Steptoe

INTERNATIONAL TRADE, COMPLIANCE, & INVESTMENT

WTO Disputes

Explore Related

Primary Contacts

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Practices

Investor-State Arbitration
Steptoe is widely recognized as one of the world's leading law firms in matters arising under the agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Steptoe has, for over a decade, consistently been one of only two law firms in the world that received a top-tier ranking from Chambers Global for its WTO practice.

Steptoe has advised WTO Members and private sector interests in more than 50 different WTO dispute settlement proceedings. Steptoe has represented and advised clients at every stage of dispute settlement, and is among the few law firms in the world that regularly appear on behalf of WTO Members in both panel and Appellate Body proceedings. We work with our clients to develop case strategies, participate in the consultations process, prepare written submissions, and present arguments before panels and the Appellate Body.

Steptoe has litigated a wide array of issues relating to the interpretation and application of the WTO Agreements. The WTO disputes in which Steptoe has been involved include disputes relating to trade remedies, trade in goods, trade in services, intellectual property rights, and technical barriers to trade, among others. Many of these disputes have resulted in landmark panel and Appellate Body reports interpreting key provisions of the WTO Agreements.

Together with our colleagues in Steptoe’s Trade Policy and Investor-State Arbitration Groups, we advise sovereign and commercial clients on how to use international trade and investment agreements to achieve their objectives. Our understanding of WTO disciplines, along with the role that WTO dispute settlement can play in enforcing those disciplines, is an important element of Steptoe’s comprehensive approach to addressing market access issues and other barriers to trade and investment faced by our clients.

Steptoe’s leading WTO practice reflects the firm’s decades-long involvement in the field of public international law and treaty-based arbitration. The advice that Steptoe provides to WTO Member governments is just one example of the work that Steptoe does for sovereign governments across a variety of different practice areas.

Noteworthy

- Chambers Asia-Pacific, International Trade/WTO, China (2011-2020)
Representative Matters
Steptoe lawyers have been involved in many of the most complex and high-profile WTO disputes since the founding of the WTO in 1995, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) before it. For example, Steptoe has:

- **Argentina – Measures Relating to Trade in Goods and Services (DS453).** Represented the Argentinian government in a case that upheld Argentina’s use of defensive tax measures against countries that do not adhere to international standards of tax transparency;
- **United States – Anti-Dumping and Countervailing Duties (China) (DS379).** Represented the Government of China in a case that established important jurisprudence concerning the interpretation and application of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures;
- **China – Electronic Payment Services (DS413).** Represented the Government of China in the first dispute arising under the General Agreement on Trade in Services relating to trade in financial services;
- **Canada – Measures Relating to Imports of Wheat and Treatment of Imported Grain (DS276).** Represented the Canadian Wheat Board and provided assistance to the Government of Canada in the first major dispute concerning state trading enterprises under Article XVII of the GATT 1994;
- **United States – “Zeroing” of Dumping Margins (DS294).** Represented a major European steel producer, working closely with the European Communities in the successful appeal of this dispute to the Appellate Body;
- Represented the Canadian softwood lumber industry in all aspects of the WTO litigation over the past 20 years relating to trade in softwood lumber between Canada and the United States.

News & Publications
PRESS RELEASES
*Law360 Names Steptoe an 'International Trade Group of the Year'*
January 28, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
*Steptoe Wins Three Law360 'Practice Group of the Year' Awards*
January 13, 2020

PRESS RELEASES
*Chambers Asia-Pacific 2020 Recognizes Steptoe Practices and Lawyers*
December 6, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
*Steptoe Receives 2019 China Law & Practice Trade Firm of the Year Award*
September 24, 2019
PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives Five Practice, 13 Individual Mentions in Legal 500 EMEA
April 10, 2019

CLIENT ALERTS
USMCA Unlocked: Working Under the New NAFTA
March 29, 2019
By: Ambassador Susan G. Esserman, Luke Tillman, Lauren Shapiro, Arun Venkataraman

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives China Business Law Award for Sixth Consecutive Year
March 12, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Chambers Europe 2019 Recognizes Steptoe Practices and Lawyers
March 7, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Steptoe Receives 13 Practice, 25 Individual Mentions in Chambers Global 2019
February 14, 2019

PRESS RELEASES
Chambers Asia-Pacific 2019 Recognizes Steptoe Practices and Lawyers
November 30, 2018

Resources
INVESTOR-STATE ARBITRATION SERIES
Investor-State Arbitration and "Fair and Equitable" Treatment
May 19, 2015
By: Matthew Coleman, Thomas Innes

INVESTOR-STATE ARBITRATION SERIES
Provisional Measures in Investor-State Arbitration
April 14, 2015
By: Matthew Coleman, Thomas Innes

INVESTOR-STATE ARBITRATION SERIES
Foreign Investors’ Options to Deal with Regulatory Changes in the Renewable Energy Sector
September 23, 2014
By: Matthew Coleman, Lucinda A. Low, Steven K. Davidson, Jeffrey F. Pryce, Thomas Innes

INVESTOR-STATE ARBITRATION SERIES
How to Protect Investments in Russia and Ukraine Through International Arbitration
March 28, 2014
By: Matthew Coleman, Lucinda A. Low, Steven K. Davidson, Thomas Innes

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