a leading energy and corporate/commercial lawyer by *The Legal 500*, *Chambers Global* and *Chambers Europe*.



**RUXANDRA LAZAR, COUNSEL** | +33 1 7300 3988 | [rlazar@kslaw.com](mailto:rlazar@kslaw.com)

Recommended by *The Legal 500*, Ruxandra Lazar graduated from the prestigious *French Ecole nationale d'administration* (ENA) and specializes in public business law and regulatory matters. She works principally in the energy and infrastructures sectors on complex and strategic international projects, including both on transactional matters and litigation. Her areas of expertise are diverse, from public contracts (public procurement, agreements falling within the scope of the Utilities Directive, concession agreements, PPPs, establishment conventions) to the regulatory provisions applicable to energy and natural resources to privatizations, constitutional law, specific regulations applicable to State-owned companies and public bodies, and public finance and foreign investments.

# About King & Spalding

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Celebrating more than 130 years of service, King & Spalding is an international law firm that represents a broad array of clients, including half of the Fortune Global 100, with 1,000 lawyers in 20 offices in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The firm has handled matters in over 160 countries on six continents and is consistently recognized for the results it obtains, uncompromising commitment to quality, and dedication to understanding the business and culture of its clients. More information is available at [www.kslaw.com](http://www.kslaw.com).

In some jurisdictions, this may be considered "Attorney Advertising."

King & Spalding consists of King & Spalding LLP, a Georgia, U.S., limited liability entity, and affiliated limited liability entities in the U.S., England, and Singapore.



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