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Diana Akikol

Diana Akikol leads the Geneva International Arbitration Group.

Drawing on over 20 years of experience as an advocate, Ms. Akikol represents multinational corporations, national companies, states and state-owned entities in international arbitration proceedings under the major institutional rules and in ad-hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL Rules. Additionally, she acts for clients in arbitration-related proceedings before the Geneva courts.

Ms. Akikol is also an accomplished arbitrator, having sat as tribunal member (often as president) in more than 60 arbitrations seated in various jurisdictions (Geneva, Zurich, London, Paris, Milan, Berlin, Vienna, Istanbul, Hong Kong, etc.) and conducted under a variety of rules (including ICC, Swiss, LCIA, HKIAC, VIAC and DIS).

Ms. Akikol's practice spans a wide range of matters, with a particular focus on sales of goods, commodities and energy trading, mergers & acquisitions, shareholder agreements, joint ventures, construction and engineering, agency, licence and distribution agreements, as well as services and consultancy agreements.

Ranked as a leader in her field, both in Europe and globally, Diana Akikol "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). She is recommended as "one of the best Swiss arbitration lawyers" (Who's Who Legal Global Leader 2023), "a very strong practitioner" (Who's Who Legal 2020 Switzerland Arbitration) and "a highly

intelligent and accurate arbitrator" (Who's Who Legal Arbitration Future Leaders Partners 2018).

Ms. Akikol serves as ICC Court member for Switzerland. She is also a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, the Arbitration Commission of ICC Switzerland, the Board of the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA), a Court member of the Swiss Arbitration Centre, and a member of the Board of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC).

Ms. Akikol has published a doctoral thesis on the warranty regime under Swiss law and the UN Sales Convention (CISG) and co-authored a commentary on the CISG. She regularly speaks and publishes in the arbitration field. Several of her contributions deal with award set aside proceedings before the Swiss Federal Supreme Court. She recently co-authored a commentary on the Swiss International Arbitration Act.

Ms. Akikol holds a law degree from the University of Fribourg and a doctorate degree from the University of Lucerne, both summa cum laude. She was admitted to the bar in 2002, ranked first of her class. Ms. Akikol started her professional career as law clerk on the Superior Court of Berne, Switzerland (2002-2005) and completed her PhD as a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan Law School (2005-2006), before specializing in international arbitration with another Swiss national law firm (2007-2014). She successfully continued her arbitration practice as a co-founder of a Geneva-based business law boutique (2014-2020) before joining Walder Wyss in 2020.

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

Speaking engagements (Selection)

- “The power of agreed rules: how arbitration promotes peace and prosperity”, 13th World Chambers Congress, Geneva, June 2023 (speaker)
- «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)
- Presentation on the new powers of arbitral tribunals under the 2021 ICC Rules (in French: “Les nouveaux pouvoirs du tribunal arbitral : quels élargissements, quelles limites ? », Webinar organized by ICC France, ICC Switzerland, ICC Belgium on the topic “Le nouveau Règlement ICC : êtes-vous prêts ? », 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
- “Fast and Furious: Urgent and Expedited Relief, Lessons Learnt – Challenges Lying Ahead”, SCAI Innovation Conference, Zurich, February 2020 (organizer and moderator)
- “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)
- “Lies- fraud and deceit – what are counsel’s duties in arbitration’s defence?”, 5th Annual GAR Live Frankfurt, June 2018 (moderator)
- “The GAR Live symposium”, GAR Live Zurich, April 2018 (moderator)
- “Public Policy and Judicial Review – Switzerland”, International Arbitration Symposium Salzburg 2018, June 2018 (speaker)
- “Recent Award Annulment Decisions of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court”, Three Countries Conference, Zurich, September 2017 (speaker)
- “The ICC Expedited Procedure?”, GAR Live Istanbul, June 2017 (speaker)
- “Award Set Aside Proceedings before the Swiss Federal Supreme Court”, Europe Institute, March 2016, Zurich (speaker)
- “Interim Relief in International Arbitration”, Bocconi University, Legal Studies Department, Milan, March 2015 (speaker)
- “Review of the Recent Case Law of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court in the field of arbitration”, University of Basel, Faculty of Law, Basel, October 2014 (speaker)
- “Review of the Recent Case Law of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court”, New Developments in International Commercial Arbitration 2011, University of Neuchâtel, Faculty of Law, November 2011 (speaker)
- “Review of the Recent Case Law of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court in the field of arbitration”, Geneva Bar Association workshop, September 2015, Geneva (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/Antonio Rigozzi (eds), New Developments in International Commercial Arbitration, Schulthess 2011
- **Die bundesgerichtliche Rechtsprechung zur Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit im Jahr 2010 [Supreme Court decisions on arbitration in 2010]**, Jusletter August 2011
- **Die bundesgerichtliche Rechtsprechung zur Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit im Jahr 2009 [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