walderwyss

Dr. iur., Attorney at Law
Partner
Phone +41 58 658 30 61
diana.akikol@walderwyss.com

Diana Akikol

Diana Akikol is the Co-Head of the Walder Wyss International Arbitration practice.

With nearly 20 years of experience as a dedicated arbitration specialist, Diana Akikol represents clients in complex international arbitration proceedings and frequently sits as an arbitrator. She has handled arbitrations seated in Switzerland, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia under the rules of major institutions and in ad hoc cases. She also advises and represents clients in Swiss award enforcement or annulment proceedings.

Diana Akikol centers her practice on commercial arbitration, with a particular focus on mergers & acquisitions, shareholders' agreements and joint ventures, as well as large infrastructure and construction projects. She has equally broad experience in dealing with disputes concerning sales of goods, commodities and energy trading, telecommunications, agency and consultancy services, as well as licensing and distribution (particularly in the pharmaceutical sector).

Diana Akikol served on the Arbitration Court of the Swiss Arbitration Centre for six years (2020-2025) and is the current ICC Court Member for Switzerland (appointed in July 2021). She is also a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, the ICC Task Force on Corruption, the Arbitration Commission of ICC Switzerland, the Board of the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA), and the Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC). She is the Co-Chair of the ASA Commodities and Mining sector group, and a member of the ASA Task Force on Investor-States Dispute Settlement.

Ranked as a thought leader in her field, Diana Akikol is recommended as "simply one of the best", "having acquired unparalleled experience as both an advocate and arbitrator" (Lexology 2024, formerly Who's Who Legal). She “impresses peers with her mastery of complex technical facts and very profound legal knowledge” (Who's Who Legal Arbitration 2019) and is described as "very quick in understanding and very dedicated" (Chambers Global 2020), as well as "a very strong practitioner" (Who's Who Legal 2020 Switzerland Arbitration).

Diana Akikol is a frequent speaker at conferences and regularly publishes in her field. She co-authored a commentary on the Swiss International Arbitration Act and wrote several articles on award annulment proceedings before the Swiss Federal Supreme Court. She also contributed to a commentary on the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) and published a doctoral thesis on liability for defects under Swiss law and the CISG.

Diana Akikol earned her law degree from the University of Fribourg in 2000 and her doctorate from the University of Lucerne in 2008, both with summa cum laude distinction. She was admitted to the Berne Bar in 2002, ranking first in her class.

Diana Akikol is fluent in English, French and German (native).

Speaking engagements (Selection)

- **"Award Annulment Proceedings Before the Swiss Federal Supreme Court"**, ASA Fall Conference, Berne, September 2025 (moderator)
- **"Cultural aspects and key expectations of clients and stakeholders in Türkiye and Switzerland "**, ICC Switzerland's Arbitration Reception with ICC Türkiye, Zurich, June 2025 (moderator)
- **"How to become an arbitrator"**, Swiss Arbitration Academy, Zurich, February 2025 (guest lecturer)
- **"The role of the arbitral tribunal in the examination of witnesses and experts"**, conference organized by the Arbitration Section of the Zurich Bar Association, Zurich, June 2024 (speaker)
- **"The power of agreed rules: how arbitration promotes peace and prosperity"**, 13th World Chambers Congress, Geneva, June 2023 (speaker)
- **"How to become an arbitrator"**, Swiss Arbitration Academy, Zurich, February 2023 (guest lecturer)
- **"The power of arbitral tribunals to order interim measures"**, International Arbitration Symposium Salzburg 2022, June 2022 (speaker)
- **"The Interplay between Arbitration and Insolvency"**, ASA Annual Conference 2021, January 2021 (organizer and moderator)
- **"The new powers of arbitral tribunals under the 2021 ICC Rules"**, Webinar in French language organized by ICC France, ICC Switzerland, ICC Belgium on the 2021 ICC Rules, December 2020 (speaker)
- **"Clear Path or Jungle in Commercial Arbitrators' Conflicts of Interest? The view from the Swiss state courts"**, ASA Annual Conference 2020, February 2020 (speaker)
- **"Annulment of Arbitral Awards in International Commercial Arbitration"**, LL.M. program on International Trade Law, International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, Turin, May 2020 (guest lecturer)
- **"Fast and Furious: Urgent and Expedited Relief, Lessons Learnt – Challenges Lying Ahead"**, SCAI Innovation Conference, Zurich, February 2020 (organizer and moderator)
- **"Annulment of Arbitral Awards in International Commercial Arbitration"**, LL.M. program on International Trade Law, International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization, Turin, May 2019 (guest lecturer)
- **"Emergency Arbitrator Proceedings"**, panel on interim measures organized by Revue de Droit des Affaires Internationales and Queen Mary University, Paris Arbitration Week, March 2019 (speaker)
- **"All Eyes on the Arbitrator: New Approaches to Arbitrator Selection and Case Management"**, SCAI Innovation Conference, Geneva, January 2019 (organizer and moderator)
- **"Arbitration Law Reform in Switzerland"**, 26th Croatian Arbitration Days, December 2018 (speaker)

Selected Publications

- **Commentary on Articles 179-180 of the Swiss Federal Private International Law Act**, in: Simon Gabriel/Marco Stacher (eds), Berner Kommentar, Internationale Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit, Art. 176-194 IPRG sowie Art. 7 und 196 IPRG, Staempli 2022
- **Commentary on Articles 180a-180b of the Swiss Federal Private International Law Act**, in: Simon Gabriel/Marco Stacher (eds), Berner Kommentar, Internationale Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit, Art. 176-194 IPRG sowie Art. 7 und 196 IPRG, Staempli 2022 (co-authored with Francesca Borio)
- **Commentary on Articles 45-48 CISG**, in: Christoph Brunner/Benjamin Gottlieb (eds), Commentary on the UN Sales Law (CISG), Kluwer Law, Haywards Heath 2019 (co-authored with Lucien Bürki)
- **Review of the Recent Case Law of the Swiss Federal Tribunal**, in: Christoph Müller/Antionio Rigozzi (eds), New Developments in International Commercial Arbitration, Schulthess 2011
- **Die bundesgerichtliche Rechtsprechung zur Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit im Jahr 2010** [Swiss Federal Supreme Court decisions on arbitration in 2010], Jusletter August 2011
- **Die bundesgerichtliche Rechtsprechung zur Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit im Jahr 2009** [Swiss Federal Supreme Court decisions on arbitration in 2009], Jusletter Juni 2010
- **Die Voraussetzungen der Sachmängelhaftung beim Warenkauf – Obligationenrecht und UN Kaufrecht (CISG)**, [The seller's warranties for goods sold under the Swiss Code of Obligations and the UN Sales Convention], Schulthess 2008