
Biography



Michael Polkinghorne

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Bars and Courts

Paris Bar

Solicitor of England and Wales

Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of South Australia

Education

LLM, (Hons) Queens' College, Cambridge University, (Commonwealth Scholar)

LLB, (Hons), University of Adelaide, South Australia (Stow Medalist)

Languages

English

French

Citizenship

Australia

Practice Experience

Michael Polkinghorne is a dual-qualified lawyer, resident in Paris where he heads the office's arbitration and energy groups. He is joint-head of the firm's oil and gas practice, as well as pro bono leader of the firm's Paris office. He has a broad range of experience in arbitration and litigation in the areas of energy, telecommunications, project finance and infrastructure.

Michael has advised a number of petroleum clients on projects in South East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the CIS and North Africa. He is a member of the Legal Advisory Taskforce of the European Energy Charter Secretariat.

Michael has extensive experience in the context of gas-price reopeners, having drafted standard-form gas sales agreements for a major North-African state-owned oil company, and advised both buyers and sellers in the context of negotiations and the resolution of disputes where negotiations fail. Having advised on the Russian gas crises of 2006 and 2009, he is at present advising buyers and sellers in several gas-price arbitrations and currently sits as an arbitrator in a major European dispute of the same nature.

A dual-qualified (civil and common law) lawyer, Michael has served as counsel and arbitrator in arbitrations conducted under most major institutional rules. He is the former Australian member of the International Court of Arbitration of the ICC, and a current member of the ICC TaskForce on reducing costs in complex arbitrations, as well as the TaskForce on the Revision of ICC Rules and the TaskForce on Arbitration involving States and State Entities. He is also a member of the Legal Advisory Task Force of the Energy Charter Secretariat.

Michael has significant expertise in the area of foreign direct investment and acting for and against States. He has written extensively on energy dispute resolution and foreign investment, and provides courses on long-term energy contracts and dispute resolution.

Michael is consistently ranked in the top tier of energy practitioners in Europe and was named "Energy Lawyer of the Year" at *Euromoney's* 2014 Global Commercial Arbitration Awards.