

## Stephen L. Drymer

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Stephen L. Drymer heads the firm's International Arbitration practice. A litigator and advocate by background and experience, Stephen is a leading figure in domestic and international arbitration. He serves as counsel, mediator, sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator and tribunal president in *ad hoc* proceedings and in cases administered by the world's most prominent arbitral institutions.

Stephen also advises parties on a broad range of issues associated with the design, negotiation, drafting and implementation of dispute resolution agreements and strategies. The industries in which he has worked as counsel or arbitrator include manufacturing, infrastructure, construction, petrochemicals, oil and gas, mining, energy, environment, financial services, outsourcing, hospitality, transportation, aviation, IT, telecommunications, aerospace and crop science.

Stephen is also very active in the resolution of sport-related disputes, among other, in cases before the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne. In addition to extensive work as counsel, he has served as arbitrator and or in numerous cases involving a wide range of issues and sports.

Listed in the world's top legal directories as a leader in litigation and alternative dispute resolution, Stephen is one of the most sought-after arbitrators in Canada and internationally.

### Expertise

- International arbitration
- Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution Methods
- Complex commercial cases
- Sports Law and Sports Arbitration

### Languages

French, English  
Spanish (working knowledge)

### Bar admission

Quebec, 1991

## Representative mandates

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### Notable recent appointments and other engagements include:

#### Investor-state (investment treaty) arbitration

- President of an ICC tribunal in a dispute between a Turkish group and the State of Libya involving the construction of significant road work, a university and other infrastructure in Libya.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the investor in an ICSID arbitration concerning a major housing, infrastructure and urban development project in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the State in an ICSID arbitration involving a construction dispute between a European consortium and the Arab Republic of Egypt.
- President of several ICSID tribunals, or party-appointed arbitrator, in various disputes concerning thermal, hydro, solar, wind, biomass and other power generation, transmission and distribution in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the investor in an ICSID dispute concerning financial instruments issued by the Republic of Perú.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the State in a PCA-administered arbitration concerning a long-running dispute between a public foundation and the heirs to a publishing enterprise and the Republic of Chile.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the investor in a mining dispute in Mongolia.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the investor in a dispute concerning the insurance and financial industries in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the investor in an ICSID arbitration concerning oil and gas concessions in the Republic of Ecuador, including counterclaims brought by the State on grounds of damage to the environment and public health.
- Co-arbitrator appointed by the investor in an ICSID arbitration concerning a disputed real estate development project in the Republic of Korea.
- President of an ICSID Tribunal in a dispute involving investments in water, sanitation and flood-protection infrastructure, management, and related services in the Republic of Estonia.
- President of the tribunal in a PCA-administered arbitration between a middle eastern investor and the Sultanate of Oman concerning the design and construction of an important housing project.
- Adviser to a State in a dispute concerning permitting, exploration, development and extraction of shale oil and gas, and related environmental issues.
- Counsel to an investor in a uranium mining dispute in Central Asia.

#### Commercial arbitration

##### Arbitrator

- President of an ICC tribunal in a commercial dispute involving private and State parties concerning the greenfield development of a deep-sea port on the Black Sea.
- Co-arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration between European parties concerning LNG production and marketing.

- Tribunal president in an ICDR arbitration between North America parties concerning cybersecurity in the telecommunications industry.
- Tribunal president in an ICDR arbitration concerning international distribution and marketing of a major Hollywood film franchise.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICDR arbitration between Canadian, U.S. and European parties concerning the design, supply and operation of a cement plant.
- Tribunal president in a PCA-administered arbitration between a Balkan State agency and a group of foreign investors concerning a contract for the supply and operation of a cement plant, including resource procurement and shipping issues.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration business Asian and European parties concerning a joint venture and contract for the sale and purchase of electric vehicle systems and components.
- Conciliator in a pricing dispute between a European/Asian consortium and an African supplier of natural gas.
- President of an ICC tribunal in a dispute between Chinese and South American parties concerning the development and supply mining technology.
- Co-arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration between private and public entities concerning a lifting agreement and related obligations under very extensive offshore hydrocarbon concessions in West Africa.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration concerning the sale of intellectual property and related technology in the wind generation industry.
- President of an ICC tribunal in a dispute concerning the construction of a hydroelectric dam in Central America.
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration in a franchising and distribution dispute between major international players in the food, food services and retailing industries.
- Tribunal president, co-arbitrator or sole arbitrator in numerous ad hoc arbitrations involving upstream and downstream energy and mining disputes; road, rail and bridge construction; medical devices and testing; financial services and products; shareholder disputes; real estate development; aerospace imaging; and other.
- Sole arbitrator in a commercial dispute administered by the PCA concerning the procurement aviation technology, systems and equipment by a Caribbean State.
- Panel member or chair in several Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) dispute.

