



Frank Spoorenberg

Partner, Attorney-at-law

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Languages

French, English, German

Expertise

Frank acts as counsel before arbitral tribunals as well as state courts. He regularly sits as co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator and chairman. He also assists parties in pre-arbitration or pre-litigation phases, as well as in annulment proceedings against awards before the Swiss Supreme Court. His cases relate among others to M&A, joint ventures, distribution, agency, licensing, service agreements and international sales. His industry experience includes among others energy, telecommunications, trading, machine industry, automobile, pharma, luxury industry, robotic, construction, oil and gas, bank and finance, sport industry and real estate. Frank is a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR.

Dispute Resolution

Career

- 2023 Partner, Niederer Kraft Frey, Geneva
- 2007 Partner, Swiss law firm, Geneva
- 2002 Associate, Swiss law firm, Geneva
- 2001 Foreign Associate, international law firm, New York and Washington, D.C.
- 1997 Associate, Swiss law firm, Geneva
- 1993 Trainee, Associate, Swiss law firm, Geneva

Education

- 1995 Admitted to the Swiss Bar
- 1993 LL.M., College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium
- 1991 Master of Law, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Experience

- Frank has acted as counsel and arbitrator in over 100 arbitration proceedings. He has published and spoken in the area of contract and arbitration law.
- Before focusing on international arbitration and commercial litigation, Frank developed a strong expertise in M&A, financing, general corporate and commercial contracts.
- Experience highlights include:
 - Counsel in an ICC arbitration in a trust dispute, representing a private client
 - Counsel in an LCIA arbitration in the oil and gas industry, representing an African bulk distribution company against a leading commodity trading company
 - Counsel in a CiArb arbitration in the shipbuilding industry, representing a top tier European shipbuilder and shipyard operator
 - Counsel in an Emergency arbitrator proceeding (ICC) in the steel industry, representing a top tier international group
 - Counsel in a Swiss Rules case in the air travel food and beverage industry, brand owner against a multinational group

Professional Memberships

- Geneva and Swiss Bar Associations
- Swiss Arbitration Association (former board member)
- Member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- International Bar Association
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association
- Court of the Swiss Arbitration Centre (former Vice-President and former court member)

Speaking Engagements

- Commercial Disputes & Swiss Law Forum, Swiss Contract law, a pillar of legal certainty in global commerce (GILW 25, panel discussion), Geneva, 9 March 2026
- From Rules to Reality, ICC Expedited Arbitration in Practice, Swiss arbitration summit 2026 (ICC panel discussion), Geneva, 14 January 2026
- The Benefit of the Neutral Forum – Exploring the Attraction of Switzerland, Hong Kong and Singapore for International Arbitrations, panel discussion, ASA, Hong Kong Arbitration Week, 21 October 2024
- International Arbitration and Corporate Governance, Stanford Law School, Stanford, 30 November 2023
- La révision du droit de la société anonyme et l'arbitrage, Règlement suisse supplémentaire pour les différends relevant du droit des sociétés, Geneva, Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA) and Chambre de Commerce, d'industrie et des services de Genève (CCIG), Geneva, 15 March 2023
- Nouveau Règlement suisse supplémentaire pour les différends relevant du droit des sociétés, Swiss Arbitration Association, Geneva, December 2022

