5Gambit Disputes



Elena Sevila

Partner, MLaw, Attorney at Law (Madrid, Spain;
registered EU/EFTA lawyer [Zurich, Switzerland])

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Elena is a highly experienced lawyer with nearly twenty years' expertise in international dispute resolution. She was previously a partner at a leading international law firm in Spain, where she headed the firm's European litigation and arbitration practice. She is now based in Switzerland, where she continues to advise clients on complex cross-border disputes.

An arbitration specialist, Elena has acted in over 50 international arbitrations—both institutional and ad hoc—under the rules of all major arbitral institutions. She has served as both counsel and arbitrator in proceedings conducted in Spanish, English, and French. Her deep understanding of arbitration processes and her ability to navigate complex disputes make her a sought-after professional in the field.

In addition to her arbitration work, Elena regularly represents and advises clients in litigation proceedings in Spain before all courts. She has acted as a legal expert in various issues of Spanish law and international business law, showcasing her broad legal knowledge and expertise. Elena is also a specialist in construction, energy and intellectual property matters, further enhancing her comprehensive legal skill set.

Elena is a CEDR-accredited mediator and regularly advises clients on contractual matters, as well as pre-litigation and pre-arbitration strategy, negotiations and settlement discussions. Her mediation experience complements her arbitration and litigation work, allowing her to offer clients a comprehensive and pragmatic approach to dispute resolution.

Elena is ranked in Chambers Global and Chambers Europe as a leading practitioner in dispute resolution and arbitration, and recognized as a Next Generation Partner by Legal 500 EMEA. She is also ranked as a «Future Leader» in Arbitration and Construction by Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal).

Career

2024	Partner, 5Gambit Disputes, Zurich, Switzerland
2021	Partner, Andersen, Madrid, Spain
2013	Independent Legal Counsel, Clay Arbitration, Paris, France
2013	Senior Associate, Andersen, Madrid, Spain
2010	Associate, Araoz & Rueda, Madrid, Spain
2009	Associate, J&A Garrigues, Madrid, Spain

Education

2009 LL.M. in International Disputes Settlement, Graduate Institute and Faculty of Law of the Geneva University, Geneva (Switzerland)

2008 Advanced Certificate in Trademarks, Copyright and Technology Law, University of Alicante, Spain

2007 Admitted to the Madrid Bar (Spain)

2007 Master of Advanced Studies in European Law, Graduate Institute and Faculty of Law of the Geneva University, Geneva (Switzerland)

2006 Licence in Law, University of Alicante, Spain (and Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany)

Languages

- Spanish
- English
- French

Admissions/Certifications

- Madrid (including all Spanish courts)
- EU/EFTA Bar Council in Zurich
- CEDR Accredited Mediator

Market Perception

Rankings in international directories include the following:

- «Elena knows the problem perfectly and manages it with excellence.» (Chambers Global 2026)
- «Impressive team with high-quality lawyers and an extraordinary ability to simplify highly complex matters.» (Legal 500 2025)
- «5Gambit Disputes stands out for its in-depth knowledge of the case, attention to the detail and hard work.» (Legal 500 2025)
- «The team is result-oriented and innovative with unparalleled expertise in the field of international arbitration. 5Gambit merges individual talents to build a team that delivers extraordinary results. They are sharp, bold and always deliver quality services.» (Legal 500 2025)
- «Elena Sevila Sánchez is a magnificent professional. She is able to understand the most complex problems through an in-depth study of the client's business.» (Chambers Europe 2025)
- «She gives absolutely perfect and ad hoc advice and defence to solve the problem.» (Chambers Europe 2025)
- «Elena Sevila Sánchez has extraordinary advocacy skills. She leaves no issue unexplored and is relentless in fighting for her clients, consistently achieving outstanding results. She gets on top of the issues quickly and has a great understanding of complex international arbitration issues.» (Legal 500 2025)
- «Elena Sevila Sánchez is an outstanding lawyer that provides top-notch advice and is amazing at cross-examining witnesses. Her deep knowledge and experience in international arbitration is a key asset. She turns complicated legal issues into straightforward cases and has a natural talent for crafting successful strategies.» (Legal 500 2025)
- «Elena Sevila is a hard-working and sharp lawyer with excellent advocacy skills.» (Chambers Global 2024)

- «Elena is able to rapidly grasp the key points of a dispute and design and execute a winning strategy.» (Chambers Global 2024)
- «Elena Sevila is decisive and manages to simplify and explain the most complex issues in an exemplary manner.» (Legal 500 2024)
- «One of the best litigators we have encountered in the Spanish market.» (Legal 500 2024)
- «Stand out partner is Elena Sevila. She is always prepared and ready to offer valuable contributions to written briefs and strategic discussions.» (Legal 500 2022)
- «She is a very hard-working advocate with a gift for understanding her client's perspective.» (Chambers Europe 2022)
- «I was impressed by her expertise and the management of the cases.» (Chambers Global 2022)
- «I thought she did the work extremely well and defended well, both in writing and orally.» (Legal 500 2021)
- «She did a marvelous job and is very smart. She understood the main issues at stake and did not lose sight of them even in a very technical dispute.» (Chambers Global 2021)

