



Christopher Smith

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Areas of Practice

International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution | Litigation / Trial Practice | German Practice | Korea Practice

Christopher (Chris) Smith is Counsel and Head of the International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Mr. Smith is also a member of the Firm's German, Korea, and International Law Practices.

Mr. Smith represents businesses in their cross-border disputes with companies and foreign governments. He has over a decade of experience representing clients in international disputes, as well as arbitration agreement and award enforcement litigation matters in United States courts. Mr. Smith also has significant experience representing investors in disputes with governments relating to cross-border investments. His practice spans a variety of industries, including the renewable energy, pharmaceutical, intellectual property, automotive, nuclear power, insurance, oil and gas, and mining sectors.

From May 2022 to January 2024, Mr. Smith was Vice President and Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of the Atlanta International Arbitration Society (AtIAS). In January 2024, AtIAS's Board of Directors elected Mr. Smith to the position of Secretary of the organization. Mr. Smith also has been on the AtIAS Board of Directors since May 2022. Since 2021, Mr. Smith has been a Regional Representative for North America of the International Chamber of Commerce Young Arbitration & ADR Forum. He also coached the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team at the University of Georgia School of Law from 2016 to 2019.

Mr. Smith regularly speaks at international arbitration and cross-border disputes conferences. Most recently, Mr. Smith chaired the 12th Annual Atlanta International Arbitration Society Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia, from October 2-4, 2023, and the 11th ITA-IEL-ICC Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration Young Roundtable, held in Houston, Texas, on January 19, 2023.

Chris also frequently publishes on international arbitration matters, including on recent developments in U.S. courts that affect arbitration practice.

While Mr. Smith currently is based in Smith, Gambrell & Russell's headquarters in Atlanta, he previously has worked in Paris, France; Zurich, Switzerland; and Cologne, Germany. Mr. Smith is fluent in German and has represented dozens of German, Swiss, and Austrian clients in arbitration disputes. He also has significant experience representing South Korean businesses in international arbitration and U.S. litigation matters.

Prior to joining Smith, Gambrell & Russell, Mr. Smith worked in the International Arbitration Practice of a major international law firm, and in the International Arbitration Practice of a large Swiss law firm.

Mr. Smith earned his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he graduated *cum laude*. While in law school, Mr. Smith was a member of the Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team. He also was the Training Chair of the Negotiation Competition Team, where he and a teammate won First Place in the 2012 Robert R. Merhige, Jr. National Environmental Negotiation Competition at the University of Richmond School of Law. Mr. Smith also was a Submissions Editor of the Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law. He holds a B.A. in Political Science and History from Furman University, where he graduated *magna cum laude*. Mr. Smith is a member of the Georgia Bar.

Representative Experience

- Obtained an award of over \$95 million in a SIAC arbitration representing a South Korean electronics manufacturer involved in a dispute with another Asian electronics company arising out of a patent cross-license agreement.
- Prior to a hearing, settled a dispute on terms very favorable to the client, a U.S. public utility involved in an ICDR arbitration with a supplier arising out of a uranium supply and conversion agreement.
- Enforced in Texas state courts three arbitral awards in a dispute related to a joint venture agreement. In the AAA/ICDR arbitration, the tribunal awarded the U.S.-based pharmaceutical client injunctive relief.
- Advised a U.S.-based investment company involved in an ICDR arbitration with two insurance companies relating to a dispute arising out of a political risk insurance policy covering a mining investment in a CIS country; the client obtained an award of over \$100 million.
- Obtained eight awards totaling approximately €190 million on behalf of European investors in the renewable energy sector. The awards were issued in ICSID and SCC arbitrations arising out of the Kingdom of Spain's and the Italian Republic's alterations to and abrogation's of their renewable energy incentive regimes. In addition to the underlying amounts awarded, the eight tribunals awarded the investors over €20 million in legal fees and costs, as well as interest.

Admissions

Georgia

Memberships

- Secretary of the Board and Member of the Executive Committee, Atlanta International Arbitration Society (“AtIAS”) (Jan. 2024 – Present)
- Vice President and Member of the Executive Committee of the Board, AtIAS (May 2022 – Jan. 2024)
- Member of the Board of Directors, AtIAS (May 2022 – Present)
- Regional Representative for North America, ICC Young Arbitration & ADR Forum (“ICC YAAF”) (Aug. 2021 – Present)
- Co-Coach, University of Georgia Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Team (Oct. 2016 – Apr. 2019)

Speaking Engagements

- Co-Chair of the 12th Annual AtIAS Conference (Jan. – Oct. 2023)
- Co-Chair of 11th ITA-IEL-ICC Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration Young Roundtable, Houston, TX (Jan. 2023)
- Moderator of ICC YAAF / AtIAS Young Practitioners Group (“YPG”) Panel, Atlanta, GA (Sept. 2022)
- Panel Moderator at Young ICCA Virtual Workshop and Practical Workshop Facilitator, Virtual (Mar. 2022)
- Panel Moderator at AtIAS Annual and Plenary Meeting, Atlanta, GA (Jan. 2022)
- Panel Moderator at 9th Annual AtIAS Conference, Virtual (Dec. 2020)
- Speaker on ICC YAAF / AtIAS YPG Panel, Atlanta, GA (Sept. 2019)

Publications

- *U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down “Wholly Groundless” Exception Where Parties Have Agreed to Arbitrate Arbitrators’ Jurisdiction*, King & Spalding Client Alert, Jan. 14, 2019, <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/u-s-supreme-court-strikes-down-wholly-11205/>
- *Expropriation Under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act: Raising the Jurisdictional Bar*, Kluwer Arb. Blog; Young ICCA Blog, Sept. 2017, <https://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2017/09/13/icca/>
- *Not Quite Left Out to Dry: Remedies Under International Investment Treaties Available to Renewable Energy Investors Harmed by Retroactive Legislative Changes*, King & Spalding Energy Newsletter, Nov. 2015, <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/not-quite-left-out-to-dry-remedies-87764/>. Co-authored with Amy Roebuck Frey
- *An Eleventh Circuit U-Turn: How International Arbitration Practitioners Should Now Engage § 1782 Discovery in the United States*, Kluwer Arb. Blog, Feb. 19, 2014, <https://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2014/02/19/an-eleventh-circuit-u-turn-how-international-arbitration-practitioners-should-now-engage-%c2%a7-1782-discovery-in-the-united-states/>. Co-authored with James Menz
- *The Appeal of ICSID Awards: How the AMINZ Appellate Mechanism Can Guide Reform of ICSID Procedure*, 41 GA. J. INT’L & COMP. L. 567 (2013), Student Note