Stavroula Angoura

The Impartiality and Independence of Arbitrators in International Commercial Arbitration





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Stavroula Angoura The Impartiality and Independence of Arbitrators in International **Commercial Arbitration** Nomos

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To my parents

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Foreword

The independence and impartiality of arbitrators in international arbitration is a subject of profound and timely importance. Contemporary obligations of impartiality for international arbitrators arise from a wide variety of sources, including international arbitration conventions, applicable national laws, institutional arbitration rules and arbitration agreements. Given the variety of those sources, there are also a diversity of views about the content of arbitrators' obligations of independence and impartiality, as well as related questions of disclosure obligations, standards for challenge, issues of waiver and the relevance of a lack of impartiality or independence in annulment or recognition proceedings.

Dr. Angoura's book provides a detailed, systematic and comprehensive analysis of the concepts of independence and impartiality of arbitrators in international commercial arbitration. It examines the recurrent factual circumstances and issues relating to the impartiality and independence of arbitrators in both arbitral institutional practice and national courts. The book's main thesis, which is a provocative and thoughtful contribution to the current literature, is that a common core of international public policy has emerged with regard to the concepts of impartiality and independence of international arbitrators. The book develops and supports that thesis with admirable rigor and creativity.

The book also examines how obligations of independence and impartiality of arbitrators can be relevant at different stages of the arbitral procedure: at the pre-appointment stage, during the arbitral process (including challenges to the arbitrators), in annulment proceedings and in recognition proceedings. The final chapter of the book examines the waiver of objections to an arbitrator's lack of independence or impartiality, and, more specifically, the recurrent issue of the effects of a party's failure to assert a challenge to an arbitrator despite constructive (but not actual) knowledge of the basis for the challenge. The book's analysis examines the most significant European seats of international arbitration – France, England, Switzerland, Germany – while also addressing other important jurisdictions, including Singapore, Sweden, Austria and Greece.

Finally, in addition to exploring the arbitrator's duties of impartiality and independence on a conceptual and theoretical level, provides a valuable tool for practice in international arbitration. Its careful examination

Foreword

of national court decisions, institutional rulings and other authorities is an important contribution to parties, lawyers, arbitrators, institutions and national courts to facilitate decisions on questions of disclosure and waiver and its application to impartiality at the different arbitration stages. Dr. Angoura's book contributes in particular to the ongoing discussion of the arbitrator's impartiality as one of the (most frequently-invoked) grounds for annulment or non-recognition of arbitral awards.

I congratulate the author for her very thorough research and thoughtful writing and her valuable contribution to the dialogue between academia and practice.

Gary B. Born

London, November 2021

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The book is dedicated to my parents for all the sacrifices they have made to help me achieve my goals. It is thanks to their endless love, support and ethos that I have become the person I am today.

Dr. Stavroula Angoura

Thessaloniki, October 2021

MA	MAIN ABBREVATIONS		
§ 1	. Introduction	23	
I.	Research Question	23	
II.	Methodology	27	
III.	Structure	29	
§ 2	. Legal foundations, definition and interpretation of the concepts of arbitrator impartiality and independence	31	
I.	Foundations	31	
	1. The fair trial principle	38	
	2. National arbitration laws	42	
	3. Institutional rules	45	
II.	The IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International		
	Arbitration as interpretation aid	46	
III.	Concepts of arbitrator impartiality and independence	53	
	1. The concept of impartiality	53	
	2. The concept of independence	55	
	3. Impartiality applied to arbitrators	60	
IV.	The question of 'justifiable doubts'	65	
§ 3	. Instances of arbitrator's lack of impartiality	68	
I.	General remarks	68	
II.	Arbitrator's relationship with the dispute	69	
	1. Significant direct or indirect financial interest in the dispute	70	
	2. Personal interest in the dispute	71	
	3. Prior involvement in the dispute	71	
	4. Arbitrator's appointment in a related matter	72	
	5. Publicly expressed legal opinion	76	
III.	Arbitrator's relationship with one of the parties or counsel	77	
	1 General remarks	77	

