

Léa Defranchi

Attorney at Law, MLaw

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Deeply passionate about navigating the complexities of cross-border transactions and resolving intricate legal challenges, leveraging strong business acumen and a keen-eye for detail.

Léa Defranchi is a French and Swiss-qualified attorney who focuses on public economic law (regulatory law), international trade and distribution, data protection as well as international arbitration and litigation.

She has represented multinational clients in complex international arbitration proceedings involving disputes related to construction and energy projects, commercial contracts and investment treaties conducted under the major arbitration rules (incl. SCC, ICC, UNCITRAL) and a number of substantive and procedural laws (incl. Swiss, English, French, Swedish and the Middle-East).

She benefits from a diverse and international legal background having worked as an attorney in Paris, within several American top law firms, as well as an in-house legal counsel within a mid-sized luxury company.

She also co-authored multiple publications in renowned construction and arbitration texts.

Expertise

Data and Privacy →

Energy, Infrastructure, and Environment →

Company & Corporate Law / M&A →

Antitrust and Competition Law →

Arbitration →

Board of Directors

- Founding member and vice-president of the association representing French lawyers abroad recognised by the Paris Bar (APPEAL-E)

Career

- Since 2023
  attorney at law, Kellerhals Carrard, Lausanne/Sion SA, Lausanne
- 2018 – 2023
  attorney at law, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Geneva
- 2018
  summer trainee, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Geneva
- 2018
  trainee attorney-at-law, Hogan Lovells, Paris (France)

Memberships

- Paris Bar Association
- Arbitral Women
- Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA) below 40
- APPEAL-E

Education

- 2024
  Admission to the Geneva Bar
- 2023
  Certificate in Mediation and Negotiation, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law
- 2023
  Certificate of Advanced Studies in International Business Disputes, University of Lausanne
- 2018
  Admission to the Paris Bar
- 2016
  Certificate in Transnational Law, University of Geneva
- 2015
  Master's degree in Business law, University of Rennes 1 (Rennes, France)

Languages

English, French

Publications & Presentations

Abuse of Document Production in International Arbitration: Remedies When the Adverse Inference Falls Short Arbitration: The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management, Vol. 86, No. 4/2020, pp. 394-411	Léa Defranchi Hamish Lal Brendan Casey Josephine Kaiding	2020
Rethinking Issue Conflicts in International Commercial Arbitration Dispute Resolution International (IBA), Vol. 14, No. 1/2020, pp. 3-26	Léa Defranchi Hamish Lal Brendan Casey	2020
Multi-Tiered Dispute Resolution Clauses in International Arbitration – The Need for Coherence ASA Bulletin, Vol. 38, No. 4/2020, pp. 796-820	Léa Defranchi Hamish Lal Brendan Casey Josephine Kaiding	2020
Careful what you write: The impact of issue conflicts in International Commercial Arbitration Driver Trett Digest, Issue 18, pp. 18-19	Léa Defranchi Hamish Lal Brendan Casey	2019