Recent experience

The following is a selection of Elena's activity:

- ICC arbitration representing an international construction group against one of its subcontractors in a project of a hydroelectric plant in Guatemala.
- ICC arbitration representing an international construction group in two proceedings in Finland against two of its subcontractors with the construction of a steam production plant for a refinery.
- Representation of an international construction group regarding the resolution of a construction agreement in relation to a construction site in Finland.
- Advice provided to an engineering group regarding the filing of interim measures before the ICC regarding «Project Tierra Mojada» (Wet Soil) in Mexico.
- Arbitration filed before the Civil and Commercial Court of Arbitration (in Spanish «CIMA») representing a company specialized in renewable energies in a controversy regarding a production plant where a client intended to terminate a maintenance agreement in force until 2032.
- Arbitration filed before the Civil and Commercial Court of Arbitration (in Spanish «CIMA») representing a company specialized in renewable energies in a controversy with several investors in photovoltaic plants constructed and maintained by the client regarding default in payment of maintenance fees.
- Advice provided to a Bank entity on Spanish regulatory matters regarding the arbitration filed before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (in Spanish «CIADI») against Spain in relation to changes which affect renewable energy payments.
- Acting as Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration filed before the Court of Arbitration of Madrid (in Spanish «ICAM») regarding the construction by a Spanish construction company of a building in the center of Madrid, against a German investment fund.
- ICC arbitration regarding a claim filed by a consortium of construction companies against a bi-national company established in Argentina and Uruguay within the framework of a construction agreement of a hydroelectric power plant built by the river, which separates both countries.
- ICC arbitration in relation to the construction by a company specialized in renewable energies of a desalination plant in Ghana (external Tribunal).
- Secretary of the Arbitral Tribunal in an ad hoc arbitration in relation to a claim filed by an international exploration and extraction of oil company against a national company for breach of the contract of oil extraction optimization.
- Arbitration before the Civil and Commercial Court of Arbitration (in Spanish «CIMA») representing a major Portuguese energy company in a dispute regarding an anti-embarrassment clause in a shares purchase agreement.
- ICC arbitration representing an Investors' fund in a controversy dealing with two shareholders' agreements and the call option clauses contained therein.

- ICC arbitration representing a minority shareholder undergoing a bankruptcy proceeding against a Moroccan company.
- ICC arbitration representing a construction company in relation to a shareholder agreement regarding 7 energy plants in Turkey.
- ICC arbitration representing a global fruit and vegetable company in relation to a controversy regarding an investment agreement entered into with its Tunisian partner.
- Arbitration filed before the Civil and Commercial Court of Arbitration (in Spanish «CIMA»), representing the former partners of a Business School regarding the sale and purchase of the shares of the Business School to a Mexican group.
- ICC arbitration representing the partners appointed by an important Vietnamese group, accused of conflict of interest in the board of directors of a subsidiary.
- ICC arbitration representing a subsidiary of a Vietnamese group regarding the request of its dissolution.
- AAA-ICDR Arbitration representing an international tobacco company in relation to the sale and purchase of determined brands within the framework of a share and purchase agreement of a subsidiary.
- Advice provided to a major Spanish telecommunications group in an arbitration proceeding filed before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (in Spanish «CIADI») against the Republic of Argentina for unfair treatment in relation to the award of mobile licenses to a competitor.
- Advice provided to a major Spanish telecommunications group in an arbitration proceeding filed before the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (in Spanish «CIADI»), based on the default of the TBI between Spain and Peru against the Peruvian IRS' decisions.
- Advice provided to a media company in a potential arbitration filed before OHADA against the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in relation to an agreement regarding the installation of DTT in Guinea.
- Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration filed before the European Arbitration Association (in Spanish «AEA») between a hotel broker and a hotel chain in relation to a commission agreement.
- Arbitration filed before the ICC representing a major international construction company in relation to a claim filed by a company from Saudi Arabia, in which the latter claims an agent fee from another 8 large construction companies.
- Interim measures and three arbitrations filed before the Court of Arbitration of Madrid (in Spanish, «CAM») representing a food and beverages franchisor against various of its subsidiaries.
- Arbitration filed before the SCAI representing an international company (property of the former owner of a Turkish soccer team) against a commission agent.

