

Jiries Saadeh

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CAREER HISTORY

- Fietta LLP, partner (2018 onward) counsel (2016-2018)
- United Nations, legal officer (2014-2016)
- Volterra Fietta, associate (2011-2014)
- Slaughter and May, associate (2005-2009)
- Slaughter and May, trainee (2003-2005)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Jiries Saadeh is an English-qualified lawyer and Solicitor-Advocate (Higher Courts Civil Proceedings). He is a Partner at Fietta. The Legal 500 has recognised Jiries as one of the “Next Generation” of leading public international law practitioners, describing him as “one of the most skilled lawyers around”.

Jiries advises States, international organisations and commercial entities on a full spectrum of public international law matters, including State sovereignty, international humanitarian law, sovereign and diplomatic immunity, UN, EU and national sanctions regimes, boundary disputes, the protection of foreign investments and human rights.

Jiries’ extensive contentious work includes representing clients in international investment treaty and commercial arbitration cases under the ICSID, UNCITRAL, LCIA and other institutional rules, managing associate teams in all phases of proceedings. He helped secure a recent award against Venezuela which constitutes one of the largest awards in ICSID’s history and has also acted on a pair of UNCITRAL investment arbitration proceedings against Pakistan. He also has significant experience in the law of international organisations, particularly the law and practice of the United Nations and international administrative law.

Jiries is adjunct professor of law at Pepperdine University and co-teaches a course on “International investment disputes” at its London campus, together with Lucas Bastin of Essex Court Chambers. Jiries also currently sits on the consultation board for Practical Law’s arbitration service, alongside a number of eminent practitioners and academics in the field, where he advises on developments in international arbitration (and investor-state arbitration in particular) so as to ensure that the Practical Law resource stays preeminent in its field.

Jiries holds a BA/MA from the University of Oxford and an LLM in public international law from the University of Leiden. Prior to joining Fietta, Jiries worked as a Legal Officer at the United Nations in New York, where he litigated before the United Nations Dispute and Appeals Tribunals. He trained and practised for many years at Slaughter and May and also worked with Stephen and other members of the Fietta team at Volterra Fietta from that firm’s inception in 2011 until 2014.

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

LLM (*cum laude*) (2010), University of Leiden

Legal Practice Course (2002) and Postgraduate Diploma in Law (2001), BPP Law School, London

MA (Oxon.) (2006) and BA (2000), University of Oxford

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Debating a motion on the merits of the proposed investment treaty court system at a conference in Paris, organised by Sciences Po, on “The future of investment treaty arbitration”, March 2017.
- Speaking at a British Institute of International and Comparative Law event on “Careers in Public International Law”, January 2017.
- Lecturing at Pepperdine University on “International investment law in an EU context”, December 2016.
- Lecturing at Sheffield University on the “Law and practice of the United Nations”, November 2016.
- Speaking at a round table on “Trade and investment post Brexit” at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, September 2016.
- "The European Union, investment treaties and investment arbitration post-Brexit", Practical Law arbitration blog, July 2016.
- Chairing a panel on "Organised armed groups in international law", ILA British Branch Spring Conference, April 2016.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Juries' contentious practice have included:

- Representing a Finnish national in a pending UNCITRAL arbitration brought under a bilateral investment treaty against Egypt in relation to an iron ore and steel producing concession
- Representing multiple claimants in a pending ICSID arbitration against Ukraine in relation to a dispute concerning an investment in Ukraine's financial sector
- Representing OI European Group B.V. in an ICSID arbitration against Venezuela relating to the claimant's glass bottle manufacturing plants
- Representing Fabrica de Vidrios Los Andes, C.A. and Owens-Illinois de Venezuela, C.A. in a parallel pending ICSID arbitration against Venezuela
- Representing Alapli Elekrik in an ICSID annulment proceeding against Turkey (original case brought under the Energy Charter Treaty and a bilateral investment treaty)
- Representing a United Kingdom national in a pending UNCITRAL investment treaty arbitration against Pakistan arising out of a major energy infrastructure project
- Advising a Mauritian company in a parallel pending UNCITRAL investment treaty arbitration against Pakistan
- Advising the Respondent (a national oil company of a Balkan State) in an UNCITRAL arbitration arising from the joint development of an offshore gas field in the Adriatic
- Advising a Russian company in an international commercial arbitration under the London Court of Arbitration (LCIA) Rules
- Representing staff members of the United Nations and its funds and programmes in disputes before the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and United Nations Appeals Tribunal

Highlights of Jiries' advisory practice have included:

- Advising a South-East Asian State on a river and land boundary dispute with one of its neighbours
- Advising on the legality under international law of Morocco seeking to issue oil and gas licences off the coast of Western Sahara
- Advising a State on international law and the law of naval warfare arising from a conflict in the Middle East
- Advising a State on the international law implications of the ongoing conflicts in Syria and Israel/Palestine
- Preparing and delivering various teaching courses on international law to university students, government lawyers and practitioners in private practice
- Advising an individual on various strategies for pursuing a claim against an international organisation, either in domestic courts or before an international tribunal, arising out of the organisation's involvement in peacekeeping operations, including advising on issues of immunity of international organisations
- Advising an international investor based in the Middle East in relation to the nature and scope of bilateral investment treaties and equivalent instruments throughout the Middle East region
- Advising a number of corporate entities and private individuals on the scope and application of UN, EU and domestic trade sanctions regimes
- Advising an international organisation on the regulation of NGOs, including with respect to freedom of speech and freedom of assembly
- Advising an NGO on the compatibility of a State's NGO policy with international law
- Advising an NGO on the international law considerations leading to the conclusion of the Arms Trade Treaty

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Jiries speaks conversational Arabic, French and German