	2. Arbitrator's professional relationship with one of the parties	79
	a) Arbitrator's employment by one of the parties	79
	b) Arbitrator acting as manager, director or member of the	
	supervisory board of one of the parties	80
	3. Arbitrator's business or financial relationship with one of the	
	parties	81
	a) Direct relationship	81
	b) Indirect relationship	82
	c) Prior business or financial relationship	84
	d) 'Repeat arbitrator'	85
	4. Arbitrator's family or personal relationship or any other non-	
	trivial ex parte contact with one of the parties (or its counsel)	90
	a) Close family relationship	90
	b) Close personal relationship	92
	c) Remote and insignificant social relationship	93
	d) Ex parte contacts	94
	5. Common nationality of presiding arbitrator with one of the	
	parties	99
	6. Arbitrator representing one of the parties	100
	7. Arbitrator's relationship with counsel representing one of the	
	parties	103
IV.	Arbitrator's relationship with another arbitrator, witness or	
	arbitral secretary	112
V	Arbitrator's law firm relationship with one of the parties or	
٧.	counsel	115
3.73		113
VI.	Arbitrator's conduct and expressions of opinion during	440
	arbitration	118
C 4		
§ 4.	. Controlling lack of impartiality before and after rendering	121
	award	121
I.	Arbitrator's duty of disclosure	121
	1. Nature of the duty of disclosure	124
	2. Timing of the duty of disclosure	126
	3. Arbitrator's investigation duty	127
	4. Scope of the duty of disclosure	130
	a) The applicable law to arbitrator's disclosure duty	131
	b) The subjective and objective standards of the duty of	
	disclosure	133

	c) The interface between parties' investigation duty and arbitrator's disclosure duty	138
	5. Consequences of breach of the duty of disclosure	149
II.	Challenge of the arbitrator during arbitration proceedings on grounds of lack of impartiality	156
	1. The interplay between the principle of party autonomy and fair trial	157
	2. Challenge procedure and time limit	159
	3. Subsidiary competence of the judge at the seat of the arbitral tribunal	160
	4. Legal remedies against the decision on the challenge of the arbitrator	162
	5. The objective standard of the disqualification of an arbitrator	166
III.	Annulment of an arbitral award or non-recognition and non-enforcement of a foreign arbitral award on grounds of	
	arbitrator's lack of impartiality	167
	1. Grounds for annulment of an arbitral award, non-recognition or non-enforcement of a foreign arbitral award based on	
	arbitrator's lack of impartiality	168
	a) The violation of due processb) The irregular composition of the arbitral tribunal or	169
	violation of parties' agreed arbitral proceedings	171
	c) The violation of public policy	176
	2. Effect of bias on the arbitral award	179
§ 5	. The institution of waiver	183
I.	The object of waiver: the right to an impartial tribunal versus the right to contest arbitrator's lack of impartiality	183
II.	The mechanism of waiver as an aspect of good faith	187
	Preconditions of implicit waiver	189
	1. Knowledge of facts or circumstances giving rise to arbitrator's lack of impartiality	189
	2. Failure to object to arbitrator's lack of impartiality within set	10)
	time limit	195
	a) The specification and compliance with the set time limitb) The preclusive effect of waiver of the right to contest	195
	arbitrator's lack of impartiality at different stages	199
IV	Advance waiver	204

§ 6. Conclusions	212
BIBLIOGRAPHY	219
LIST OF CASES	251
Biography	265
Index	267

American Arbitration Association AAA

Rules of the American Arbitration Associa-AAA/ICDR Rules

tion/ International Centre for Dispute

Resolution

Am. Rev. Int'l Arb. American Review of International Arbitra-

tion, published by Juris

Am. U. Int'l L.Rev. American University International Law

Review

Am.J. Com. L. American Journal of Comparative Law

Annals Fac. L. Belgrade Int'l Annals of the Faculty of law in Belgrade

(International Edition)

App/Apps Application/Applications

Arb Intl Arbitration International, published by

LCIA (journal)

Article/Articles Art/Arts

Bulletin of the Swiss Arbitration Associ-ASA Bull

ation, Published by Kluwer Arbitration

(journal)

Asian Intl Arb J Asian International Arbitration Journal Austrian YB Austrian Yearbook on International Arbi-

tration

Bayerisches Oberstes Landesgericht (High-**BayObLG**

est Regional Court of Bavaria)

b-arbitra Belgian Review of Arbitration

BGB Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch (German Civil

Code)

