



Avocats & Solicitors



Rory WHEELER

Partner at rory.legal
Solicitor of England & Wales
Avocat at the Paris Bar

Rory Wheeler is an *Avocat* at the Paris Bar and a Solicitor of England & Wales, with over twelve years' experience in international arbitration gained with leading teams in Paris and Geneva. He supplemented this experience with a demanding financial and economic education by completing the MBA course provided by INSEAD in 2018.

Rory founded rory.legal in March 2020 to support lawyers wishing to assist their clients in international arbitration proceedings under French or English law. He also advises international companies who need representation in their arbitration proceedings or need advice on their international contractual issues.

Rory also acts as an arbitrator and has been appointed as president, sole arbitrator and co-arbitrator in domestic and international proceedings. Rory has a comprehensive view of the subject matter, enabling him to further enrich his practice for the benefit of his co-counsels and clients.

rory.legal
9 rue Duphot
75 001 Paris, France

+33 7 68 40 39 18
rw@rory.legal

Nationalities

Australian
Zimbabwean

Bar admissions

England & Wales (solicitor)
France (Paris)

Native languages

English
French

Education

Masters in business administration, INSEAD, 2018 (J)
Masters in arbitration and international trade law (MACI), University of Versailles, 2009
Two semesters on international trade law, University of Cape Town, 2008
Bachelor in law, University of Toulouse, 2007

Experience

Partner at rory.legal, Paris (2020 to present)
Senior associate at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, Paris & Geneva (2012 to 2020)
Associate at Derains & Gharavi, Paris (2011 to 2012)

Arbitration experience at rory.legal

Counsel cases (English law / common law)

- Counsel in two London-seated LCIA arbitrations, representing the purchasers of a company against the seller in relation to outstanding payments under the Share Purchase Agreement. The financial value of the dispute was SAR 9 million. English law governed the dispute, and the language of arbitration was English.
- Co-counsel in a DIFC-seated LCIA arbitration, representing the market leader in non-destructive testing in a GCC Country in a shareholder dispute. The value of the dispute is USD 12 million. English law governs the dispute, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Co-counsel in a DIFC-seated LCIA-DIFC dispute, representing the purchasers of a company against a Director and shareholder of the company. The financial value of the dispute is USD 8,5 million. English law governs the dispute, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Consultant in two billion-dollar London-seated ICC arbitrations, representing a West-African oil company in multiple disputes arising out of several agreements, including facility agreements and intercreditor agreements. English law governs some aspects of the dispute and local laws govern other parts of the dispute. The language of arbitration is English.
- Co-counsel in a London-seated ICC arbitration, representing a middle-eastern energy company in a dispute related to the rehabilitation of a power-plant in the GCC. The value of the dispute is EUR 140 million. English law applies, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Co-counsel in a Paris-seated ICC arbitration, representing a Chadian contractor against a multi-national corporation in relation to a dispute arising out of six master framework agreements. The value of the dispute is USD 12.5 million. English law governs the dispute. English is the language of the arbitration.
- Co-counsel in a New York-seated AAA arbitration, representing a French distributor in a dispute against a US-based supplier arising out of the termination of a long-term commercial relationship. The value of the dispute is EUR 4.8 million. The laws of New York and France govern aspects of the dispute, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Counsel in a GAFTA arbitration, representing an Emirati trading company in a dispute against a Senegalese group in relation to the purchase a rice. The financial value of the dispute is USD 2 million. English law governs the dispute, and the language of the arbitration is English.

