

James Castello

Partner

Trial and Global Disputes / International Arbitration and Litigation

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James Castello has advised and represented clients (and has arbitrated disputes) in a wide range of commercial and investor-state proceedings under multiple arbitral rules. Based in Europe for 22 of his 34 years in practice, James now serves as both counsel and arbitrator. According to *Chambers Global*, he is “praised by market commentators as an ‘absolutely open, thorough, fantastic lawyer,’” and is “highly praised by clients for his ‘extensive, in-depth experience’ in international arbitration.”

James has represented European, Middle Eastern, African and Asian clients, especially in energy disputes (e.g., contested control of a refinery, privatization of a power plant, gas price readjustments, upstream development) and large infrastructure cases (road, tunnel, rail, industrial facilities). He and a K&S team recently won one of the largest ICSID awards ever - \$2+ billion - against Egypt for curtailing long-term gas supply. According to *International Who's Who of Commercial Arbitration*, James “has a ‘great brain’ and is ‘one of the reasons [King & Spalding] is so good in Paris.’”

A member since 2001 of the U.S. delegation to the Arbitration Working Groups at UNCITRAL (the UN Commission on International Trade Law), James has actively participated in drafting or revising all of UNCITRAL's arbitration or mediation instruments. 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 serves as well on the International Advisory Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre and as Executive Committee Vice Chair of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration.

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

NEWSLETTER

July 30, 2020

Tokyo Dispute Resolution & Crisis Management Newsletter – July 2020

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

July 10, 2020

James Castello Joins Faculty for Annual Summer Course on International Arbitration at Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México

July 10, 2020

James Castello Appointed to Leadership Position in Institute for Transnational Arbitration

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

May 22, 2021

James Castello to Judge Final Round of Eastern European Foreign Investment Moot Court Competition

March 28, 2021

James Castello to Give 9th Annual Bergsten Lecture

October 12, 2020

James Castello to Speak at Opening Ceremony of Japan’s International Dispute Resolution Center

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News

RECOGNITION

July 16, 2021

Global Arbitration Review Names King & Spalding Top Two in International Arbitration

Best Lawyers Recognizes Europe-based King & Spalding Lawyers in its 2022 Guides

April 15, 2021

Legal 500 EMEA 2021 Recognizes King & Spalding among the Top Firms in Europe, the Middle East and Africa

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](http://www.kslaw.com)