Professional Memberships

- Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid (Madrid Bar)
- Club Español del Arbitraje (CEA)
- Comission du Barreau de Genève (avocate UE)
- Arbitral Women

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- «ESG-Related Disputes in Arbitration: the State of Play and Expectations», co-authored with Mariano de la Mora, La Ley: Mediación y arbitraje, No 16, 2023.
- «La impugnación opcional del laudo como fórmula de revisión restringida de los laudos Arbitrales», co-authored with Iñigo Rodríguez-Sastre and Elena Blas, in: Práctica contenciosa para abogados, los casos más relevantes sobre litigación y arbitraje en 2022 de los grandes despachos, La Ley, 2023.
- «Le contrôle des sentences arbitrales par la chambre commerciale internationale de la cour d'appel de Paris. Le contrôle de la compétence», co-authored with Elizabeth Oger-Gross, The Paris Journal of International Arbitration, No 3, 2022.
- «A vueltas con la carga de la prueba y el orden (STSJ Andalucía CP 1ª 17 de enero de 2022)», Notas de Jurisprudencia, La Ley: Mediación y arbitraje, No 13, 2022.

- «La competencia del árbitro de emergencia en un procedimiento entre varios demandados y varios demandantes con distintos contratos no relacionados y el consentimiento de las partes», co-authored with Íñigo Rodríguez-Sastre, in: Práctica contenciosa para abogados, los casos más relevantes sobre litigación y arbitraje en 2021 de los grandes despachos, La Ley, 2022.
- «La Sentencia del Tribunal Constitucional de 15 de febrero de 2021: una clara lanza en favor del arbitraje y algunas cuestiones por aclarar», La Ley: Mediación y arbitraje, No 6, Especial monográfico, 2021.
- «La ciberseguridad, nuevo paradigma en el mundo del arbitraje», co-authored with Vicente Moret Millás, La Ley: Mediación y arbitraje, No 7, 2021.
- «International Arbitration. Chambers Global Practice Guides. Spain», co-authored with Iñigo Rodríguez-Sastre and Maria Antonia Pérez Nogales, 2020.
- «The impact of Covid-19 outbreak on international arbitration», La Ley: Mediación y arbitraje, No 2, 2020.
- «¿Pueden las partes someterse a arbitraje antes incluso de suscribir un contrato?: El convenio arbitral contenido en un borrador de contrato», El Convenio Arbitral, Biblioteca de Arbitraje Estudio Mario Castillo Freyre, No 62, 2019.
- «La financiación por terceros en el arbitraje internacional, regulación, ventajas e inconvenientes», Actualidad jurídica Aranzadi, No 941, 2018.
- «The International Comparative Legal Guide to International Arbitration», Global Legal Group, 2014-2016.
- «El concepto de remuneración equitativa del artículo 70.4 del ADPIC y la infracción sobrevenida de una patente», co-authored with Iñigo Rodríguez-Sastre, in: Práctica Contenciosa para Abogados: Los casos más relevantes sobre litigación y arbitraje en 2014 de los grandes despachos, La Ley, 2015.
- «La reforma del arbitraje en España y Francia: breve estudio comparativo», co-authored with Prof. Thomas Clay, Revista de Arbitraje Comercial y de Inversiones, No 2, 2013.
- «Developments in Spanish Company Arbitration», co-authored with Clifford J. Hendel, IBA Legal Practice Division, Arbitration Newsletter, 2013.
- «Grabbing the bull by the horns», co-authored with Clifford J. Hendel, Corporate Dispute Resolution Magazine, 2013.
- «Dispute Resolution/Forum selection clauses—what corporate counsel should keep in mind», co-authored with Clifford J. Hendel, NYSBA Inside Newsletter, vol. 30, 2013.
- «Note—Smeg NV v. EARL Poupardine, Court of Cassation of France, First Civil Law Chamber, 29 June 2011», in: Panorama de Jurisprudencia Francesa—Panorama of French Case Law, Spanish Arbitration Review—Revista del Club Español del Arbitraje, No 15, 2012.
- «Puntos débiles del vigente sistema de anulación de laudos CIADI: necesaria reforma del órgano decisor de la anulación y de los requisitos de suspensión de la ejecución de laudos», co-authored with Iñigo Rodriguez-Sastre, in: El sistema de anulación de los laudos CIADI, Anuario latinoamericano de arbitraje, 2012.
- «Spanish and French arbitration reforms: a race towards the same objective at differing speeds», Young Arbitration Review, 3rd Edition, 2011.
- «La Reforma de la Ley de Arbitraje en España y Francia: dos reformas, un mismo objetivo», Iuris Revista, No 159, 2011 (available at: http://www.revistaiuris.com/ver_detalleArt.asp?idArt=65544&action=ver)
- «La cláusula Fork in the Road y el arbitraje de inversión», co-authored with Prof. Mario Castillo Freyre and Dr. Franz Stirnimann Fuentes, Panorama actual del Arbitraje, vol. 13, 2010.
- «El Perú a la cabeza del arbitraje internacional en Latinoamérica», co-authored with Dr. Franz Stirnimann Fuentes, Jurídica (legal supplement of El Peruano), 15 September 2009.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the Spanish journal: «La Ley: Mediación y Arbitraje».









