

## Cyrus Benson



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Cy Benson is a U.S. and English qualified partner in the London office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He is Chair of the firm's International Arbitration Practice Group.

Mr. Benson focuses on international arbitration and represents clients from a wide variety of sectors before arbitral tribunals, including the ICC, LCIA and AAA/ICDR, with particular emphasis in telecoms, oil & gas and financial services. He is experienced in complex litigation and has significant trial and appellate experience in U.S. federal and state courts.

His recent representations include advising a major oil company in a \$1.5 billion ICC arbitration arising from divestment of an Eastern European refinery, pipeline and export company; a European power generation company in a high-value ICC arbitration arising from the termination of a long-term contract for the supply of natural gas; and a major oil company in multi-billion dollar claims for expropriation under the Energy Charter Treaty.

Mr. Benson has represented financial institutions in disputes concerning derivatives, alleged predatory mortgage lending practices, and the demise of Enron. He has also represented corporate clients in shareholder class action litigation.

Mr. Benson is ranked as a leading lawyer for International Arbitration in the 2007-2013 Chambers and Partners UK Guides, in the 2006-2010 Chambers and Partners Global Guides, in the 2009-2013 editions of Best Lawyers International and Best Lawyers UK (2014). In addition, Legal 500 UK 2013 ranked Mr. Benson as a 'Leading Individual' for International Arbitration as well as recommending Gibson Dunn's International Arbitration Practice generally (the publication recently cited him as being "among the best-regarded practitioners in the market.") He is "highly recommended" for Dispute Resolution: Arbitration in Practical Law Company's Which Lawyer? (2007-2012), and is identified by UK Legal Experts 2012 as an expert in the field of Arbitration. He has also been recommended for Dispute Resolution: International Arbitration in Chambers Europe. Mr. Benson is a frequent speaker and writer on arbitration topics, a member of the IBA Task Force on Party Representation in International Arbitration and also sits as an arbitrator.

Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Mr. Benson was co-head of the London international arbitration group at a U.S. law firm.

### **Education**

B.A., Economics, Syracuse University, cum laude, 1984

M.A., Syracuse University, International Relations, 1986

J.D., New York University School of Law, cum laude, 1991

## **Membership of Professional Bodies**

United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, admitted 1998

United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, admitted 1992

Courts of the State of New York, admitted 1992

Solicitor of England and Wales, admitted 2008

Association of the Bar of the City of New York

London Court of International Arbitration

International Bar Association

Dubai International Arbitration Center

## **Representative Matters (Collective Experience)**

- A major oil company in a US\$1.5 billion ICC arbitration arising from the divestment of an Eastern European refinery.
- A major oil company in related, multi-billion dollar UNCITRAL proceedings in the Hague alleging expropriation and other violations under the Energy Charter Treaty
- A French power generation company in a €200 million ICC arbitration in Geneva arising from a long-term contract for supply of natural gas.
- A European energy company in a \$150 million ICC arbitration in London for a price review under a long-term contract for supply of LNG.
- An African State in a \$100 million LCIA arbitration in London alleging breaches of a concession agreement for a port and terminal project.
- An offshore oil and gas contractor in a US\$100 million AAA arbitration arising out of the construction of an offshore natural gas pipeline around Boston, Massachusetts.
- Advising a contractor in a US\$75 million dispute involving on- and off-shore pipeline construction on the Sakhalin Island project.
- A Brazilian mining conglomerate in an ICC arbitration in Paris arising from the termination of long-term contracts to purchase and ship iron ore.
- An Asian subsidiary of a major global mining company in connection with claims against an Asian state under a bilateral investment treaty.
- A Middle-East investment bank in related DIAC proceedings in Dubai arising from a property development project.
- A major cable company in an AAA/ICDR arbitration concerning the disputed sale of a holding company with interests in various Russian wireless ventures.
- An investor group in a US\$500 million LCIA arbitration involving disputed ownership of an Eastern European hotel project.
- A joint venture contractor in a US\$1 billion ICC construction arbitration in Mexico City arising from the expansion and upgrading of a an oil refinery and crude oil pipelines owned by a Latin American government.
- A South American conglomerate in connection with ICC and LMAA arbitration proceedings arising from the collapse of the world steel market.
- A vessel owner in related LMAA arbitration proceedings in London arising from a luxury yacht construction agreement.

- A Middle Eastern contractor in an ICC arbitration in Paris arising from a gas plant project in Saudi Arabia.
- A Middle Eastern consulting firm in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration in Dubai arising from telecommunications projects in Central Asia.
- A telecommunications joint venture in a US\$1 billion ICC arbitration in Stockholm arising out of an Eastern European privatization of telecommunications services.
- A Middle Eastern cable manufacturer in a US\$150 million ICC arbitration arising out of a contract for the expansion and modernization of the telecommunications system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- A European contractor in an ICC arbitration with a state agency concerning the termination of an agreement to implement a digital terrestrial television network in an Eastern European country.
- A material witness in an LCIA arbitration in London concerning a dispute over ownership of a major Russian telecommunications company.
- A major European financial institution in an ICC arbitration arising out of the termination of services and technology agreements for the establishment of a structured derivatives business.
- An investment company in an AAA arbitration involving disputes among the members of a limited liability company formed to renovate and develop a historic pier in downtown Manhattan.
- A Middle Eastern national oil company in a US\$100 million arbitration and related litigation arising from a refinery upgrade project.
- A western U.S. utility in an AAA proceeding to determine the value of electric power generating turbines.
- A European conglomerate in an ICC arbitration concerning a power company in Thailand.
- Former shareholders in relation to a dispute arising out of a share purchase agreement governing the terms of the sale of a Scandinavian technology company.