



GINTA AHREL

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Practice and experience

My practice is focused on commercial and investment arbitration. I act as counsel before arbitral tribunals and in Swedish courts. I also represent clients in the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and foreign judgements.

Receiving an appointment as arbitrator is always an honour. I have been appointed by Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, the Arbitration Institute of the Finland Chamber of Commerce and ICC International Court of Arbitration as well as by co-arbitrators in *ad hoc* proceedings and have served as sole, chair and party-appointed arbitrator.

Prior to founding Westerberg, I was a partner at another major Swedish law firm. Before joining the firm's dispute resolution practice, I worked with mergers and acquisitions advising on corporate and contract law. In terms of industry knowledge, I particularly enjoy working on disputes related to telecom and IT. My interest in this field is a legacy of the seven years I spent as sales representative and project manager at Ericsson, the Swedish telecom giant.

The majority of the cases, in which I have acted as counsel or served as arbitrator, are related to Russia, CIS or Baltic countries. That is because, besides Swedish and English, I am fully proficient in Russian, while my native language is Latvian.

I currently serve as board member of the Swedish Women in Arbitration Network, and I am member of the Swedish Bar Association, Swedish Arbitration Association, Young Arbitrators Sweden and the London Court of International Arbitration and the Policy Commission for Digital Economy at ICC Sweden.

Rankings and testimonials

- Recognized as Future Leader in Arbitration by Global Arbitration Review's sister publication Who's Who Legal annually since 2017 and recommended as National Leader in Arbitration 2020 saying that *Ginta Ahrel* is "up and coming" and "a rising star" in the Swedish arbitration market. Sources single her out as "the go-to person for Russian-related disputes".

- *“Ginta Abrel is a very pragmatic and serious professional, with extraordinary technical capabilities, along with exceptional communication skills that provide confidence and relief to her clients.”* – Client testimonial for Legal500, 2020.

Notable representations include acting for

- Moldovan investors in set-aside proceedings and enforcement of the arbitral award worth USD 500 million against the Republic of Kazakhstan and the National Bank of Kazakhstan;
- a major Russian natural resources company against the Republic of Lithuania in annulment proceedings successfully defending the arbitral award before the Svea Court of Appeal;
- a Spanish corporation in its successful claims against two Russian companies in the oil sector in arbitration related to sale and purchase of equipment under SCC rules;
- the Russian regions in arbitration proceedings against a French multinational oil and gas company under the UNCITRAL rules in Stockholm as well as in associated court proceedings in Sweden;
- a leading Russian mining company against a Czech company in arbitration related to a purchase of equipment and services agreement under the SCC rules in Stockholm (in Russian);
- the Federal Customs Service and the Government of the Russian Federation against a Moldovan company in arbitration related to a construction contract under the ICC rules in Stockholm as well as in related annulment proceedings before the Svea Court of Appeal;
- a Chinese company in its successful defence against a major European communications company in arbitration under the ICC rules seated in Stockholm as well as before the Swedish courts in proceedings related to document production.

Latest speaking engagements and publications

- “The secretary in the arbitral proceedings”, moderator of an on-line seminar co-organised by Swedish Women in Arbitration Network and Young Arbitrators Sweden, Stockholm, September 2020;
- “Swedish Court Raises the Bar for Set Aside Cases”, article (in English and Russian) published by International Commercial Arbitration Review (Вестник Международного Коммерческого Арбитража), No. 1(18)2019, p. 306.
- “Procedure before the Arbitral Tribunal”, guest lecturer at ELSA Winter School on International Arbitration at the University of Uppsala, January 2020;
- “SCC investment arbitration practice and procedure”, Training on Investment Dispute Resolution at the Energy Charter Secretariat, Brussels, November 2019;
- “What are the qualities of a good litigator?”, panelist at Young Arbitrators Sweden annual conference, Stockholm, October 2019;
- “Third party financing of disputes in Sweden”, moderator of the seminar co-organised by Swedish Women in Arbitration Network and Swedish Arbitration Association, Stockholm, October 2019;
- “The Court of Appeal rises the bar for set-aside cases”, article (in Swedish) published by Karnov Nyheter on 26 September 2019;

- “Arbitration in Stockholm: an Update on the Swedish Arbitration Reform”, panelist at the joint seminar organized by SCC, Ukrainian Arbitration Association and the Embassy of Sweden, Kiev, May 2019;
- “Are hearings too short?”, panelist at Global Arbitration Review: Live in Stockholm, May 2019;
- “Swedish Approach to Challenge and Enforcement of Awards”, guest lecturer at Stockholm University International Commercial Dispute Resolution course, May 2019;
- “Annulment and enforcement of arbitral awards against States: recent developments and new trends”, speaker at the seminar organized by Winston & Strawn LLP during Paris Arbitration Week, Paris, April 2019;
- “Emergency proceedings in investment arbitration”, speaker at BCDR-AAA/SCC Joint Conference on Salient Issues in Investment Arbitration, Manama, November 2018;
- “SCC investment arbitration practice and procedure”, speaker at Training on Investment Dispute Resolution at the Energy Charter Secretariat, Brussels, November 2018;
- “International Commercial Arbitration: Textbook” (in Russian), 2nd edition, 2018, authoring the chapter on arbitration in Sweden.
- “How to write an arbitral award”, panelist at Global Arbitration Review: Live in Stockholm, May 2018.