Effectively resolving international disputes in the interest of our clients has been a hallmark of Steptoe’s practice for more than half a century. Our worldwide Arbitration & Dispute Resolution Group brings together the firm’s established practices in public international law, cross-border litigation, international commercial arbitration, and investor-state disputes. Steptoe lawyers act as counsel and advisors, serving our clients’ interests wherever in the world they are engaged, and wherever on the dispute spectrum they lie, be it negotiation, mediation, arbitration, or litigation. In addition, Steptoe lawyers have also served as arbitrators and hold academic appointments in international commercial and investor-state arbitration at leading law schools across the globe.

Our arbitration practice includes:

- Investor-State Arbitration
- International Arbitration
- Public International Law

**Steptoe's Investor-State Arbitration Advisory Series**

For an introduction to investor-state arbitration and how the treaties that give rise to them can be a useful tool for minimising political risk, please see our advisory on this subject. That advisory is part of Steptoe’s Investor-State Arbitration Advisory Series, which outlines key aspects of the investor-state arbitral process and the rights and defences that are frequently raised in this context. If you would like to receive advisories in this series by email as soon as they are published, please click here.

**Noteworthy**

- *Global Arbitration Review*, GAR 100 (2017-2020)
Representative Matters

Steptoe has an extensive history of representing both States and investors in investor-State arbitrations and other international law disputes. The Global Arbitration Review awarded Steptoe one of its top prizes at the 2016 GAR Awards, where we won in the category “International arbitration practice that impressed in the past year.” In addition, our arbitration team in 2016 received The American Lawyer’s award for “Global Dispute of the Year: Investment Arbitration (Africa).”

By way of illustration, Steptoe’s recent experience in investor-State arbitration includes:

1. Lead counsel to nine investors in respect of an investment dispute with The Republic of Zimbabwe arising from breaches of a bilateral investment treaty. Clients awarded restitution and damages (alternatively $196 million in damages), plus their full legal costs and interest. During the annulment phase, we successfully resisted Zimbabwe’s applications for a stay of enforcement and to have the award annulled. *Bernhard von Pezold & Ors v The Republic of Zimbabwe*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB/10/15.

2. Lead counsel to investors in respect of an investment dispute with The Republic of Zimbabwe arising from breaches of a bilateral investment treaty. Clients awarded restitution and damages (alternatively $125 million in damages), plus their full legal costs and interest. During the annulment phase, we successfully resisted Zimbabwe’s applications for a stay of enforcement and to have the award annulled. *Border Timbers Ltd & Ors v The Republic of Zimbabwe*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB/10/25.


7. Counsel to an investor in respect of the enforcement of a US$130 million ICSID award, which was the largest award ever issued to an individual. We succeeded in having the award recognized in England and enforcing against assets worth US$70 million. *Waguih Elie George Siag and Clorinda Vecchi v Arab Republic of Egypt*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB/05/15. Enforcement proceedings.


9. Lead counsel to an investor in respect of an investment dispute with Mexico arising from alleged breaches of the North American Free Trade Agreement (“NAFTA”). Includes separate NAFTA consolidation proceedings brought by Mexico. Client awarded what was at the time the largest award to be issued in a NAFTA arbitration. *Corn Products International Inc v Mexico*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB (AF)/04/1.

10. Lead counsel to a Canadian investor in relation to a multi-billion dollar investment dispute with the United States under the NAFTA. Part of a broad litigation strategy encompassing other Steptoe teams. Dispute resolved in our client’s favor.

11. Counsel to the insurers of a UK investor in respect of an investment dispute with Jordan arising from alleged breaches of a bilateral investment treaty. Case settled in our client’s favor.

Further, by way of illustration of Steptoe’s recent experience advising States on investor-State treaty matters, we have or are:
Engaged by several States to advise on their investment treaty negotiations, including (most recently) negotiations with the European Union.

Been appointed by the Government of the People’s Republic of China to the panel of law firms that will be instructed to defend China in investor-State disputes.

Advised the Government of Canada in relation to its defence of a claim brought under the NAFTA by the United Parcel Service of America. Canada was successful in defending UPS’s claims, which were for damages of over US$160 million, in their entirety. *United Parcel Service of America v The Government of Canada*. UNCITRAL arbitration.


Advised the Government of Canada in connection with the negotiation of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement.

In addition to our work as counsel, our experience acting as an arbitrator in investor-State arbitrations includes:

- Serving as President of the Tribunal in *Jochem Bemard Buse v Republic of Panama*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB/17/12.
- Serving as President of the Tribunal in *UniCredit Bank Austria AG and Zagrebačka Banka dd v Republic of Croatia*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB/16/31.
- Serving as a Member of the Annulment Committee in *Capital Financial Holdings Luxembourg SA v Republic of Cameroon*. ICSID arbitration. ICSID Case No. ARB/15/18.
- Served as a Member of the Tribunal in *The Canadian Cattlemen for Fair Trade v United States of America*. UNCITRAL arbitration.

Since claims under bilateral and multilateral investment treaties are governed by public international law, our broad range of experience in public international law is also relevant to our work on investment treaty arbitrations. In particular, Steptoe is widely recognized as one of the premier international law firms advising clients on matters before the World Trade Organization and has represented several States on such matters.
News & Publications

PRESS RELEASES

Global Arbitration Review Names Steptoe to GAR 100 for Fifth Straight Year
July 20, 2021

MEDIA MENTIONS

GAR Covers Steptoe's Success in $22M Judgment Enforcement Against Tanzania
May 3, 2021

PRESS RELEASES

Asian Legal Business Names Steptoe to 'Top 10 China Firms to Watch' List
January 20, 2021

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Launches Global Trade Policy Blog
November 10, 2020

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Receives 67 Rankings in 2021 US News - Best Lawyers' 'Best Law Firms'
November 5, 2020

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Receives 125 Individual Mentions in Best Lawyers in America 2021
Four Lawyers Named 'Lawyer of the Year'
August 20, 2020

PRESS RELEASES

Global Arbitration Review Names Steptoe to GAR 100 for Fourth Straight Year
July 22, 2020

CLIENT ALERTS

Three Very Different Perspectives on the FCA's Statements About Insurance and the Coronavirus
Reinsurance, Competition and Bilateral Investment Treaties
May 4, 2020
By: Angus Rodger, Matthew Coleman, Charles Whiddington

PRESS RELEASES

Steptoe Expands International Arbitration Practice with Christophe Bondy in London
February 6, 2020

MEDIA MENTIONS

Am Law Litigation Daily Quotes Teddy Baldwin on Litigation Funding Industry
August 15, 2019