

# Veronica Connolly

Senior Associate



Veronica Connolly is a Senior Associate in our Dispute Resolution practice. She has experience in energy, infrastructure, construction, international investment and maritime disputes, including advising on contractual negotiation and interpretation, fraud, enforcement, investigations and shareholder disputes. Veronica specialises in International Arbitration where she has advised private multi-national commercial entities, governments and State-Owned entities across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Veronica is a qualified solicitor of England & Wales.

## About Veronica

Veronica began her career with four years at English headquartered international firm Clifford Chance LLP before joining the International Arbitration team of a dispute resolution specialist firm in London. Veronica then moved to UK Government Legal advising on commercial, trade and dispute resolution matters before joining Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Senior Associate in 2024.

## Credentials

### Education

- Admission as a Solicitor of England & Wales: 2013
- The College of Law, London: Legal Practice Course, Commendation
- BPP Law School, London: Graduate Diploma in Law, Commendation
- The University of Oxford (Pembroke College): BA Hons Modern History

### Memberships

- Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa (AFSA) Committee.

## Experience

- Representing an entity investing in power and energy infrastructure projects in West Africa in international arbitration proceedings brought against a local partner relating to the purchase, financing and operation of a power distribution company, as well as advising on international enforcement mechanisms.
- Acting for a West African entity providing maritime support to the oil and gas industry in 32 associated LMAA and ad hoc arbitrations, followed by subsequent challenges and appeals before the English Court under sections 67, 68 and 69 of the Arbitration Act.

## Contact Veronica

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[Veronica on LinkedIn](#)

## Expertise

[Dispute Resolution](#)

[International Arbitration](#)

[Mediation](#)

## Location

Cape Town

## Language

English



- Representing a Qatari state-owned insurance company in a fraud claim in connection with supplies of LNG into Ghana.
- Representing Middle Eastern sovereign wealth funds in consolidated multi-party and multi-contract SCC fraud proceedings relating to the construction, operation and sale of a shipping terminal, airport and flagship leisure and retail developments.
- Representing a South-Asian Government in proceedings relating to contested issues of bilateral investment treaty interpretation and the jurisdiction of the Tribunal.
- Defending a US entity in proceedings against a Russian communications operator, including competing jurisdiction and applicable law issues and allegations of fraud and conspiracy.
- Advising the UK Government on commercial, international and public law issues, including in relation to investor-state dispute settlement provisions and the risks and merits of judicial review challenges.
- Advising on the negotiation and drafting of contractual documents e.g. settlement agreements, waivers, dispute resolution clauses or referrals to arbitration and contractual variations to capture commercial intentions and objectives.

## News

### Recognition and enforcement of Russian Lugovoy Law judgments in South Africa

In June 2020 the Russian Federal Law 171-FZ was adopted (the "Lugovoy Law"). It amended Article 248 of the Russian Commercial (Arbitrazh) Procedure Code to enable Russian commercial courts to assume jurisdiction over disputes that involved sanctioned entities or are otherwise related to the imposition of sanctions. This amendment gave jurisdiction to Russian courts even where parties had contracted to resolve disputes before a foreign court or arbitral tribunal.

### Sanctions-era arbitration: Is South Africa the answer?

The conduct and resolution of international disputes are frequently influenced by geopolitical and economic forces – which have become more erratic in the current climate. Sanctions, in particular, can significantly affect dispute resolution where parties are based in, or connected to, sanctioned jurisdictions.

### Clearing the Backlog: Submissions invited on mandatory mediation

The Gauteng Division of the High Court has introduced a draft directive aimed at addressing the severe backlog of civil cases in its division (available [here](#)). This initiative proposes mandatory mediation as a prerequisite for setting trial dates, marking a significant shift in the judicial process. The legal community has been invited to provide feedback on the draft directive, with submissions due to the Gauteng High Court by 3 April 2025.

### Home or away? Establishing if domestic or international arbitration legislation applies

For over 50 years arbitrations in South Africa were governed by the Arbitration Act 42 of 1965. This legislation did not distinguish between, or prescribe different procedures for, international and domestic arbitrations. This changed in 2017 with the promulgation of the International Arbitration Act 15 of 2017 (International Act). Since then (subject to transitional provisions applicable to arbitrations that began prior to 2017) international arbitrations seated in South Africa are governed by the International Act, whereas domestic arbitrations continue to be governed by the 1965 legislation (Domestic Act).

### Opt in or out: Unilateral option clauses in international arbitration

The 2024 edition of the Clifford Chance Unilateral Option Clauses Survey considers the validity of unilateral option clauses in 120 jurisdictions around the world, including 28 countries in Africa. The full survey, including CDH's contribution for South Africa, is available [here](#).

## Podcasts

### [Cross-Border Complexity: Negotiating International Arbitration Agreements with a State](#)

Veronica Connolly, Senior Associate in the Dispute Resolution practice, joined Refiloe Motsei and Vee Mthembu on Jozi FM to discuss "Cross-Border Complexity: Negotiating International Arbitration Agreements with a State."

[All news by Veronica Connolly →](#)

## Recognition

- The Legal 500 EMEA named Veronica as a "Next Generation Lawyer" and a "Rising Star".