

Risteard de Paor

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A dynamic and versatile international lawyer with extensive experience (+12 years) in arbitration, ADR, and litigation across diverse sectors, including construction, energy, transport, environment, insurance and manufacturing. Fluent in English, French, and Spanish and with a proven ability to achieve favourable results for clients. Has successfully represented clients in both commercial and investor-State international arbitrations under the main institutional and ad hoc rules such as ICC, ICSID, LCIA, Swiss Arbitration Centre, and UNCITRAL. A solicitor advocate of England & Wales, an “*avocat à la cour*” at the Paris bar and Irish solicitor (both non-practising), and a registered foreign lawyer at the bar of Madrid, where he is based.

Key skills & expertise:

- **Experienced counsel and co-counsel in commercial and investment arbitration:** works as sole counsel or seamlessly with other independent lawyers and law firms in cases requiring specific legal/sectoral knowledge.
- **Extensive advocacy experience:** sole advocate in both international arbitrations and in English High Court proceedings. Higher rights of audience and has successfully obtained interim relief measures in the relevant hearings.
- **Government, in-house & regulatory experience:** past legal assistant in French government ministry; secondment experience in London-based investment management firms and a masters in, and experience of advising on, environmental regulation.
- **Recognised international disputes knowhow:** adept at navigating complex, multi-jurisdictional disputes in both common and civil law. Lexology Index (formerly WWL) Arbitration Future Leader 2024, 2025 and 2026 with client feedback highlighting that “[h]e has a remarkable talent for getting to grips with the most technical issues”, “communicates very clearly and strategically” and (via EMEA Legal 500, Spain, 2024) “was fantastic throughout a complex arbitration involving over 6 parties in different jurisdictions and navigating a wide number of topics. Risteard is a great communicator. I would highly recommend”.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

November 2024 – present

Principal at De Paor Dispute Resolution

Independent international disputes practitioner, Madrid

- Co-counsel advising a Spanish manufacturing company in relation to a dispute arising from a EUR 200 million contract concerning marine engineering goods. English law.
- Co-counsel acting for Irish high net-worth individuals in their claim in relation to an international, fraudulent transfer of assets involving Ireland, Spain and England. English, Irish and Spanish law.
- Sole counsel representing an international consulting and sustainable engineering company in a multimillion-euro Bilateral Investment Treaty dispute in francophone Africa. Local (civil) and international law.

November 2020 – present

Lecturer in International Arbitration on the Masters in International Law, Trade and Relations, ISDE, Madrid

May 2022 – October 2024

Of Counsel in Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer Spain LLP, Madrid

- Acting for a Spanish international construction company in an English High Court injunction application linked to a call on first demand guarantees in respect of a West African combined cycle power project.
- Representing a British offshore wind joint venture company in an LCIA arbitration against a Singaporean contractor concerning a marine survey engineering services contract in England.
- Representing a Spanish international construction company in two dispute board proceedings concerning an international electricity transmission project in Central Asia.
- Acting for a Spanish international construction company against its US consortium partner in an ICC arbitration relating to rehabilitation of a hydroelectric power facility in Central Asia.
- Defending a Spanish renewable energy company against its subcontractor in an ICC arbitration concerning a large photovoltaic facility in East Africa.
- Representing a group of Mexican claimant companies against a British insurance broker in English High Court proceedings relating to breach of obligations owed to the claimants by the defendant under FSMA and tort (deceit) law.
- Representing a Spanish claimant against a British defendant in negligence/civil liability proceedings in the English High Court.

January 2020 – May 2022

International disputes Partner in Dentons Europe Abogados S.L.U., Madrid

- Representing a Swiss-headquartered international manufacturing company against a Middle Eastern company in a commercial arbitration under the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration of the (now) Swiss Arbitration Centre.
- Representing a Swiss company in the transport sector in relation to a supply chain, commercial dispute in a South American country.
- Advising a US client on the purchase of arbitral awards granted against a European state.
- Advising an Irish aviation sector company on its rights under the Cape Town Convention in respect of repossession of aircraft.
- Advising a Caribbean State in relation to implementation of its climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement.