Counsel cases (French law / civil law)

- Co-counsel in a Paris-seated ICC arbitration, representing a sub-contractor against the contractor in a dispute relating to the construction of a power plant in a North African country. The value of the dispute was EUR 32 million. French law governed the dispute, and the language of the arbitration was French.
- Co-counsel in an ICC mediation and ICC arbitration in Paris, representing two oil companies against a supplier under a long-term crude oil supply agreement in relation to the interpretation of a pricing mechanism. The financial value of the dispute is USD 2,7 million. French law governs the dispute, and the language of the proceedings is French.
- Counsel in a Paris-seated ICC arbitration, representing a West African reinsurance company against another reinsurer and a shareholder in a dispute relating to an investment protocol. The value of the dispute was EUR 5 million. The laws of a West African country governed the dispute, and the language of the arbitration was French.
- Counsel in a Paris-seated ICC arbitration, representing a Spanish manufacturer and distributor of natural stone arising out of a sales and installation contract in Algeria. The value of the dispute is EUR 750,000. French law governed the dispute, and the language of the arbitration was English.

Arbitration experience at rory.legal

(continued)

Counsel cases (French law / civil law) (continued)

- Co-counsel in a Munich-seated ICC arbitration, representing an intergovernmental organisation in a dispute relating to the manufacture and supply of specialised equipment for the space industry. The amount in dispute is EUR 30 million. German law governs the dispute, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Co-counsel in Dubai-seated Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre arbitration, representing a contractor against the Owner of an aluminium plant in the United Arab Emirates. The amount in dispute was USD 80 million. Emirati law was applicable, and the language of the proceedings was English.
- Co-counsel in a Singapore-seated SIAC arbitration, representing a French distributor of motobikes in a dispute against a Taiwanese supplier arising out of the termination of a distribution agreement. The value of the dispute was EUR 3.5 million. French and Singaporean laws governed the dispute, and the language of the arbitration was English.
- Co-counsel in a Zurich-seated SCAI arbitration, representing a Middle-Eastern public entity in a dispute against a service provider in the aeronautical industry under a long-term service agreement. The value of the dispute is USD 30 million. Swiss law governs the dispute, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Counsel in a Swiss Rules arbitration seated in Geneva, representing a manufacturer of steel products against a customer in a dispute relating to the delivery of allegedly defective products. Swiss law governs the dispute, valued at EUR 180,000.
- Consultant in a Paris-seated *ad hoc* arbitration, representing a Middle-Eastern investor in an investment-treaty dispute against a North African State in relation to the expropriation of its investments. The value of the dispute is USD 365 million. The Convention of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was English.
- Co-counsel in a Paris-seated *ad hoc* arbitration, representing a Singaporean investor and distributor of petrochemical products in a dispute arising out of a shareholders' agreement and a distributorship agreement. The value of the dispute is EUR 95 million. A middle-eastern law applies, and the language of the arbitration is English.
- Co-counsel in a Paris-seated *ad hoc* arbitration, representing a shareholder of a high-density polyethylene production company against a minority shareholder in a dispute relating to the operational and financial management of the joint venture. The amount in dispute was 160 million euros. The laws of a Middle East State were applicable, and the language of the arbitration was English.
- Co-counsel in a Paris-seated *ad hoc* arbitration, representing a national oil company in a dispute pertaining to the construction of a pipeline and the long-term supply of natural gas in the Middle East. The amount in dispute is in excess of USD 450 million, and the seat of arbitration is Paris (France). The applicable law is French law, and the language of the arbitration is English.

Arbitrator cases

- Presiding arbitrator in an Alger-seated ICC arbitration, in a dispute regarding the provision of services pertaining to the study and implementation of a road-traffic management system in North Africa. The financial value of the dispute was EUR 2 million. Algerian law was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was French.
- Presiding arbitrator in a Nairobi-seated ICC arbitration, in a dispute regarding the construction of infrastructure. The financial value of the dispute was USD 6.5 million. Kenyan law was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was English.

Arbitration experience at rory.legal

(continued)

Arbitrator cases (continued)

- Presiding arbitrator in an Abuja-seated ICC arbitration, in a dispute regarding a lease agreement. The financial value of the dispute was EUR 33 million. Nigerian law was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was English.
- Sole arbitrator in a Paris-seated ICC arbitration, in a dispute regarding the design, production, and delivery of metal railings between a French company and a Qatari company. The financial value of the dispute was EUR 3.4 million. French law was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was French.
- Co-arbitrator in a Stockholm-seated SCC arbitration, in a dispute regarding the valuation and sale of shares in the healthcare industry. The financial value of the dispute was EUR 1,5 million. English law was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was English.
- Co-arbitrator in a Paris-seated AFA arbitration, in a dispute regarding the distribution of a magazine in South-East Asia. The financial value of the dispute was EUR 6 million. English law was applicable, and the language of the arbitration was English.

