



INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION AND INVESTMENT PROTECTION

In the area of international arbitration, we provide our clients with comprehensive legal advice in resolving complicated commercial disputes relating to their business activities. In addition, we assist them in preparing structured arbitration clauses, in proceedings for the annulment of arbitration awards, or in recognising and enforcing foreign court decisions and arbitration awards in the Czech Republic, as well as Czech decisions and awards abroad.

Our lawyers have been involved in representing claimants and defendants in many legally and technically complicated cases under various arbitration rules before different arbitration institutions. In this regard, they have experience in proceedings before the Czech Arbitration Court, as well as at foreign institutions such as the International Arbitration Court at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris (ICC), the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the Arbitration Court at the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), or the Vienna International Arbitration Court at the Austrian Chamber of Commerce (VIAC). We also provide representation in so-called ad hoc arbitrations, including proceedings according to UNCITRAL arbitration rules, but also in international sports arbitration cases (CAS).

In representing clients, our law firm takes advantage of the reliable Grimaldi Alliance network, i.e. an international alliance of independent law firms, which allows our lawyers to initiate arbitration proceedings practically in any country, legal jurisdiction, or language.

Thus, our lawyers act not only as legal representatives and advisors to our clients but also as arbitrators or experts on Czech substantive and procedural law. In addition, they are active in a full range of professional associations (e.g. the Commission for International Arbitration – ICC Czech Republic).

With respect to the protection of cross-border investments, our services include legal advice on the appropriate set-up or restructuring of holding structures and business activities of companies with the aim of securing the benefits of international investment protection agreements and assessing possible claims relating to a breach of such agreements. Our lawyers also have experience in representing clients against the state in investment arbitration relating to damages (ICSID).

REFERENCES

- Representing a major international financial consulting group in ICC arbitration in a dispute relating to the purchase (M&A transaction) of a leading Czech financial consulting firm.
- Acting in the position of an expert in Czech substantive and procedural law in LCIA arbitration in a shareholders' dispute relating to the restructuring of a major industrial engineering company that was declared bankrupt once again.
- Members of the office also have experience in advising an insolvency administrator for an engineering supply company in ICC arbitration in a dispute arising from an agreement for renovating a part of a power plant with a claim for unjust enrichment.
- Advising an operator of satellite broadcasting in ICC arbitration in a dispute with a TV broadcaster relating to rights under exclusive licences and the free movement of services on the common EU market.
- Advising an international pharmaceutical company in ICC arbitration in a dispute over the payment of a contractual penalty for breaching a shareholders agreement and confidentiality obligations.
- Advising a major engineering company in two ad hoc arbitration cases (one according to the UNICITRAL arbitration rules) in disputes over an agreement on the supply of public transport equipment.
- Advising a foreign company during the restructuring of its European holding structure and business activities due to securing international investment protection.
- Advising two investors in a dispute against the state relating to damages in a multibillion investment arbitration case (ICSID).
- Assessing several possible claims relating to the breach of bilateral investment protection agreements.



RENÉ CIENCIALA

HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DESK AND ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

René is a collaborating attorney-at-law and head of the international desk at Urban & Hejduk with nearly 10 years of experience in a top Czech law firm. He provides comprehensive legal advice to Czech and foreign clients in all phases of court proceedings and commercial arbitration in the Czech Republic (the Czech Arbitration Court) and abroad (ICC, LCIA, VIAC, and UNCITRAL). René has been involved in representing clients in dozens of complicated cases. He assists clients in preparing structured arbitration clauses, in proceedings on the annulment of arbitration awards, or in recognising and enforcing foreign judgments and arbitration awards in the Czech Republic.

In addition, he specialises in sports law and has extensive experience with international sports arbitration (CAS), international disciplinary proceedings (UEFA), or as an arbitrator for the Czech Football Association. Last but not least, René focuses on the protection of foreign investments and has experience with representing investors vis-à-vis the state in investment arbitration relating to damages (ICSID). He also is active as an arbitrator in various professional associations. René graduated from the prestigious University of Geneva LL.M. programme in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS).

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MAREK HEJDUK

PARTNER AND ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Marek is a founding partner of Urban & Hejduk responsible for litigation, arbitration, and administrative proceedings, insolvency law and restructuring, employment law, intellectual property, competition law, and European Union law. Prior to founding Urban & Hejduk, Marek collaborated with two leading Czech law firms for ten years. As a part of his practice, Marek has participated in resolving many disputes in proceedings at general and arbitration courts, including disputes with an international reach. In addition, Marek has provided comprehensive advice, especially in the area of intellectual property and competition law.

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