

## Risteard de Paor

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A dynamic and versatile international lawyer with extensive experience (+10 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 Madrid bar.

### Key skills & expertise:

- **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 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”.
- **Extensive advocacy experience:** sole advocate in both international arbitrations and in English High Court proceedings. Higher rights of audience.
- **Commercial and investment arbitration experience:** involved in three ICSID cases at a variety of stages on both investor and State side, and myriad commercial cases.
- **Climate change & ESG specialism:** trusted advisor on climate change law, policy, and dispute resolution, with a focus on renewable energy disputes and ESG issues. Active member of the ICC Task Force on Resolving Climate Change-Related Disputes through Arbitration.
- **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.
- **Academic & thought leader:** lecturer in international arbitration at ISDE, Madrid. Regular speaker and trainer on AI legal issues and dispute resolution, including dispute boards.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**November 2024 – present**

**Principal at De Paor Dispute Resolution**

**Independent international disputes practitioner, Madrid**

**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 Spain LLP, Madrid**

- 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.
- Preliminary analysis of investor’s claim in the case of Berkeley Exploration Ltd. v. Kingdom of Spain, ICSID Case No. ARB/24/22.
- 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.

- Representing a Spanish international construction company in two dispute board proceedings concerning an international sustainable electricity transmission project in Central Asia.
- Defending a Spanish renewable energy company against its subcontractor in an ICC arbitration concerning a large photovoltaic facility in East Africa.
- 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 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 relating to 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, of which three months were spent on an *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.

## July 2010 – October 2010

- Personal Legal Assistant to the Deputy Director of Legal Affairs at the French Civil Aviation Authority (Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Transport) Paris. Tasks relating to the Energy Taxation Directive 2003/96/EC and Air France Flight 447 accident.

## ACCOLADES

- Recognised as a Future Leader in Arbitration in the Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) 2024 and 2025 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

- 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, debate on motion, "A (modernized) ECT is necessary to speed up the energy transition in accordance with the Paris Agreement goals", Cuatrecasas, Madrid, March 2023.

### Publications

- *"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.
- *"Afrontando jurídica, política y socioeconómicamente la migración de las poblaciones de peces en el Atlántico Norte debido al cambio climático"* (Tackling Climate-Induced Migration of Fish Populations in the North Atlantic from a Legal, Political and Socio-Economic Perspective), *Anuario Mexicano de Derecho Internacional*, vol. XXII, 2022.
- "The green recovery: High-level legal issues that renewable energy investors in Europe should remember", JD Supra, June 2020.

## MEMBERSHIPS

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