BGE. Amtliche Sammlung der Entscheidungen

> des Schweizerichen Bundesgerichts (Official Collection of the Decisions of the Swiss

Federal Court)

B.J.C. Belgian Judicial Code

BGH Bundesgerichtshof (German Federal Court

of Justice)

BGHZ Entscheidungen des Bundesgerichtshofs in

Zivilsachen (official collection of German Federal Supreme Court decisions in civil

matters)

BLR Building Law Reports

Bull Bulletin

Bus. L. Int'l Business Law International (journal)
CA Cour d' appel, Court of Appeal

Cah. arb. Cahiers de l'arbitrage/Paris Journal of

International Arbitration

Cah. dr. entrep.

CAS

Cahiers de droit de l'entreprise (journal)
the Court for Arbitration for Sport
Case W. Res. L. Rev.

Case Western Reserve Law Review
Cass. civ.

Court de Cassation, Chambre civile,

première chambre, etc

CEA Spain Arbitration Review

cf confer ch chapter

ChrPrL Chronika Idiotikou Dikaiou (journal)
Ciarb Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

CIETAC China International Economic and Trade

Arbitration Commission

CJEU Court of Justice of the European Union

C.J.Q. Civil Justice Quarterly

C.L.C. Commercial Law Cases (reporter)

CPC Code de Procédure Civil Français (French

Code of Civil Procedure)

Croat. Arbit. Yearb. Croatian Arbitration Yearbook

Ct. Court

CUP Cambridge University Press

Cyarb czech (& central european yearbook of

arbitration) (journal)

D Recueil Dalloz

DAC Department Advisory Committee

DIS Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichts-

barkeit (German Arbitration Institute)

DIS Rules Arbitration Rules of the German Arbitra-

tion Institute

Disp. Resol. Int'l Dispute Resolution International (journal)
ECHR Convention for the Protection of Human

Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Rome,

4 November 1950)

ECtHR European Court of Human Rights, Stras-

bourg

ed/eds editor/editors

edn edition

eg *exempli gratia* (for example)

EIAR European International Arbitration Review

(journal)

EpolD Episkopisi Politikis Dikonomias (journal)

et al. et alii/aliae/alia (and others)

etc. et cetera (and so on)

EWCA civ Court of Appeal of England and Wales Civ-

il Division (neutral citation), available at https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA//

(last visited June 9, 2020)

EWHC High Court of England and Wales, also

known as High Court of Justice; neutral citation for same, available at https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Comm/ (last

visited June 9, 2020)

ff and following

fn footnote

Ford. Int'l L.J. Fordham International Law Journal

FS Festschrift

GAR Global Arbitration Review
Gaz. Pal. Gazette du Palais (journal)

GDPR General Data Protection Regulation
Geo. J. Legal Ethics Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics

Geo. L.J. Georgetown Law Journal

GesRZ Der Gesellschafter - GesRZ, Zeitschrift

für Gesellschafts und Unternehmensrecht

(journal)

GG Grundgesetz

GroJIL Groningen Journal of International Law
HKIAC Hong Kong International Arbitration Cen-

tre

HKIAC Rules HKIAC Administered Arbitration Rules

i.e. id est (that is)

IBA International Bar Association

ICC International Chamber of Commerce
ICC Disp. Res. Bull ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin

ICC Rules Arbitration Rules of International Cham-

ber of Commerce

ICCA International Council for Commercial

Arbitration

ICDR International Centre for Dispute Resolu-

tion

ICDR Rules Rules of the International Centre for Dis-

pute Resolution

ICSID International Centre for Settlement of

Investment Disputes

ICSID Review (journal)

idem the same

Int.Enc.Comp.L. International Encyclopedia of Comparative

Law

IHU International Hellenic University
ILA International Law Association

Int. Law: Rev. Colomb. International law: Revista Colombiana de

Derecho Derecho Internacional

Int.A.L.R. International Arbitration Law Review

(journal)

Int'l & Comp. L.Q. International and Comparative Law Quar-

terly (journal)

Int'l Bus. L.J. International Business Law Journal

(journal)

IPRax Praxis des Internationalen Privat-und Ver-

fahrensrechts (journal)

J Intl Arb Journal of International Arbitration, pub-

lished by Kluwer Arbitration (journal)

