



Claudio D. Salas

SPECIAL COUNSEL

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Claudio Salas represents clients in diverse industries in international commercial and investment treaty arbitrations conducted in venues throughout the world under a variety of arbitral rules, including those of the ICC, ICSID, ICDR and UNCITRAL. He also represents clients in international litigation in US federal district and appellate courts, and in FCPA and other government investigations. A native Spanish speaker, he frequently handles matters originating in Latin America.

Past Experience

In Latin America, Mr. Salas's matters have included representing a paper company in an ICC arbitration arising out of a failed M&A transaction in Brazil, representing a major airline in connection with an FCPA investigation, advising a leading financial institution regarding potential treaty claims and defenses against enforcement of a foreign judgment in US courts, representing a multinational Bank in FINRA arbitrations in Puerto Rico, and representing a leading pharmaceutical company in an UNCITRAL investment treaty arbitration concerning denial of justice. Outside of Latin America, Mr. Salas's experience includes representing multinational energy companies in price review and contract disputes, and representing a major chemical company in a trade secret arbitration.

Prior to joining WilmerHale, Mr. Salas was a member of the team that represented Occidental Petroleum in an ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Ecuador, which resulted in a \$1.77 billion award for Occidental (then the largest award in ICSID history). Other past matters include sovereign debt litigation in the S.D.N.Y. and Second Circuit Court of Appeals concerning an investment fund's \$700 million judgment enforcement action against the government of Argentina, and a representation in connection with the *Case Concerning Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v. Uruguay)* in the International Court of Justice.

Pro Bono

Mr. Salas represents pro bono clients in a variety of matters, including immigration and housing. Prior to joining WilmerHale, Mr. Salas completed a six-month secondment with the Brooklyn District Attorney's office.

Professional Activities

Mr. Salas is a member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and the New York City Bar Association (NYCBA). He also teaches international arbitration at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Solutions

International Arbitration

Latin America

Litigation

Experience

Representing paper company in an ICC arbitration arising from a failed M&A transaction in Brazil

Representing pharmaceutical company in an UNCITRAL treaty arbitration involving a denial of justice claim against Ecuador

Representing financial institution in a series of related FINRA arbitrations in Puerto Rico

Representing major airline in connection with a monitorship arising out of a DPA with the DOJ

Represented major airline in an ICDR arbitration involving disputed arbitration agreement

Represented major airline in an FCPA investigation of events that took place in Latin America

Represented chemical company in an ICC arbitration arising from a natural gas supply agreement

Represented natural gas company in a price review ICC arbitration resulting in a favorable settlement for the client

Advised financial institution regarding potential treaty claims in Latin America and defenses against enforcement of a foreign judgment in US courts

Advised clothing manufacturer on arbitration-related matters in connection with a multiparty agreement in Asia

Represented mining company in an ICSID arbitration in Asia resulting in a favorable settlement for the client

Represented chemical company in an ICC arbitration regarding a joint venture resulting in a favorable settlement for the client

Represented medical device manufacturer in an ICDR arbitration resulting in a substantial award for the client

Represented insurance company in an ad hoc UNCITRAL arbitration resulting in a substantial award for the client

Represented financial institution in an ICC arbitration resulting in a favorable settlement for the client

Recognition

- Recognized as a 2023 Rising Legal Star by *Latinvex*.
- Selected by peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America* for international arbitration –commercial (2024).

Credentials

EDUCATION

JD, Yale Law School, 2004

Coker Teaching Fellow

MA, University of Puerto Rico
at Mayagüez, 1998

English/Education

BA, English Literature,
Middlebury College, 1995

summa cum laude

College Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa

ADMISSIONS

New York

LANGUAGES

Spanish