

James Castello

Partner

Trial and Global Disputes / International Arbitration and Litigation

Paris: +33 1 7300 3906
jcastello@kslaw.com



James Castello, a global disputes partner in the Paris office, has advised and represented clients in a wide range of commercial and investor-state arbitrations under multiple rules and procedures. Based in Europe for 20 of his 32 years in practice, James now serves as both counsel and arbitrator.

According to Chambers Global, he is "highly praised by clients for his 'extensive, in-depth experience' in international arbitration" and "praised by market commentators as an 'absolutely open, thorough, fantastic lawyer.'"

James has represented European, Middle Eastern, African and Asian clients, especially in large infrastructure or energy disputes, including contested control of a refinery, privatization of a power plant, and gas price readjustments. He and a K&S team recently won one of the largest ICSID awards ever - over \$2 billion - against Egypt for curtailing long-term gas supply. *Who's Who Legal France* calls James "an 'illustrious' senior arbitrator and counsel [who] is seen as a 'top specialist' in large infrastructure and commercial projects, especially in the energy sector."

Having long served on the U.S. delegation to the Arbitration Working Group at UNCITRAL (the UN Commission on International Trade Law), James has actively participated over the last two decades in drafting or revising all of the UNCITRAL instruments relating to arbitration or mediation. James has also written extensively on UNCITRAL's Arbitration Rules in books published by Oxford, Kluwer, and Juris.

Appointed in 2007 to the London Court of International Arbitration, James sat on its subcommittee that drafted the 2014 LCIA Rules and now serves on the LCIA's Board of Directors. He sits as well on the International Advisory Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre.

From 1995 to 2001, James left private practice to serve in the Clinton administration, first as Deputy Counsel to the President at the White House and then as Associate Deputy Attorney General in the Justice Department, where his portfolio included such international issues as immigration and human rights.

Matters

Representing **a supplier of heavy machinery** in an ICC arbitration arising from an African port development project.

Representing **a respondent in a UNCITRAL arbitration** brought under a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) arising from disputed control of an oil refinery.

Representing **a European energy company** in an ICSID arbitration arising from its failure to receive gas under a long-term supply contract.

Advising **an international construction joint venture** in arbitrations and dispute resolution board proceedings arising from construction of a high-speed rail project.

Representing **a European gas company** in an ICC arbitration arising from a gas price reopener dispute with an African gas producer.

Advising **an international construction engineering firm** during a dispute review board proceeding on issues arising from construction of a harbor tunnel.

Representing **a European commodities trader** in an ad hoc arbitration arising from a breached agreement for sale and delivery of goods in the CIS.

Representing **an international construction firm** in a dispute concerning asphalt specifications on a road project in Africa.

Representing **the claimant in an ICC arbitration** arising from an aborted geophysical study project in Africa.

Representing **the owner of an LNG liquefaction facility** in arbitrations arising from disputes under a gas supply agreement.

Representing **a European gas distributor in an ICC arbitration** involving operation of a gas price readjustment clause.

Representing **an international construction engineering firm** in arbitrations arising from delay and disruption of a road project in East Africa.

Representing **a government in an ICC arbitration** arising from an attempted privatization of a state-owned power plant.

Representing **the manufacturer of precision equipment for an industrial glass factory** in a Vienna Rules arbitration arising from a dispute with an installation subcontractor.

Representing **an international construction engineering firm** in ICC arbitration arising from its work as electro-mechanical subcontractor on a hydroelectric project in Southeast Asia.

Representing **western European investors** in an ICC arbitration arising from a shareholders' dispute following privatization of a cement plant in eastern Europe.

Representing **an international construction engineering firm** in ICC arbitration arising from construction of a steel tube plant in Europe.

Credentials

EDUCATION

J.D., University of California, Berkeley, Order of the Coif

M.A. in Economics, University of California, Berkeley

B.A., Yale University

ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

New York

Paris

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk, William J. Brennan, Jr., Supreme Court of the United States

Law Clerk, Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court of the United States

Law Clerk, Abner J. Mikva, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Law Clerk, Howard Holtzmann, Iran-United States Claims Tribunal

LANGUAGES

English

French

Recognition

"James Castello ... 'charms arbitration tribunals' and is 'well known ...and widely recommended,' according to clients."

INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS (2019)

"[One client] describes partners Doak Bishop and James Castello as "the very best the company has ever worked with."

GLOBAL ARBITRATION REVIEW - "GAR 30 (2019)"

In Paris, the "'excellent' practice head James Castello ... has 'very strong forensic skills and is detail-oriented.'"

LEGAL 500 EMEA (2019)

Construction Law

INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO OF CONSTRUCTION LAWYERS, 2017

"A well-respected practitioner and incisive presenter of facts."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2016

"'Extensive, in-depth experience' in international arbitration."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2016, QUOTING A CLIENT

An "illustrious" senior arbitrator and counsel

INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO OF COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION, 2016

A "top specialist" in large infrastructure and commercial projects, especially in the energy sector.

INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO OF COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION, 2016

"A 'great brain' and 'one of the reasons [King & Spalding] is so good in Paris.'"

INTERNATIONAL WHO'S WHO OF COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION, 2016, QUOTING A CLIENT

“A ‘talented individual’ who enjoys a ‘prestigious reputation’ in the international arbitration field.”
WHO’S WHO LEGAL FRANCE, 2015

“Notable expertise in handling large investor-state cases and disputes related to commercial issues in the energy sector
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2015, QUOTING A CLIENT

“He’s at the top of my list, without a doubt.”
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2015, QUOTING A CLIENT

“‘Outstanding’ and ‘among the best worldwide’”
GLOBAL ARBITRATION REVIEW 100, 2015, QUOTING A CLIENT

“The Paris team handles key investment and commercial oil and gas disputes in the Middle East and Asia.”
LEGAL 500 FRANCE, 2015, QUOTING CLIENTS

“Practice head Eric Schwartz and James Castello have ‘excellent reputations’ and form ‘an excellent team.’”
LEGAL 500 FRANCE, 2015, QUOTING CLIENTS

“An expert in this field.”
CHAMBERS EUROPE (FRANCE), 2014

“Highly experienced in the energy sector.”
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2013

“Interviewees laud his ability to readily handle technically complex issues.”
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2013

“Very up to speed on new technologies” says one source
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2013

“Able to quickly absorb the entire history of the case, including exchanges that took place before he handled it.”
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2013

“[Has] close ties with some of the European arbitration institutions.”
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2010

“Praised by market commentators as an ‘absolutely open, thorough, fantastic lawyer.’”
CHAMBERS GLOBAL, 2010, QUOTING SOURCES

Insights

ARTICLE

June 15, 2019

Enforcement of Interim Measures (book chapter in "GAR Guide to Challenging and Enforcing Arbitration Awards")

December 15, 2017

Bahrain Chamber for Dispute Resolution INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION REVIEW

Events

CONFERENCE

April 1, 2019

Dialogue Between Courts and Tribunals: Making International Law Effective

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

September 13, 2019

James Castello to Speak at 9th Kyiv Arbitration Days Conference

January 31, 2019

James Castello to Speak at Annual EFILA Conference

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)

News

RECOGNITION

July 2, 2019

Best Lawyers Recognizes Europe-based King & Spalding Lawyers in its 2020 Guides

April 12, 2019

King & Spalding Once Again Earns Top Rankings in Legal 500 2019 EMEA Guide

April 9, 2019

Global Arbitration Review Names King & Spalding Most Impressive Firm in International Arbitration

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)