



Charles Poncet

Languages

French, Italian,
English, German

Dr Charles Poncet, M.C.L.

Partner

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Dispute Resolution

Born in Geneva (Switzerland) on December 31st, 1946 Dr Poncet is a partner in the Geneva law firm of ZPG: the firm specializes in international arbitration, commercial litigation, public law and general corporate work.

Admitted to the Geneva Bar in 1972, after two years of internship ("avocat stagiaire"), Dr Poncet was trained as a trial lawyer, participating in several leading criminal cases as early as 1974. Due to a growing interest in international affairs, however, he decided to gain experience abroad and went to London to improve his written English and to practise English law at a firm of solicitors in London. Eventually, he became a foreign associate at Arnold & Porter in Washington D.C., mainly working for Robert E. Herzstein. Upon his return to Switzerland in 1974, he went to Zurich and practiced at Stähelin, Hafter & Partners. In 1975 he joined his family law firm in Geneva (Poncet, Turrettini, Amaudruz & Neyroud), founded by his father and led by his brother, who was a senior partner until his death in 2004. In 1981 he joined Lalive & Budin, another law firm in Geneva, until he decided to start his own law firm in 1986, which eventually became ZPG in Geneva. In 2014, ZPG merged with Von Erlach Henrici in Zurich and became CMS von Erlach Poncet.

Dr Poncet has been active in international arbitration for over twenty years, initially as secretary of several international arbitral tribunals and subsequently as arbitrator, chairman or counsel. He appeared in several leading cases concerning large scale investments, joint ventures and other disputes, often involving amounts in dispute approaching or in excess of one billion USD.

In 1965, Dr Poncet obtained his B.A. ("maturité") at Calvin College in Geneva, majoring in classical studies (Latin and Greek). He then graduated from the University of Geneva Law School in 1969 (licence en droit). In 1972, after the mandatory two years internship, he qualified at the Geneva Bar examination. While in the US, he was awarded the degree of Master of Comparative Law at Georgetown University Law School in Washington D.C. and studied at the institute for Foreign and International Trade Law. Finally, he obtained his Ph.D. in law (Doctorat en droit) at the University of Geneva Law School. (Work on his thesis started in 1977 and took several years to complete because of the difficulty of the subject and Dr Poncet's professional commitments. However, it was recognized by the Faculty as one of the very few theses submitted in Geneva by a practicing attorney as opposed to fulltime academic scholars).

Publications

- The Independence of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, 2012 European International Arbitration Review (2012)
- When is a "Swiss" "Award" appealable, Paris Journal of International Arbitration, 2012/1, L.G.D.J. Lextenso éditions, p. 135
- Obtaining revision of "Swiss" international arbitral award : whence after Thalès ?, in Stockholm International Arbitration Review, 2009 : 2, Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, p. 39-53
- Can a Party Benefiting from an Award Rendered Against a State Enforce the Award Against an Instrumentality of Such State? Introductory Remarks in IAI Series No 4 on State Entities in International Arbitration, E. Gaillard and J. Younan eds., Juris Publishing, 2008
- Challenges to the jurisdiction of international arbitrators, an important decision of the Swiss Supreme Court, 50 Arbitration p. 156 (1984)
- Except on international arbitration from the Swiss draft statute on private international law, XXIII International Legal Materials p. 713 (1984).
- Swiss Supreme Court opinions in the first and second Santa Fe cases, XXII International Legal Materials p. 785 (1983) and XXIV International Legal Materials p. 745 (1985).
- Swiss Supreme Court opinion in the matter of EL NASR EXPORT IMPORT & CO. v. ANGLO FRENCH STEEL CORPORATION SA, XXIII International Legal Materials p. 1143 (1984), also X Yearbook Commercial Arbitration p. 123 (1985).
- Book review (Bank accounts: a world guide to confidentiality), 78 American Journal of International Law 1013 (1984).
- The new Swiss statute on international arbitration, XXVII International Legal Materials p. 37 (1988).
- Switzerland's new statute on international arbitration, 1 WAMR 15 (1990).
- Swiss Supreme Court clarifies scope of the new arbitration law, 1 WAMR 52 (1990).
- Swiss Supreme Court finds no immediate right to appeal Court's appointment of arbitrator, 1 WAMR 88 (1990).
- Swiss Supreme Court examines implications of stay based on set-off counterclaim, 2 WAMR 38 (1991).
- Swiss Supreme Court gives narrow construction to "public policy", 2 WAMR 97 (1991).
- Lack of reasoned opinion will not form basis for appeal under Swiss law, 2 WAMR 241 (1991).
- Swiss Supreme Court reaffirms strict view of public policy, 2 WAMR 265 (1991).
- Swiss Supreme Court rules on severability, waiver of appeal, right to be heard, 2 WAMR 297 (1991).

Expertise

- Dispute Resolution