

Valentine CHESSA

Partner



OVERVIEW

Valentine Chessa is a founding partner of Mourre Chessa Le Lay Arbitration – MCL Arbitration, a boutique law firm based in Paris.

Valentine represents clients in complex arbitration matters across a broad range of industry sectors. Her expertise extends to the pre-arbitration and alternative dispute resolution phases, in addition to post-arbitration proceedings.

She regularly acts as an arbitrator, serving as sole arbitrator, tribunal president, co-arbitrator, and emergency arbitrator. She has decided cases under a wide range of arbitration rules, across multiple jurisdictions and applicable laws, and conducts proceedings in English, French, and Italian.

Before entering private practice, Valentine began her career at the ICC International Court of Arbitration, where she supervised hundreds of arbitration proceedings involving parties from around the world and spanning virtually all commercial sectors, with a particular focus on Italy and Switzerland.

Additionally, she serves as a reporter for France at the Institute for Transnational Arbitration, and is a faculty member for the Certificate in International Arbitration at Università degli Studi Roma Tre. She is also a member of the nomination commission of ICC Italy and she is one of the co-chairs of Arbit, the Italian forum for international arbitration practitioners.

Clients and peers say: “*She has the ability to quickly understand the key issues of the matter*”; “*Valentine is very thorough and diligent and a pleasure to work with*”; “*She is precise, smart, flexible and knows her case very well*”.

SELECTED ARBITRATION CASES

Arbitrator

- President of the arbitral tribunal under the Rules of the Camera Arbitrale di Milano (seat: Milan (Italy); applicable law: Italian law; language: English).
- Emergency arbitrator in a case under the Rules of the Swiss Arbitration Centre in the sport industry (seat: Zurich (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss law; language: English).
- President of the arbitral tribunal in an ICC case in the oil industry (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss law; language: English).
- Sole arbitrator under the Swiss Arbitration Centre Expedited Rules in the financial services industry (seat: Zurich (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss law; language: English).
- Sole arbitrator under the ICC Expedited Procedure Provisions in the telecommunication industry (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss law; language: English).

- Emergency arbitrator in an ICC case in the food and beverage industry (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss; language: English).
- Sole arbitrator in a case under the Rules of the Camera Arbitrale di Milano in the tourism industry (seat: Milan (Italy); applicable law: Italian law; language: English).
- President of the arbitral tribunal in an *ad hoc* case in the financial services industry (seat: Luxembourg (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg); applicable law: Luxembourg; language: English).
- Emergency arbitrator in an ICC case in the pharmaceutical industry (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss; language: English).
- Co-arbitrator in a CMAP case in the defence industry (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: French; language: French).
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case in the construction industry (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: Cameroon; language: French).
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case in the aeronautical industry (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: French; language: English).
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case in the construction industry (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss; language: French).
- Co-arbitrator in an ICC case in the energy sector (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Swiss; language: English).
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case in the retail industry (seat: Paris (France), applicable law: French; language: French).

Counsel

- Representing a Kuwaiti company in an ICC case in the defense industry (seat: Rome (Italy); applicable law: Italian; language: English).
- Representing a company based in Ivory Coast in an ICC case in the defense industry (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: French; language: French)
- Representing an Armenian company in an ICC case in the financial services industry (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: French; language: English).
- Representing a US company in a Madrid Court of Arbitration case in the energy industry (seat: Madrid (Spain); applicable law: Spanish; language: English).
- Representing a leading French company in the tourism industry in an ICC case (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: Italian; language: Italian).
- Representing a leading French company in the tourism industry in an ICC case (seat: Milan (Italy); applicable law: Italian; language: French).
- Representing an Italian company in enforcement proceedings in France in the maritime industry.
- Representing an Italian company in an ICC case regarding the construction of steel structures (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Italian; language: English).
- Representing an Italian group in an ICC arbitration regarding the construction of a fertilizer plant in The Netherlands (seat: Milan (Italy); applicable law: Italian; language: English).
- Representing a group of Italian investors in an ICSID case against the Republic of Albania on the basis of the ECT in relation to a waste management and renewable energy production project (seat: London (UK); Applicable Law: Albanian law; language: English).
- Representing an Italian group in an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of a plant in Iran (seat: Geneva (Switzerland); applicable law: Iranian; language: English).
- Representing a French company in an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of a gas facility in Iran (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: Iranian; language: English).
- Representing an Italian company in the tourism industry in an ICC arbitration (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: Tunisian; language: French).
- Representing an Italian company in an arbitration before the Foreign Trade Court of Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia relating to the sale of natural gas compressors (seat: Belgrade (Serbia); applicable law: Serbian; language: English).

