



Boris Vittoz

Partner, Attorney-at-law

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Languages

French, English

Expertise

Boris Vittoz has been practicing international arbitration and litigating before State courts for over 20 years. As an arbitration practitioner, Boris has been involved in around 60 cases in various capacities. Boris mainly acts as counsel, but he also regularly sits as arbitrator in commercial cases, including as Sole Arbitrator or President. He was an arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sports in Lausanne (Switzerland) and a member of the Arbitration Court of the Swiss Arbitration Centre during six years.

Boris's practice focuses on international commercial disputes of various types across a range of industries; he is also frequently involved in sports and trust and estate disputes. His practice includes ancillary and enforcement proceedings, such as enforcement of foreign awards/judgements in Switzerland, attachment proceedings pertaining to assets located in Switzerland and bankruptcy proceedings. Boris has successfully led international teams composed of foreign lawyers and experts in high-value cases across several jurisdictions.

Boris's experience includes crisis management situations for clients facing simultaneously multiple legal, governance and other challenges, such as investigations from foreign authorities and international institutions, disputes among internal bodies and with investors, debtors and employees involving arbitration, civil, disciplinary, criminal and other court proceedings in various fora.

On top of his Swiss law expertise, Boris holds a postgraduate diploma in EC and European law delivered by the University of Paris I, which included the study of European competition law.

Recent appointments include: (i) lead counsel in relation to the enforcement of a CHF 65M ICC award in various jurisdictions, including Switzerland, the UK and the Cayman Islands, (ii) counsel for a Swiss life science company in a Swiss-based post M&A arbitration, (iii) co-arbitrator in an ICC arbitration involving issues related to sanctions against Russia, and (iv) lead counsel for a foreign pharmaceutical company before Swiss courts in relation to a distribution agreement of pharmaceutical products with a value in dispute of around CHF 60 million; (v) acting for an African conglomerate operating petroleum refineries in West Africa in relation to the enforcement of claims against a company in Switzerland; (vi) counsel for a life science company in a multi-million dispute related to the financing of heavy medical equipment.

Dispute Resolution

Investigations & White Collar

Sports

Career

2023	Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey, Geneva
2022	Partner, law firm, Geneva
2021	Member of the Ethics Commission of the International Squash Federation
2020	Arbitrator at the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal
2016	Member of the Court, Swiss Arbitration Centre
2013	Arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport
2013	Co-Chair ASA Vaud Group, Swiss Arbitration Association
2011	Founding Partner, law firm, Lausanne
2007	Associate, law firm, Geneva
2003	Trainee and then Associate, law firm, Geneva

Education

2005	Admitted to the Swiss Bar
2002	DEA, University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne)
2001	Law Degree, University of Lausanne

Professional Memberships

Swiss Arbitration Association

Geneva bar association

Swiss bar association

Speaking Engagements

- Lois “étrangères” et arbitrage international (as co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, May 2022
- Some Specific Aspects of Football Arbitration in Front of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) (as co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, August 2021
- International Commercial Arbitration : Confidential or Not ? (as co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, November 2019
- Le Règlement Suisse d’Arbitrage International : Un instrument attractif pour les investisseurs dans les pays de la Ligue Arabe
The Arab Conference for Investment and Development, Towards an Attractive Legislation Investment Environment, Sharm el-Sheikh, April 2019
- Norme SIA 150 (2018) en matière d’arbitrage de construction : Panacée ou mouche du coche? (co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, January 2019

- L'efficacité de la procédure accélérée selon le Règlement suisse d'arbitrage international by Boris Vittoz SCAI, Swiss Embassy, Paris, March 2017
- Expedited Proceedings and their Limits in Traditional Formats by Boris Vittoz SCAI Innovation Conference, Genève, February 2017
- Mesures provisionnelles et effet suspensif devant le Tribunal Arbitral du Sport (co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, November 2016
- Time is Money: How to Prevent and Efficiently Manage Commodities Trade-Related Disputes (co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, Septembre 2016
- Responsabilité solidaire des clubs dans le cadre d'un transfert de joueur à la lumière de la sentence Juventus c. Livorno et Chelsea (co-organizer and moderator) ASA Group Vaud, November 2015
- Coûts de l'arbitrage v. coûts de la procédure étatique: comparaison entre arbitrage Swiss Rules et procédure civile dans les cantons de Vaud et Genève by Boris Vittoz (co-speaker, organizer and moderator), ASA Group Vaud, May 2014

Market Perception

"Boris Vittoz is a hard-working and diligent arbitrator. He has conducted the arbitration impeccably and has produced a well-reasoned award in a timely fashion." (Legal 500 2025 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"Boris Vittoz is dedicated and provides solid advice." (Legal 500 2025 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"Frank Spoorenberg and Boris Vittoz are first-class practitioners."
(Legal 500 2024 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"He thinks creatively and is able to use foreign law techniques to further his client's case'. 'Boris has excellent people skills'. 'He is calm, legally strong and knows how to perform in legal hearings'.
(Who's Who Legal: Arbitration Future Leaders - Partners 2024)

"Boris is incredibly skilled and meticulous in his approach'. 'He is a very strong sports arbitrator'. 'He is very thorough and strategic - one of the best practitioners in the jurisdiction'.
(Who's Who Legal: Switzerland - Sports & Entertainment 2023)

