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Languages: French (native); English and Italian (fluent);
German and Spanish (intermediate)

SUMMARY

Independent Counsel and Arbitrator, Founder in 2025 of "Gouiffès Arbitration" a boutique firm based in Paris, Laurent has 30 years' experience in International Arbitration representing major industrial groups and States in high profile, complex international arbitrations and mediations. He has extensive experience of arbitration under the rules of the ICC, LCIA, ICSID and UNCITRAL and has also acted in a number of disputes brought under the Energy Charter Treaty.

With a focus on energy-related, technological and investment disputes, Laurent regularly acts on behalf of clients in the oil and gas, mining, electricity, nuclear, aerospace and telecommunications industries as well as on behalf of States. He is also often appointed as arbitrator in cases before the ICC, the LCIA and the Chamber of Arbitration of Milan.

Laurent regularly speaks and publishes on topical issues in arbitration, energy and public/private international law including giving lectures on energy arbitration at Sciences Po in Paris.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

July 2025 to present	International arbitrator and counsel, Gouiffès Arbitration, Paris
May 2009 to June 2025	Partner, Hogan Lovells, Paris
Nov 2005 to April 2009	Counsel, Allen & Overy, London and Paris
Sept 2002 to Nov 2005	Senior Associate, Denton Wilde Sapte, London
Jan 1998 to Sept 2002	Associate, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Paris

EDUCATION AND BAR ADMISSIONS

2005	Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales
1998	Avocat à la Cour, barreau de Paris
1996	Post-masterate diploma in Private and Public International Law at the University of Paris Panthéon-Assas, with honours
1993	Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris

MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND RANKINGS

- ICC (Delegate to the Commission on Arbitration for the 2024-2027 mandate; member of the ICC Task Force on Artificial Intelligence since April 2025); LCIA; CFA; IAI; AFA
- Member of the Board of the *Comité Français de l'Arbitrage* since May 2025; Appointed to the panel of arbitrators at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC); the Kuala Lumpar Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA); and Shanghai International Arbitration Center (SHIAC).

- Numerous rankings in 2025, including: Band 1, five stars for International Arbitration, Option Droit et Affaires; “Excellent, Band 2” for International Arbitration, Décideurs; Band 3, Chambers & Partners; “Leading individual” for International Arbitration, Legal 500.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- “La sentence arbitrale”, Revue de l’Arbitrage, No. 3, contribution with C. Debourg, L. Fadlallah & B. Zajdela (CFA Working Group), 2025
- "Climate change in international arbitration, the next big thing?" Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law, 2021
- “The View from the French Courts: Disclosures – Objections – Challenges: Clear Path or Jungle in Commercial Arbitrators’ Conflicts of Interest?” Chapter 9, Swiss Arbitration Association, ASA Special Series 48, Wolters Kluwer, 2021.
- "l'Annulation en France des Sentences Arbitrales Rendues sur le Fondement de Traités d'Investissement" Revue de l'Arbitrage, No. 3 2017.

RECENT SELECTED EXPERIENCE

1.1 Investment Arbitration:

- Representing the Republic of an East European country in a long-running ICC arbitration, governed by English and Albanian law, relating to cost sharing at Europe’s largest onshore oilfield, with over USD 800m in dispute.
- Representing the Government of Colombia in a USD 350 million ICSID investment arbitration initiated by an American technology company relating to the commercial expansion and administration of the country’s top-level domain name.
- Representing the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in relation to two ICSID arbitrations brought by companies in the coffee and fertilizer industries.
- Representing the Government of Mongolia in an UNCITRAL arbitration brought by Khan Resources, a Canadian company, under the Energy Charter Treaty. The dispute concerns the alleged appropriation of uranium mining licences (PCA in the Hague, seat in Paris).
- Representing a South African branch of a major UK bank against an African Government after the privatisation of the state-owned telecommunications company (UNCITRAL, the Hague).
- Representing the Republic of Slovenia in an ICSID arbitration under the Energy Charter Treaty initiated by the national electricity company of Croatia, HEP, in relation to the Krsko nuclear power plant in Slovenia that was built before a national border existed between the two countries of the former Yugoslavia.

1.2 Commercial Arbitration:

- Representing a market leading telecom tower infrastructure company in pre-arbitration negotiations and ICC arbitration proceedings against a leading French telecom company in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- Representing a media conglomerate, against a Lebanese company in parallel ICC arbitration proceedings relating to breaches of several agreements in connexion with their business in the Middle East.

- Representing an American Fortune 500 company in ICC arbitration proceedings in relation to the acquisition of a manufacturing facility in France, against a subsidiary of a French major oil and gas company, for claims resulting from non-disclosures during the acquisition process.

- Representing a European oil and gas production company in ICC arbitration proceedings against another European oil and gas company in relation to a price review of a long-term gas contract.

- Representing a leading French engineering company in the energy industry in proceedings initiated by one of its contractors in the Middle East in relation to alleged breaches of consultancy agreements.

- Representing a global aircraft manufacturer in an arbitration with one if its principal suppliers (ICC, Paris).

1.3 Arbitrator Appointments:

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration between two companies incorporated in Pakistan in relation to a Power Purchase Agreement (seat in London, Pakistan law, English language).

- Acting as co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration between a consortium of companies and a Romanian company arising out of a construction contract (seat in Bucarest, Romanian law, English language).

- Acting as chairman of the Arbitral Tribunal in an arbitration administered by the Milan Chamber of Arbitration, under Italian law, between an Italian company and an Iraqi company in a contractual dispute (seat in Milan, Italian Law, Italian Language)

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration, under English law with proceedings in French, between two courier services companies in relation to their business in North Africa (English law, French Language).

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an arbitration administered by the Milan Chamber of Arbitration, under Italian law, between an Italian aviation company and a German company in the financial sector concerning the provision of transport.

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an arbitration under the aegis of the Chamber of Arbitration of Milan for a F3000 car racing dispute (seat in London, English Law, English language).

- Acting as sole arbitrator in a LCIA arbitration in a dispute between an Australian mining company and an Indian steel manufacturer (seat in London, English law, English language).

- Acting as sole arbitrator in an arbitration under the aegis of the Chamber of Arbitration of Milan for a dispute between an English company and an Italian company in the optic business (seat in Milan, Italian law, Italian language).