- Representing an Albanian company in an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of a dam in Albania (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: Italian; language: Italian).
- Representing a US manufacturer of furnaces in an ICC arbitration relating to the sale of furnaces in the nuclear energy sector (seat: Brussels (Belgium); applicable law: French; language: English).
- Representing two Italian companies in the railway sector in a VIAC arbitration relating to the termination of a contract for force majeure (seat: Vienna (Austria); applicable law: Russian; language: English).
- Representing a French company in the sugar industry in an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of conditioning silos (seat: London (UK); applicable law: English; language: English).
- Representing an Italian company in the renewable energies sector in an ICC arbitration relating to a JV dispute (seat: Paris (France); applicable law: Italian; language: English).
- Representing an Italian company in the aeronautical sector in an ICC arbitration arising out of the termination of a supply contract (seat: Frankfurt (Germany); applicable law: German; language: English).
- Representing an Italian company in annulment proceedings of an ICC arbitral award before French Courts.
- Representing an Italian group in several interim measure proceedings for the enforcement of a LMAA award in France.
- Representing an Italian company in enforcement proceedings of an ICC arbitral award in France.
- Representing an Egyptian JV in annulment proceedings of an ICC arbitral award before French Courts.
- Representing an Albanian company in enforcement proceedings of a foreign decision before French Courts.
- Representing Italian investors in the enforcement of an ICSID award in France.
- Representing a French company in annulment proceedings of an ICC arbitral award before French Courts.

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- GAR Live Turkic Region, *Advocacy excellence, ethics and procedural misconduct*, 23 April 2026, Almaty (Kazakhstan).
- Paris Arbitration Week 2026, *Paris Meets Rome – Lex Arbitri and the Fate of Arbitral Awards*, 25 March 2026.
- Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, *Selecting, analyzing and drafting the arbitration clause*, November 2025, Rome (Italy).
- ICC Italia Executive Course, *Selezione e nomina degli arbitri dal punto di vista delle parti*, since 2024 (online).
- Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, MACI-Atelier: *Le rôle de l'avocat dans l'arbitrage international*, since 2023, Paris (France).
- ICC Israel workshop, *Appointment of arbitrators*, October 2025 Tel Aviv (Israel).
- Armenian Arbitration Week 2025, *The Evolving Landscape of Arbitration: Armenia's Global Position*, Yerevan (Armenia).
- Paris Arbitration Week 2025, *La responsabilité des arbitres*, April 2025.
- Paris Arbitration Week 2025, *Arbitrating Small and Middle-Sized Claims, Challenges and Opportunities: A Mediterranean Perspective*, April 2025.
- CEPANI Arbitration Academy – Expert Level, *Witnesses in international arbitration*, November 2024, Bruxelles (Belgium).
- ICC Italia Arbitration Forum, *Instruments of Settlement*, October 2024, Milan (Italy).
- Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, *The Emergency Arbitrator*, September 2023/ September 2024, Rome (Italy).
- New York Arbitration Week 2023, *In Good Faith? Competing concepts of good faith in international arbitration*, November 2023.