- Profils, attentes et transparences des arbitres français et suisses: quelles convergences, quelles différences? Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA), Association Française d'Arbitrage (afa), Ordre des Avocats de Paris, Ordre des Avocats de Genève, Geneva, October 2022
- Arbitrage du droit des sociétés: clause arbitrale et procédure, Swiss Arbitration Association, Geneva Group, October 2021
- Turkish Arbitration Law: Thoughts for change as a 20th - birthday present? Istanbul Bilgi University, Webinar, October 2021
- Putting Corporate Law Arbitration into Practice: The Swiss Rules and DIS Approaches, Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA), Fall Conference, Bern, September 2021
- Dealing with possible objections regarding jurisdiction – Absence of a party, IDArb, Dispute Resolution for International Distribution, Geneva, November 2018
- The conditions for an effective expedited procedure. A comparison of different experiences, IDI, International Distribution Institution, Florence, June 2018
- Dispute Resolution in Turkey: Challenges & Opportunities, ICC Turkey Arbitration Day, Istanbul, February 2018
- International Arbitration Rules of the Swiss Chambers' Arbitration Institution (SCAI) in comparison with the Rules of the Tehran Regional Arbitration Center (TRAC), Appointment and Challenge of Arbitrators, Tehran, April 2016
- Disputes from A to Z – Handling disputes with commercial partners from other jurisdictions: choosing the best dispute resolution technique, optimizing costs..., General Counsel 2016, Development Institute International, Geneva, March 2016
- International Arbitration: Limitless Flexibility?, DRI, Zurich, April 2015
- Réconcilier les attentes des traditions de common law et de droit civil: L'exemple des Règles IBA sur la Preuve, UIA, Florence (Italy), October 2014
- Swiss Rules: Expedited Procedure, 2014 International Distribution Institute annual conference, Turin (Italy), June 2014
- Arbitration Legislation Reform in Russia: Comments from a Swiss Perspective, Russian Arbitration Association, Moscow, April 2014
- 10 Years of Swiss Rules of International Arbitration, an Arbitrator's View: A few Reflections about Case Administration under the Swiss Rules, ASA annual conference, Basel, January 2014
- Arbitrages concernant des contrats d'intermédiaires – Questions procédurales et de fond, y compris allégations d'illicéité, Swiss Arbitration Association, Geneva Group, Geneva, November 2013
- Methodology to instruct and monitor counsel in complex arbitration/litigation proceedings, while securing the desired outcome, 15th Annual Roundtable, General Counsels, Geneva, June 2010, with Pierre-Yves

Market Perception

"Frank Spoorenberg is commended for "his extremely calm and diligent demeanour" paired with "sharp legal insight". His ability to combine law with business acumen makes him a highly effective counsel and arbitrator." (Lexology Index – Switzerland 2026)

NIEDERER KRAFT FREY

"Frank's deep knowledge of cases and ability to stay on top of all the details is truly impressive", "He has consistently demonstrated exceptional diligence and thorough preparation", "He possesses strong analytical skills and is highly persuasive in his arguments" (Lexology Index – Global Arbitration Review)

"Frank Spoorenberg is a top-notch lawyer and arbitrator. Outstanding lawyer, hands-on arbitrator, calm and balanced, extremely diligent and professional. One of my favourite arbitrators around." (Legal 500 2026 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"I worked with Frank Spoorenberg and found him extremely competent and available. He demonstrated remarkably clear and effective advocacy." (Legal 500 2026 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"Frank Spoorenberg is an outstanding lawyer, both when acting as counsel and arbitrator. He is exceptionally smart, skilled, business oriented and calm." (Legal 500 2026 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"I have recent experience working in cases involving Frank Spoorenberg as counsel, and also know him as an arbitrator. He is very experienced and professional, and, in my experience, consistently well-prepared, responsive and efficient. He is held in high regard in the Swiss arbitration community." (Legal 500 2026 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

"Frank Spoorenberg has a great legal mind and a towering presence in the hearing room." (Chambers Global and Europe 2026 – Arbitrators client)

"Frank Spoorenberg is very reliable and knowledgeable. He is someone in the tribunal dynamic who other members really respect and like." (Chambers Global and Europe 2026 – Arbitrators client)

"Frank knows his job perfectly. He offers very good ideas and is very reactive." (Chambers Global and Europe 2026 – Arbitrators client)

"Frank Spoorenberg is a very bright and really excellent lawyer. I have worked with him as both counsel and arbitrator, and he is outstanding." (Chambers Global and Europe 2026 – Arbitrators client)

"Frank Spoorenberg is a highly respected arbitration specialist in Switzerland, frequently acting in complex international disputes involving sectors such as energy, pharma, and construction." (Lexology Index – Switzerland 2025)

"Frank's deep knowledge of cases and ability to stay on top of all the details is truly impressive". "He has consistently demonstrated exceptional diligence and thorough preparation". "He possesses strong analytical skills and is highly persuasive in his arguments" (Lexology Index – Arbitration 2025)