## Counsel work

- Counsel to a U.N. agency in an ad hoc UNCITRAL arbitration involving several private and public entities regarding the procurement of civilian aircraft by an agency of a South American State.
- Counsel to a multinational pharmaceuticals, agriculture and chemicals company in an ICC arbitration concerning international patents and licensing of intellectual property and technology in the crop-sciences industry.
- Counsel to a nutraceuticals company in an ad hoc UNCITRAL arbitration concerning the development, manufacturing, distribution and licensing of various products.

- Counsel to a manufacturer in an ICC arbitration concerning a contract for the supply of a fleet of aircraft, parts and maintenance services.
- Counsel to a railway owner in an ad hoc arbitration concerning a contract for the design, supply and maintenance of signalling technology and equipment.
- Counsel to the acquirer of a European manufacturer of rail transport rolling stock and signalling equipment in a post-closing dispute in ad hoc arbitration under a sale and purchase agreement.
- Counsel to contract party in an ad hoc arbitration concerning the outsourcing of IT services.
- Mediator in a dispute between a government and its provider of IT services under a long-term procurement agreement.

## **Sport-related disputes**

- Panel president or party-appointed arbitrator in numerous CAS arbitrations concerning a range of international sport disputes including doping, membership of national and international federations and various commercial matters.
- Sole arbitrator, panel member, mediator or conciliator in many and varied disputes - team selection, carding, harassment, doping and other - involving numerous Canadian athletes, Olympians, Paralympians and sport organisations, in cases before the SDRCC.
- Counsel to the World Anti-Doping Agency in several anti-doping matters and cases (prior to joining the CAS).
- Counsel to a member of the Québec Major Junior Hockey League in a dispute with the League.

## **Other**

- Special advisor to the Secretary General of the U.N. and mediator in a territorial and resource dispute between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.
- Neutral fact finder regarding certain issues in dispute between governments and private parties in the Middle East and Europe.
- Counsel to the Province of Nova Scotia before an ad hoc tribunal constituted to determine the offshore boundary between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Negotiator for Canada in the renewal of the Canada-U.S. *Pacific Salmon Treaty* and counsel in the international mediation of certain disputes under that Treaty.

## **Distinctions**

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**Stephen has been named as one of the world's leading international lawyers and arbitrators by the following publications:**

- Chambers Canada, *Dispute Resolution: Arbitration*, Band 1
- Chambers Canada, *Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators*, Band 2

- Chambers Global, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration, Dispute Resolution: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Band 1
- The Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory, Commercial Arbitration, Most Frequently Recommended
- *Lexpert® ROB/Special Edition Litigation*
- *Lexpert® American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada*
- The Best Lawyer in Canada, Alternative Dispute Resolution & International Arbitration
- *The Best Lawyers in Canada*, Named Lawyer of the year 2022, 2018 and 2015 (Montreal) in International Arbitration
- Benchmark Litigation Canada, Litigation Star
- Benchmark Litigation Gala, Arbitration Lawyer of the year (2018)
- Who's Who Legal, Thought Leaders - Arbitration
- Who's Who Legal, Global Leader & National Leader (Canada) - Arbitration
- Who's Who Legal, Global Leader & National Leader (Canada) -Mediation

## **Professional activities and associations**

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### **Institutional panels of arbitrators and mediators, including:**

- American Arbitration Association (AAA) / International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)
- China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC)
- Thailand Arbitration Centre (THAC)
- Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA)
- Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
- Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC)
- ICC Canada (the Canadian National Committee of the ICC)

### **Teaching and Professional Activities**

- McGill University Faculty of Law, Guest Lecturer: International Dispute Resolution
- McGill University Faculty of Law, Guest Lecturer: Sport Law and Arbitration
- Former VP, Arbitration Committee, International Bar Association (IBA)
- Former Director, Canada branch of the International Law Association ILA
- Former President, Montreal Branch and Honorary Adviser to the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA Canada)
- Canada Delegate to United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group II, Revision of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules (2008-2010)
- Governor of the Quebec Bar Foundation

### **Professional Associations**

- Canadian Bar Association (CBA)
- American Bar Association (ABA)



- International Bar Association (IBA)
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- ICC Canada
- CAIL/ITA Center for American and International Law (Institute for Transnational Arbitration)
- College of Commercial Arbitration (CCA)
- Toronto Commercial Arbitration Society (TCAS)

## **Education**

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**McGill University**, Faculty of Law, Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.) and Common Law (LL.B.), 1990

**Canadian Securities Institute**, The Canadian Securities Course, 1983

**Yale University**, Bachelor of Arts - Political Science (B.A.), 1983