- MIDS/Lambadarios law firm event on advocacy, 18 October 2023, Athens (Greece).
- ICCA Congress 2022, presentation of the ICCA publication *Does a Right to a Physical Hearing Exist in International Arbitration?*, October 2022, Edinburgh (U.K.).
- Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, 9th edition, *The Arbitration Agreement: formal and substantive validity*, September 2022, Rome (Italy).
- ASA – Geneva group, *Emergency arbitration proceedings from the arbitrator's perspective*, June 2022, Geneva (Switzerland).
- Paris Arbitration Week 2022 – Associazione Italiana per l'Arbitrato, *Towards a new arbitration law in Italy*, April 2022.
- International Construction Projects Committee of the IBA-CEA – Online Training Course on Construction Arbitration, *Preparation and collection of evidence*, January 2022.
- Paris Arbitration Week 2021 – CEPANI40 & CFA40, *Due process and virtual hearing: is the marriage going to last after covid?*, September 2021.
- Paris Arbitration Week 2021 – Kroll, *Construction Disputes in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the role of good faith*.
- Atelier AFJE, *Les biais inconscients dans les professions du droit*, Decembre 2020 (webinar).
- Certificate in International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, *Drafting the arbitration clause*, Rome (Italy), September 2020/September 2019.
- Arbit (webinar), *Force Majeure and Other Contractual Remedies in a Time of Pandemic: A French perspective*, June 2020.
- 7th Biennial Conference on Construction Projects from Conception to Completion, 1-2 November 2019, Berlin (Germany).
- Italian Embassy in France, Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne – Università degli Studi Roma Tre, *Sguardi incrociati sull'arbitrato internazionale*, 24 June 2019, Paris (France).
- XI Belgrade Arbitration Conference, *Legal privilege and arbitration*, 4 April 2019, Belgrade (Serbia).
- Third Global Conference of the Co-chairs' Circle (co-organiser), 18 May 2018, Rome (Italy).
- IBA 6th Construction Projects from Conception to Completion Conference, *Top tips for the best awards in construction disputes*, September 2017, Brussels (Belgium).
- 29th Annual ITA Workshop, *Recent developments in France and Switzerland*, June 2017, Dallas (Texas, U.S.A.).
- CIArb European Branch Conference, *The parties' and counsel's legal background and its impact on arbitral practice*, April 2017, Rome (Italy).
- Luiss University, *Recent developments in France*, April 2017, Rome (Italy).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- V. Chessa, N. Barysheva; *ITA Arbitration Report for France*; KluwerArbitration; since 2015.
- V. Chessa, N. Barysheva; F. Iorio; *Investment Treaty Arbitration 2022 – Italy*; Lexology.
- V. Chessa, A. Mourre; *Walking the Extra Mile on the "Extension" of the Arbitration Agreement to non-Signatories? A French Perspective*; Liber Amicorum Professor Piero Bernardini, Brill; 2024.
- V. Chessa, A. Mourre; *Trattato di Diritto dell'Arbitrato; L'Arbitrato in Francia*; Volume XI; Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane; 2021.
- V. Chessa, N. Barysheva; A. Camillacci; ICCA Research Project – *Does a Right to a Physical Hearing Exist in International Arbitration?*; *National Report for France*; 2020.
- V. Chessa, N. Barysheva, M. Matousekova; *International Arbitration Country Comparative Guide, France*; The Legal 500; 2020.
- V. Chessa, A. Musella; *Construction Arbitration – Italy*; GAR Know how; 2016, 2017, 2018.
- V. Chessa, A. Mourre; *La convenzione arbitrale*; in Commentario breve al diritto dell'arbitrato nazionale ed internazionale by Massimo V. Benedettelli, Claudio Consolo, Luca G. Radicati di Brozolo; Parte II Titolo II.

- V. Chessa, N. Barysheva; *Impecuniosity and Denial Of Justice: Walking On Eggshells*; KluwerArbitration Blog; 16 November 2016.
- V. Chessa; *ICC Arbitration, New Rules for a New Era in Current Issues and Future Challenges in International Arbitration*; International Bar Association (IBA) ebook; 2016.
- V. Chessa; *Non-Participating Parties and Burden of Proof: French Cour de Cassation Quashes a Paris Court of Appeal Decision Refusing Enforcement. Yukos Capital v. Tomskneft*; KluwerArbitration Blog; 3 August 2015.
- V. Chessa, A. Mourre; *A comparative Approach to the Standards of Review of Arbitral Awards under Substantive Public Policy*, in *Liber Amicorum* Professor Jerzy Rajska; 2015.
- V. Chessa, J. Fouret, A. Musella; *Enforcement of Investment Treaty Arbitration Awards - Italy*; Globe Law and Business; 2015.
- V. Chessa; Report on *The new IBA Guidelines on Party Representation*; Global Arbitration Review; 25 July 2014.
- V. Chessa, S. Migliorini; *Arbitrato e Concorrenza, Limiti e Prospettive di una Convivenza*; Bocconi Legal Papers N°3; June 2014.
- V. Chessa, A. Mourre; *The New French Arbitration Law: Innovation & Consolidation*; *Dispute Resolution Journal*; May-July 2011.
- V. Chessa; *Arbitrators' Discretion and Powers with respect to Evidence*; Quaderni dell'Arbitrato N°1 La Prova nell'Arbitrato Internazionale; 2010.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-Present	Mourre Chessa Le Lay (MCL Arbitration) – Founding Partner.
2016-2021	CastaldiPartners – Partner.
2011-2015	Castaldi Mourre & Partners – Associate.
2006-2010	Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration – Deputy Counsel.
2005	Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, 18ème chambre – Internship.
2005	Clifford Chance (Paris) – Internship, Litigation and Dispute Resolution.
2004	Clifford Chance (Paris) – Internship, Commercial Contracts.

EDUCATION

2005	Admitted to the Paris Bar.
2005	Ecole de Formation Professionnelle des Barreaux de la Cour d'Appel de Paris.
2004	Bar exam.
2002	University Robert Schuman (Strasbourg) DEA (Master).
1997 to 2001	University Paris II Panthéon-Assas (DEUG, Licence, Maîtrise).

LANGUAGES

French (native), Italian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (basic).