



**MELANIE VAN LEEUWEN**

Partner

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**NATIONALITY:** Dutch  
**LANGUAGES:** English, French, German and Dutch  
**ADMISSION:** Paris (Directive 98/5/EC) and Amsterdam  
**OFFICE:** Paris

Melanie van Leeuwen joined Derains & Gharavi as a partner in 2011. Who's Who Legal France 2016 commends Melanie for her *'exceptional talent and her precision and accuracy'* listing her *'as a leading light in the energy, media and construction sectors'* while the 2017 edition considers her to be *'one of the best in France.'* Legal 500 2017 lists Melanie as *'an excellent strategist who has a profound knowledge of investment law and impresses by the outstanding quality of her written and oral pleadings.'*

Melanie has solid experience as counsel and arbitrator in numerous international arbitrations under all major sets of arbitration rules (ICC, LCIA, SCC, ICDR, ICSID, PCA, UNCITRAL, DIAC, NAI, CEPANI and Swiss Rules) and governed by various procedural and substantive laws. Melanie has been appointed to the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators and Conciliators by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Melanie has handled arbitrations arising out of international commercial contracts, cross-border investment, joint ventures, M&A and investment protection under international law. She has been particularly active in the sectors of energy, media, information and communication technology, construction and engineering, and infrastructural and defense projects. She also regularly represents clients in annulment, enforcement and consolidation proceedings before the Netherlands state courts. Before joining Derains & Gharavi, Melanie practiced international arbitration and commercial litigation with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Loyens & Loeff.

#### CONSTRUCTION RELATED EXPERIENCE AS COUNSEL

- Representing Belgian investors in an ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Croatia over a dispute concerning an investment in the touristic real estate sector.
- Representing a Dutch submarine contractor in a dispute arising out of an EPCI contract in the oil and gas sector in Africa
- Representing an international organization in an UNCITRAL arbitration against a Turkish contractor about an airport construction project in Africa.

- Representing a Benelux real estate development group in a CEPANI arbitration against a Belgian real estate developer about the development of a number of commercial and residential real estate projects in Belgium.
- Representing an Indian company in an ICC arbitration against a Spanish sustainable energy group about the construction of a power transmission line in Brazil.
- Representing a power plant manufacturer in an ICC dispute with a German electricity major about a €500 million natural gas combined cycle power plant project in Turkey.
- Representing a Greek construction company in an ICC arbitration against an American/Italian software house concerning a dispute arising out of a malfunction of the control system of a co-generation plant.
- Representing a Scandinavian multinational in a SCC arbitration against a Lebanese company over a dispute concerning a petrochemical project in Saudi Arabia.
- Representing a Netherlands-based engineering firm against a French environmental group in an ICC arbitration over the construction and engineering of a desalination plant in Dubai.
- Representing a Netherlands-based engineering firm in a NAI arbitration against a Spanish subcontractor over the construction and engineering of parts of a power plant in Sharjah.
- Representing a French construction major in an ICC arbitration against a Mexican construction major concerning the control over a joint venture.

#### CONSTRUCTION RELATED EXPERIENCE AS ARBITRATOR

- Chair in an ICC arbitration between an African container terminal and an African construction company about the constructions of terminal buildings and facilities.
- Chair in an NAI arbitration between a sovereign State and a consortium of infra structure developers concerning a railway and road construction project.
- Chair in an NAI arbitration between a construction company and an energy company about a heat storage facility.
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration between a French and an Algerian consortium partner concerning the design, construction and operation of a water treatment facility in Algeria.
- Co-arbitrator in an NAI arbitration between an energy multinational and an EPC contractor about the design and construction of a pilot chemical plant.