

Clémence Assou

Associate



CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Fietta LLP, Associate (September 2024 onward)
- Permanent Court of Arbitration, Legal Counsel (2020-2024), Assistant Legal Counsel (2019-2020)
- Volterra Fietta LLP, Law Clerk (2020), Intern (2018-2019)
- Omnia Strategy LLP, Intern (2017-2018)
- BBC Worldwide LLP, Ethical Policy Assistant (2014-2016)
- Dechert (Paris) LLP, Intern (2013)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Clémence Assou is a dually-qualified English and French lawyer, and Associate at Fietta LLP. She is an English-qualified Solicitor and a French-qualified lawyer admitted to the Paris Bar.

Clémence has worked on a wide range of international disputes, including inter-State arbitration proceedings and contentious proceedings before the ICJ, as well as investor-State and commercial arbitration cases under the UNCITRAL, PCA, ICSID, ICC, LCIA and MIAC rules. Clémence has also been involved in matters related to business and human rights as well as cultural heritage protection.

Prior to joining Fietta, Clémence was a legal counsel at the PCA, where she administered appointing authority requests as well as arbitrations involving States, State entities, intergovernmental organisations, and private parties. She also acted as Registrar of the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre.

Clémence holds an LLM in International Law (Distinction) from University College London. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Law and a Master's degree in International Law from Paris II Panthéon-Assas University as well as a Master's degree in Arbitration and International Business Law from Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University. Clémence has also attended lectures on art and architecture history as well as restoration principles at École du Louvre.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Clémence's contentious practice have included:

- Representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands in an ICSID claim brought by ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical BV under the Energy Charter Treaty arising out of gas extraction in the Groningen gas field.
- Representing the Republic of Azerbaijan in two separate but parallel proceedings against the Republic of Armenia before the International Court of Justice with regard to alleged violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).
- Advising an East African State in relation to contentious proceedings before the ICJ on maritime delimitation.
- Advising a Central African State in relation to contentious proceedings before the ICJ on reparations.

- Advising an Arab State in relation to interim measures proceedings before the ICJ.
- Advising an Arab State in an ICSID arbitration brought by a Qatari company in relation to multimedia broadcasting operations.
- Advising a West African State in an ICSID arbitration brought by Dutch and British investors in respect of an oil concession.
- Advising a UAE investor in an OIC dispute against a West African State arising from the expropriation of a mining concession.
- Advising a Swiss investor in the context of ICSID annulment proceedings initiated by a South American State.
- Advising a South American State in an ICSID arbitration related to the hydrocarbons industry.
- Advising a UK renewable energy company in LCIA proceedings against an East African State entity regarding a project of national strategic importance.
- Advising a French fund against a French company in an *ad hoc* arbitration arising from a shareholders' agreement in the food industry.
- Advising an Asian State entity in an ICC arbitration arising from a military procurement contract and the payment of illicit commissions.

Highlights of Clémence's advisory practice have included:

- Advising an Asian State with respect to the outer limits of its continental shelf and related maritime delimitation issues.
- Advising sovereign States in relation to maritime claims by neighbouring States.

Highlights of Clémence's arbitration clerk experience:

- Assisting appointing authorities in the context of requests for appointments of arbitrators, challenges, and the review of arbitral tribunals' fees.
- Assisting arbitral tribunals by acting as tribunal secretary or registrar in matters administered by the PCA and MIAC.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, The Permanent Court of Arbitration's Role in the Development of Arbitral Seats in Africa, Side event to the Congress of the Members of the Court on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, 14 June 2024 (In-person, The Hague, The Netherlands)
- Panelist, Workshop on the initial stages of the arbitration process, Mauritius Arbitration Academy, 16 February 2024 (Hybrid, Port Louis, Mauritius)
- Panelist, Careers in Arbitration, Mauritius Arbitration Academy, 5 July 2023 (Hybrid, Port Louis, Mauritius)
- Guest Lecturer, The Role of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in International Dispute Resolution, Strathmore University, 22 November 2022 (Online)
- Moderator, Breakfast speed networking - unpicking arbitral hot topics co-organised by Taylor Wessing MENA and Mahmood Hussein Law Firm, 15 November 2022 (In-person, Dubai, United Arab Emirates)
- Moderator, In Conversation with Charles Nairac, co-organised by the Mauritius Arbitration Academy and MIAC, 31 October 2022 (In-person, Cascavelle, Mauritius)

- Panelist, International Commercial Arbitration in Africa: Recent Trends and Emerging Opportunities, co-organised by the International Law Association Mauritius and Nigeria Branch as well as Steven & Associates, 30 September 2022 (Hybrid, Moka, Mauritius)
- Moderator, The Arbitral Process Step-by-Step organised by MIAC, 30 June 2022 (Hybrid, Port Louis, Mauritius)
- Guest Lecturer, Arbitration under the MIAC Arbitration Rules, Africa Arbitration Academy, 14 June 2022 (In-person, London, UK)
- Panelist, The Role of Arbitral Institutions, as part of the conference “International Arbitration in Mauritius: Comparative Perspectives between Civil Law and Common Law” co-organised by the PCA Mauritius Office, Paris II University, Paris-Saclay University and MIAC, 7 June 2022 (Hybrid, Port Louis, Mauritius)
- Participant, Enhancing Out of Court Dispute Resolution in Africa roundtable organised by GIZ, 23 to 27 May 2022 (In-Person, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Panelist, Is the world ready to arbitrate in Africa? Part of the conference Enhancing Justice in Africa by Enhancing Arbitration Institutions co-organised by GIZ/African Arbitration Association, 29 November 2021 (Online)
- Guest Lecturer, Inter-State Arbitration and the Permanent Court of Arbitration, University of Cape Town, 26 October 2021 (Online)
- Guest Lecturer, Arbitration under the MIAC Arbitration Rules, Africa Arbitration Academy, 5 October 2021 (Online)
- Panelist, Across the Indian Ocean: Opportunities and Challenges for Asia-Pacific Companies in Sub-Saharan Africa – Bespoke Dispute Resolution Facilities organised by Clifford Chance with the support of the Energy Related Arbitration Practitioners, AfricArb and the Australia-Africa Minerals & Energy Group (AAMEG), 22 July 2021 (Online)
- Speaker, The Role of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in International Dispute Resolution, as part of the International Legal Order Programme organised by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, 29 June 2021 (Online)
- Panelist, Protecting Human Rights through Arbitration - The Hague Rules on Business and Human Rights, Second Annual Conference of the African Arbitration Association, 16 April 2021 (Online)
- Panelist, Modern Features of Arbitration in Mauritius, a webinar organised by 5 Fifteen Barristers, 7 April 2021 (Online)

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Admitted to practise in France (Paris Bar)

Admitted to practise in England & Wales

LLM in International Law (Distinction) (2018), University College London

Master's degree in Arbitration and International Business Law (2013), Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines University

Certificate in Private International Law (2012), The Hague Academy of International Law

Master's degree in International Law (2012), Paris II Panthéon-Assas University (with a semester at the University of Buenos Aires)

Bachelor's degree in Law and University Diploma from the College of Law (2011), Paris II Panthéon-Assas University

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate)