

## Melissa Ordonez

Counsel

Paris

### Biography

As counsel in our International Arbitration group, Melissa Ordonez focuses her practice on commercial and investment treaty arbitration. Melissa is French/Colombian and has lived in several countries including Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK. With a unique multicultural background, she is able to work on complex arbitrations involving various regions of the world. She is known for her strategic skills and brings extensive experience of arbitration under the rules of the ICC, LCIA, ICSID and UNCITRAL, acting for companies from diverse industries as well as on behalf of States.

Melissa has particular experience representing clients in the energy, technology and luxury sectors as well as in international investment disputes. She is also a member of the firm's Latin American practice with substantial experience in international arbitration in the region.

Prior to joining Hogan Lovells, Melissa trained in leading firms in Paris and London. She is a graduate of the Kings College London and the Sorbonne University in Paris where she benefited from a full scholarship from the French Government for her academic excellence. Melissa is fluent in English, French and Spanish and publishes regularly on topical issues in arbitration. In particular, she is currently writing a



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### Languages

English  
French  
Spanish

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### Practices

International Arbitration  
Technology Litigation

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chapter on international investment law for a prominent Colombian university text book on international public law.

## Representative experience

Representing a Central Asian state in an UNCITRAL arbitration brought by a Canadian mining company under the Energy Charter Treaty relating to uranium mining licenses.

Representing a Latin American state in relation to two ICSID arbitrations brought by companies in the coffee and fertilizer industries.

Representing a Swiss company in an ICC arbitral proceeding regarding the takeover of a Milan based fashion luxury goods company.

Advising a Spanish electric utility company in pre-arbitration proceedings against a North African petroleum company in relation to a gas price review dispute.

Representing a French company in an ICSID arbitration under a BIT against an Eastern European State.

Assisting a French-aerospace company in a dispute against a Mediterranean Airline Company in an ICC arbitral proceeding regarding the performance of an engine maintenance services agreement.

## Awards and rankings

- Future Leader: Arbitration, *Who's Who Legal*, 2021
- Recognized as a Rising Star in Commercial Arbitration, *Rising Stars Expert Guide*, 2020
- Winner of a Lawyer Monthly Women, *Law Award*, 2020

## Latest thinking and events

- Press Releases

## Industries

Aerospace and Defense  
Consumer  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Technology & Telecoms

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## Areas of focus

Fashion and Luxury Brands

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## Education and admissions

### Education

LL.M., King's College London, 2009

Magistère in Business Law,  
Université Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2008

Master in Private International Law and International Business Law,  
Université Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2008

Master in Business Law, Université Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2007

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## Memberships

Member of the Hogan Lovells International Arbitration Women Steering Committee

Member of the Hogan Lovells Paris Diversity Committee

Member of ICC YAF, ICDR, YIAG

- Hogan Lovells rings in the New Year with 30 promotions to partner and 47 promotions to counsel
- Awards and Rankings
  - Hogan Lovells lawyers recognized as 2021 Arbitration Thought Leaders and Future Leaders
- Published Works
  - La reconnaissance du secret des affaires pour la production de documents en arbitrage international *La Semaine Juridique, Edition Générale – N°21-22 (with Thibaud Roujou de Boubée)*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - The CJEU holds CETA's dispute resolution mechanism to be compatible with EU law
- Published Works
  - States' counterclaims: how hard is it to counterattack in international investment arbitration? *International Arbitration Law Review (Int. A.L.R. 2019, 22(1), 27-45.)*
- Published Works
  - Late Twist to the Commisimpex saga as French Supreme Court reverses its position on state immunity from execution *Practical Law Arbitration Blog*

Melissa Ordonez was appointed as President of the Investment and International Commerce Commission of the Association des Juristes Franco-Colombiens (AJFC). The AJFC promotes cultural and academic exchanges between legal professionals in France and Colombia through debate, colloquia, forums and publications.

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## Bar admissions and qualifications

Paris

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