

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

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.
- Representing a Qatari state-owned insurance company in a fraud claim in connection with supplies of LNG into Ghana.

Contact Veronica

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[Veronica on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Dispute Resolution](#)

Location

Cape Town

Language

English

- 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

[Capacity building and fostering expertise in international arbitration in Africa](#)

The central theme of the Johannesburg Arbitration Week 2024 (JAW) was showcasing arbitration in Africa. This prompted engaging discussion and renewed calls for the Africanisation of international arbitration. This encompasses African disputes being arbitrated in Africa, presided over by African arbitrators, administered by African arbitral institutions, and argued by African lawyers. With expanding foreign direct investment in Africa and the expansion of BRICS to Egypt and Ethiopia, the calls to ensure that Africa has a voice in and imprint on the international arbitration proceedings it participates in are gathering momentum. This ensures that Africa's unique priorities and experiences are sufficiently taken into consideration.

[Arbitration on top or a comeback for the courts?](#)

A key discussion point at the inaugural Johannesburg Arbitration Week was the expansion of the use of international arbitration to resolve commercial disputes in Africa. In many instances this has been at the expense of the courts, with parties increasingly preferring to arbitrate rather than litigate.

[A new African order: Key initiatives and trends transforming international arbitration in Africa](#)

CDH, together with the Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa (AFSA) and other local and international co-hosts, presented the inaugural Johannesburg Arbitration Week (JAW) earlier this month. The conference showcased Africa's increasing prominence in international arbitration, highlighting the continent's arbitration capabilities as well as key initiatives and trends shaping and transforming dispute resolution in Africa.

[Early Detection of Fraud and/or Corruption in Arbitrations: Lessons from the Recent English Court Decisions?](#)

Two recent English Commercial Court decisions serve as a warning to dishonest parties hoping to exploit the arbitral process to obtain or enforce fraudulent or corrupt arbitration awards. The English courts generally follow a non-interventionist approach when it comes to the challenge of enforcement of arbitral awards. However, these recent decisions signify that the Commercial Court can and will use its statutory powers to intervene, investigate and order disclosure to uphold the legitimacy of the arbitral process and parties' rights.

[All news by Veronica Connolly →](#)

Recognition

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