June 2015 –September 2018

International arbitration Associate at White & Case LLP, Paris

- Lead Associate acting for a European construction company in respect of a EUR 200 million claim pursued in ICC proceedings concerning the construction of a record-breaking bridge in Central America.
- Lead Associate acting for GUPC consortium in respect of a EUR 100 million claim pursued in ICC proceedings relating to the Panama Canal Third Set of Locks expansion project (overall claim was for several billion dollars).
- Lead Associate advising a South American engineering company against a North African employer in a dispute concerning performance and advance payment guarantees.
- Representing a major European contractor in an ICC oil and gas-related construction dispute involving claims over EUR 200 million.

March 2013 – February 2015

Trainee solicitor at Hogan Lovells International LLP, London and Hogan Lovells (Paris) LLP

- September 2014-February 2015 – International Arbitration group at HL Paris, focused on investment arbitration. Drafting submissions and letters to Tribunal in the cases of *Gambrinus v. Venezuela* (ICSID) and *Longreef v. Venezuela* (ICSID).
- March 2014-August 2014 – International Arbitration group at HL London, focused on commercial arbitration (LCIA) and a dispute before the Competition Appeals Tribunal.

- September 2013-February 2014 – Real Estate department at HL London and *ad hoc* secondment to M&G Real Estate and M&G Investment Management Limited, a Prudential Plc affiliate.
- March 2013-August 2013 – Commercial, Environmental and Regulatory group at HL London dealing with EU ETS and REACH matters as well as ERPA's.

ACCOLADES

- Recognised as a Future Leader in Arbitration in the Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) 2024, 2025 and 2026 rankings.
- Recommended in EMEA Legal 500 (Spain) 2024.
- Recognised among the "Top 50 Rising Stars" in Spain and Portugal Iberian Lawyer 2020.
- Top of Masters class in Environmental Policy in the University Institute of Environmental Science of the Complutense University.
- First-Class degree in Law and French from Trinity College Dublin where he also received the French government Gold Medal for his final year results.

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & PUBLICATIONS

Speaking engagements (selection)

- Panellist at the first edition of the "Mesas sectoriales del CEIA -40" on "La captura y el almacenamiento de carbono", Hogan Lovells, Madrid, March 2025.
- GAR Live Energy Disputes, panel on "Renewable Energy Disputes", Clearly Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, London, July 2024.
- EFILA Annual Conference, panellist: "A (modernized) ECT is necessary to speed up the energy transition in accordance with the Paris Agreement goals", Cuatrecasas, Madrid, March 2023.

Publications (selection)

- "Informe internacional 2024 del King's College sobre Dispute Boards – Un resumen y breve análisis", Newsletter No. 5 of the CEIA Comisión de Dispute Boards, November 2025.
- "Desde el Boundary hasta el más allá: el uso de dispute boards (principalmente bajo FIDIC y NEC) en España, Inglaterra y Perú – ¿cómo es?", Newsletter No. 4 of the CEIA Comisión de Dispute Boards, January 2025.
- "Risk management and contractual risk allocation in subsea site investigations and installation activities for offshore wind farms", *Construction Law International* (November 2024).
- "Expansion and Regulation on the Horizon for Third-Party Funding in Ireland and the EU", Kluwer Arbitration Blog, May 2024.
- "Can international arbitral tribunals apply international climate change law and/or public policy when climate change issues arise in commercial and investment arbitrations?", *Cahiers de l'Arbitrage / The Paris Journal International Arbitration*, 2022-3.
- "The green recovery: High-level legal issues that renewable energy investors in Europe should remember", *JD Supra*, June 2020.

MEMBERSHIPS

- ICC Ireland and ICC YAAF member
- YIAG LCIA member
- *Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje* (CEIA) including its Dispute Board Committee
- Arbitration Ireland
- Committee member of the Spanish Irish Business Network (SIBN)
- *Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid* (ICAM)