"Frank Spoorenberg is an outstanding lawyer (excellent legal skills), business-oriented and pragmatic." (Legal 500 2025 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

Frank Spoorenberg is an extremely experienced arbitration counsel. He is a very skilful lawyer with excellent legal knowledge and a convincing attitude. He is responsive to the needs of the client. (Chambers Global 2025 – Arbitrators client)

Frank Spoorenberg is a strategic thinker who is very proactive and reactive. He is very pragmatic as well, which is a very useful characteristic. Frank Spoorenberg's command of the technical aspects of an arbitration is extremely valuable and strong. (Chambers Global 2025 – Arbitrators client)

Frank Spoorenberg is very thorough and has a minute attention to detail. He has a good understanding of potential loopholes and gives us very good advice. (Chambers Global 2025 – Arbitrators client)

Frank Spoorenberg was extremely well prepared in the hearings. (Chambers Global 2024 – Arbitrators client)

Frank Spoorenberg stands out as one of the best arbiters in Switzerland. (Legal 500 2024 – Dispute Resolution: Arbitration)

Frank Spoorenberg is an excellent arbitrator with a pragmatic approach and a sound legal judgement. (Chambers 2023 - Arbitration)

Frank Spoorenberg acts as arbitrator on commercial arbitration cases, including construction as well as supply and distribution agreement disputes. He also represents clients in post-M&A cases. A source states: "What makes him very pleasant to work with is that he is very calm, he is always on top of the issues and he is very straightforward." (Chambers Global and Europe 2022 – Counsel, Arbitrators)

Frank Spoorenberg possesses "extensive knowledge of the arbitration process" and provides a "strategic and professional approach" in M&A, financing and contract disputes. (Who's Who Legal 2021 – Arbitration)

Frank Spoorenberg is an "excellent professional, he is quick and reliable and he has a bright spirit," according to sources. He acts as arbitrator on commercial arbitration cases, including construction as well as supply and distribution agreement disputes. He also represents clients in post-M&A cases. (Chambers Global and Europe 2021 – Counsel, Arbitrators)

Frank Spoorenberg assists clients with commercial and post-M&A disputes. Sources highlight his "thorough analysis and ability to develop the best strategy" and add that "even under pressure, he is able to remain on top of things." He also chairs commercial, construction and contractual arbitrations, particularly in the energy industry. Interviewees describe him as "very efficient and smart." (Chambers Global and Europe 2020 – Arbitration)

Publications

- Frank Spoorenberg, Pierre-Yves Tschanz Yearly, Review of Swiss arbitration decisions, in: Revue de l'arbitrage since 2018
- Frank Spoorenberg, Yearly review of Swiss arbitration cases, in: Turkish Journal of International Trade and Arbitration Law (JITAL), 2011 to 2021
- Frank Spoorenberg, Commentary of Art. 1-2 of the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration, in: Zuberbühler/Müller/Habegger (edit.), Commentary of the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration, 3rd ed, Zurich 2023 (co-author)
- Frank Spoorenberg, Arbitration in Switzerland – The Practitioner's Guide, ICC Rules Art. 38-41, in: Manuel ARROYO (edit.), Wolters Kluwer, Arbitration in Switzerland – The Practitioner's Guide, 2nd ed., 2018
- Frank Spoorenberg, The Arbitrators' Initiative: When, Why and How Should It Be Used?, in: ASA Special Series No. 45, 2016 (co-editor with Domitille Baizeau)
- Frank Spoorenberg, An arbitrator's perspective : A few reflections about the case administration under the Swiss Rules in 10 years of Swiss Rules of International Arbitration, in: Nathalie VOSER (edit.), ASA Special Series No. 44, 2014
- Frank Spoorenberg, Consent to Arbitrate: A Prerequisite to Arbitration, in: Journal of International Trade and Arbitration Law (JITAL) vol 1/2 2012, pp. 241 ff (co-author)
- Frank Spoorenberg, Energy Agreements – Force Majeure and Hardship Clauses, in: Makuch/Pereira (edit.), Environmental and Energy Law, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, Chapter 11, 2012 (co-author)