J-Cl. Pr. civ Juris-Classeur Procédure Civile (journal)

ICP Juris-Classeur Périodique, La semaine ju-

ridique, édition générale (journal)

JCP EA Juris-Classeur, La semaine juridique, édi-

tion entreprise et affaires (journal)

JDI Journal du droit international: Clunet
JIDS Journal of International Dispute Settle-

ment

JZ Juristenzeitung (journal)

LA Liber amicorum

LCIA London Court of International Arbitration
LCIA Rules Arbitration Rules of the London Court of

International Arbitration

LG Landesgericht

LJIL Leiden Journal of International Law

Lloyd's Rep Lloyd's Law Reports

LoyLa Int'l & Comp. L. Rev Loyola of Los Angeles International and

Comparative Law Review

LPA Les Petites Affiches (journal)

Mealey's I.A.R. Mealey's International Arbitration Report Mich. J. Int'l L. Michigan Journal of International Law

New York Convention, NYC 1958 Convention on the Recognition and

Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards

(New York)

NJW-RR NJW-Rechtsprechungs-Report Zivilrecht

(reporter)

No/Nos Number/Numbers (of a report etc)

Nomos Verlagsgessellschaft Baden Baden

NoV Nomiko Vima (journal)

OGH Oberster Gerichtshof (Austrian Supreme

Court)

OLG Oberlandesgericht (German higher region-

al court)

OUP Oxford University Press

p. page

Pace L. Rev. Pace Law Review para/paras paragraph (s)

Pepp. Disp. Resol. L.J. Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law

Journal

Prel. Rem. Preliminary Remarks

QB Law Reports – Queen's Bench Division

r/rr rule/rules

RCDIP Revue Critique de Droit International

Privé (journal)

Revue de l'Arbitrage (journal)

Rev. Bras. Arb. Revista Brasileira de Arbitragem (journal)
RG Reichgericht (Supreme Court of the Ger-

man Reich until 1945)

RGZ Entscheidungen des Reichgerichts in Zivil-

sachen (official collection of Supreme Court of the German Reich decisions in

civil matters until 1945)

RG Reichgericht (Supreme Court of the Ger-

man Reich until 1945)

RGZ Entscheidungen des Reichgerichts in Zivil-

sachen (official collection of Supreme Court of the German Reich decisions in

civil matters until 1945)

RTD com. Revue trimestrielle de droit commercial

(journal)

s section

SCC Stockholm Chamber of Commerce
SCC Rules Rules of the Arbitration Institute of the

Stockholm Chamber of Commerce

SchiedsVZ Zeitschrift für Schiedsverfahren (German

Arbitration Journal)

SIAC Singapore International Arbitration Centre
SIAC Rules Rules of the Singapore International Arbi-

tration Centre

SJ La semaine judiciaire Geneva (journal)

Spec. Special

SPILA Swiss Private International Law Act 1987

St. John's Law Review

Stan. J. Int'l L. Stanford Journal of International Law Stockholm Arb. Rep. Stockholm International Report Stockholm Int'l Arb Rev Stockholm International Arbitration

Review

Sup. Ct Supreme Court Supp. Supplement

TDM Transational Dispute Management Tex. Int'l. L. J. Texas International Law Journal

U.K. United Kingdom

U. Miami L.Rv University of Miami Law Review

U.S. the United States

U.S. FAA Federal Arbitration Act (U.S.)

UKHL United Kingdom House of Lords (neutral

citation), available at https://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKHL/ (last visited June 9, 2020)

UKSC United Kingdom Supreme Court

UN United Nations

UNCITRAL United Nations Commission on Interna-

tional Trade Law

UNCITRAL Model Law UNCITRAL Model Law on International

Commercial Law

v versus

VIAC Vienna International Arbitral Centre

VIAC Rules Rules of the Vienna International Arbitral

Centre

WLR The Weekly Law Reports
YAR Young Arbitration Review

YCA Yearbook Commercial Arbitration by

ICCA

ZPO Deutsches Schiedsverfahrensrecht, Zivil-

prozessordung (German Code of Civil

Procedure)

ZVglIRWiss Zeitschrift für Vergleichende Rechtswis-

senschaft (journal)

ZZP Zeitschrift für Zivilprozess (journal)ZZPint Zeitschrift für Zivilprozess International

(journal)