

RENÉ CIENCIALA

PARTNER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



SPECIALISATION

- Litigation and arbitration
- International arbitration and investment protection
- Sports law
- Law of obligations

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René is a partner responsible for the international desk at Urban & Hejduk with nearly 10 years of experience in a top Czech law firm. He provides comprehensive legal advice to Czech and foreign clients in all phases of court proceedings and commercial arbitration in the Czech Republic (the Czech Arbitration Court) and abroad (ICC, LCIA, VIAC, and UNCITRAL). René has been involved in representing clients in dozens of complicated cases. He assists clients in preparing structured arbitration clauses, in proceedings on the annulment of arbitration awards, or in recognising and enforcing foreign judgments and arbitration awards in the Czech Republic.

In addition, he specialises in sports law and has extensive experience with international sports arbitration (CAS), international disciplinary proceedings (UEFA), or as an arbitrator for the Czech Football Association. Last but not least, René focuses on the protection of foreign investments and has experience with representing investors vis-à-vis the state in investment arbitration relating to damages (ICSID). He also is active as an arbitrator in various professional associations. René graduated from the prestigious University of Geneva LL.M. programme in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS).

SELECTED REFERENCES

- Representing a regional bank and its parent company in international investment arbitration (ICSID) in a dispute over damages in excess of CZK 10 billion relating to the forced exchange of Greek government bonds.
- Representing a construction company in various disputes arising from contracts for work relating to the construction of large development, linear, or multifunctional structures exceeding an amount of CZK 6 billion, including politically exposed arbitration concerning the completion of the Blanka tunnel complex in Prague.

- Representing the insolvency administrator of an engineering and supply company in ICC arbitration in a dispute arising from a contract for the renovation of a part of a power plant with a claim of over CZK 856 million.
- Representing a construction company from an international group in a dispute over unjust enrichment of almost CZK 480 million relating to the enforcement of mining activities in an extraction area.
- Representing a foreign investment fund in a dispute over damages of almost EUR 11.8 million relating to the sale (M&A transaction) of a group of companies in the tourism industry.
- Representing an important international financial consulting group in ICC arbitration in a dispute over damages of EUR 5 million relating to the purchase (M&A transaction) of a leading Czech financial consulting firm.
- Representing a construction company from an international group in several disputes arising from contracts for work relating to the construction of water management structures.
- Representing an international pharmaceutical company in ICC arbitration in a dispute over the payment of a contractual penalty for breaching a shareholders agreement and confidentiality obligations.
- Representing major companies operating in construction, engineering, the automotive industry, banking and financial services, the international transportation of goods, or the media industry in court proceedings or commercial arbitration.
- Representing a prominent Czech athletic association in several international sports arbitration cases before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne (CAS).

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Czech Bar Association

Arbitration Court attached to the Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic and Agricultural Chamber of the Czech Republic

ICC Czech Republic (Commission on International Arbitration)

Board of Arbitrators of the Czech Football Association

YCAP - Young Czech Arbitration Professionals

ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (ICC YAF)

Young International Arbitration Group (YIAG)

Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (Young ICCA)

LANGUAGES

Czech, English

EDUCATION

Université de Genève, Faculty of Law & Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Switzerland), LL.M. (Master in International Dispute Settlement – MIDS), 2018

Charles University, Faculty of Law (Prague), JUDr., 2017

Charles University, Faculty of Law (Prague), Mgr., 2013

McGill University, Faculty of Law (Canada), study visit, 2013

British Law Centre/University of Cambridge (Slovakia/UK), Diploma in English and European Union Law, 2012