Counsel cases (mediation / conciliation)

- Counsel in a mediation procedure under the aegis of the ICC in Paris, representing a Chadian contractor in a complex dispute against a multinational company concerning breaches of six framework contracts. The amount at stake was USD 12.5 million. The applicable law was English law, and the languages of the arbitration were French and English.
- Advising on numerous CMAP conciliation proceedings between franchisees and the franchisor in the food distribution sector. The financial value of the cases varies between EUR 2 million and EUR 5 million.

Rory Wheeler's Experience

at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe and Derains & Gharavi

International trade & distribution

- Representing a French distributor against an Asian manufacturer in an arbitration relating to the termination of a distribution relationship. English language, French law.
- Sole associate in the team representing a manufacturer of baby-feeding products in two parallel arbitrations against its distributor and the latter's sister company. English language, French law.
- Sole associate in the team representing a yacht-builder in an arbitration relating to alleged manufacturing and design defaults. English language, French law.
- Associate in the team representing a distributor of medical equipment in an arbitration relating to the termination of its distribution agreement. English language, French law.
- Associate in the team representing an accountant in an arbitration against a business partner in relation to fees for an M&A deal. English language, Danish law.
- Representing a construction and engineering firm in a mediation and an arbitration against a multinational corporation relating to six service contracts. English language, English law.
- Sole associate in the team representing a manufacturer in an arbitration relating to consultancy services. English language, English law.
- Representing a Gabonese bank in a pre-arbitral claim against an Emirati private equity fund in a dispute relating to a loan agreement. French language, Gabonese law.
- Sole associate in the team representing a consultant in an arbitration against an engineering and construction company. English language, Swiss law.
- Principal associate in the team representing former partners of a partnership in three parallel proceedings. English language, Italian, French, and Belgian laws.

Joint ventures and M&A

- Associate in the team representing a global commodities trader in an arbitration relating to the failure of a joint venture relating to an infrastructure project. English language, English law.
- Sole associate in the team representing a global conglomerate in an arbitration relating to the failure of a joint venture in a highly regulated market. English language, Mexican law, *lex mercatoria* and equity.
- Sole associate in the team representing a manufacturing group in an arbitration relating to the failure of a joint venture in the field of petroleum products. English language, Egyptian law.
- Principal associate in the team representing the sellers in an arbitration relating to representation and warranties claims by the buyers. English language, Italian law.

Complex supply chains

- Principal associate of the team representing an automobile manufacturer in an arbitration relating to outsourced assembly services. English language, French law.
- Sole associate of the team assisting a major aerospace supplier in ongoing claims against an aircraft assembler for multiple programs. English and French language, English and French law.

Investment arbitration

- Principal associate in the team representing a West-African State in an arbitration relating to the alleged expropriation of a fruit juice plant. French language, ICSID.
- Principal associate in the team representing a West-African State in an arbitration relating to the alleged expropriation of a business park. French language, ICSID.
- Associate in the team representing a West-African State in an arbitration relating to alleged unfair and inequitable treatment of a mining investor. French language, ICC.
- Associate in the team representing mining investors in ICSID arbitrations against a West-African State relating to tax disputes under a mining concession. French language.
- Associate in the team representing a West-African State in annulment proceedings before an *ad hoc* Committee. French language, ICSID.

Construction

- Associate in the team representing a sub-contractor in an arbitration against the Contractor relating to the construction of an airport. English language, Qatari law.
- Associate in the team representing the Owner in an arbitration against the Contractor relating to the construction of a gas terminal. French language, French law.