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David Arias
Arias SLP

Languages

Spanish, English, French

Nationality

Spanish

Bar Admission

Madrid, 1991

David is a partner at Arias SLP. He has 35 years of experience in dispute resolution. He has acted as counsel and as arbitrator in more than 200 cases in venues across Europe, America, Asia and Africa. He regularly participates in proceedings administered by the main arbitral institutions (ICC, PCA, ICSID, LCIA, ICDR, SIAC and SCC, among others). He also has extensive experience as counsel in complex commercial litigation.

David is regularly recognised as lawyer and as most-in-demand arbitrator in leading international legal publications and directories including the Chambers and Partners publications, Chambers Global and Chambers Europe, Legal 500 and Latin Lawyer 250. He is also ranked in the "Thought Leaders – Arbitration" section published by Lexology.

David was Chair of the IBA Arbitration Committee between 2016 and 2017. Previously, he chaired its Subcommittee on Conflicts of Interest, which published the 2014 IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration. Additionally, he helped draft the 2010 IBA Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration. From 2013 to 2017, he was President of the Spanish and Ibero-American Arbitration Club, of which he is Honorary President.

David is a Professor of Procedural Law and Arbitration. He obtained his BA in Law, with Honours, and his PhD, also with Honours, from Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He was admitted to the Madrid Bar in 1991. In addition to the languages he speaks, David reads and understands Italian and Portuguese.

Representative matters as arbitrator

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between a Western European company and an Eastern European State in relation to an alleged shareholding of the company in that State (ICSID, BIT, English)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between Asian companies in relation to the construction of a water infrastructure (SIAC, undetermined, law of an Asian country, English)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving European and Latin American companies in relation to an energy project (ICC, Bern, law of a Latin American country, English)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving several Latin American parties arising from various corporate instruments (ICC, Paris, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving North American and Latin American companies in relation to various distribution agreements (ad hoc, London, English law, English)
- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving African parties in relation to an energy concession (ad hoc, London, law of an African country, English)

- Presiding Arbitrator in a dispute between a Latin American company and a European company arising from reinsurance agreements (ad hoc, Bucharest, law of a European country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between two Latin American companies deriving from a contract for the supply of electricity (PCA, Buenos Aires, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between various companies from Europe and America arising from an oil supply agreement and other related agreements (LCIA, London, law of a European country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between Latin American parties in relation to a trust deed (ICC, Mexico City, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between Latin American parties arising from various agreements for the transportation of liquefied natural gas (ICC, Mexico City, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in an arbitration between two Latin American companies arising from the construction of irrigation systems in an agricultural plantation located in a Latin American country (ICC, New York, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between two Latin American companies arising from an EPC contract for the rehabilitation of a highway in a Latin American country (ICC, Miami, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between European and Latin American companies arising from several contracts in relation to a renewable energy infrastructure in a Latin American country (ICC, Mexico City, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between European and Latin American companies arising from several contracts concerning construction, operation and maintenance of a renewable energy infrastructure in a Latin American country (ICC, Mexico City, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies in relation to a distribution agreement (LCIA, London, law of a European country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between a Middle East company and an African company arising from a vessel supply agreement (ICC, Zurich, law of a European country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving European and Latin American parties arising from several framework contracts for the design and construction of educational infrastructures in certain regions of a Latin American country (CAC-CCB, Bogota, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American parties arising from an agreement for the transportation of oil through a pipeline located in a Latin American country (CEM-CCQ, Quito, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving several US, European and African companies arising from certain supply and services agreements related to two liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants in an African country (ICDR, New York City, law of New York, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between an Australian company and a Latin American State in relation to a contract for the evaluation and exploitation of a dam (ICSID, Washington D.C., law of a Latin American country, English and Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in an arbitration between investors from Israel and South Africa and an African State in relation to an investor-State dispute (PCA, capital of an African country, investment law of an African country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving a Latin American and two European companies arising from a share purchase agreement (ICC, São Paulo, law of a Latin American country, English and Portuguese)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between two Latin American companies arising from a shareholders' agreement (ICC, Miami, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between several Latin American companies arising from various contracts for the construction of a hydroelectric plant in Peru (ICC, Lima, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between a Latin American distributor and an Asian motor vehicle manufacturer arising from a distribution agreement (ICC, Frankfurt, law of an Asian country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving an Asian company and an American company arising from a license and commercialization agreement (ICC, Paris, law of New York, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute between a Western European company and an Eastern European State in relation to the alleged expropriation of a project for the construction and operation of a hydroelectric plant in that State (ICC, Paris, law of an Eastern European country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving an African company and an African State in relation to a construction contract (ICC, Paris, law of an African country, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American companies and a North American company arising from a contract for the design, supply and construction of several switchyards in a mine site (CCL, Lima, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American companies, a North American company and a European company arising from a supply and maintenance contract of a gas turbine (ICC, Lima, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving three European companies and a North American company arising from a share purchase agreement (ad hoc, Lisbon, Portuguese law, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving four European companies and four Latin American companies in relation to the construction of two wind farms in a Latin American country (ICC, Paris, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American companies arising from a contract for the replacement of six compressors installed in a marine terminal (ICC, Mexico City, Mexican law, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving four Latin American companies arising from a sale and purchase agreement of gas (ICC, Buenos Aires, Argentinean law, Spanish)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving two European companies and a North American company arising from a contract for the provision of management services of a portfolio of credits (ICC, Lisbon, Portuguese law, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving several companies from Norway and other European countries arising from a contract relating to the investment and operation of a fishing plant in the United States (ICC, Paris, Portuguese law, English)

- Presiding arbitrator in a dispute involving two European companies regarding the development of a solar photovoltaic project in a European country (CAM, Madrid, European law, English)

- Sole arbitrator in a dispute involving an intermediary company and a football club arising from alleged economic rights derived from transfers of football players (CAS, Lausanne, Swiss law, Spanish)

- Sole arbitrator in a dispute between European parties arising from an agreement for the management of a family wealth (ad hoc, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish)

- Sole arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American companies in relation to a possible breach of a confidentiality agreement and other agreements entered under a contract for the sale and purchase of gas (ICC, Buenos Aires, Argentinean law, Spanish)

- Emergency Arbitrator in a dispute involving a Mexican and a Chilean company in relation to a vehicle distribution agreement (ICC, Mexico City, Mexican law, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between a European company and a European State arising from a share transfer and debt assignment agreement and from a joint venture agreement (ICC, Vienna, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving various parties arising from a highway concession contract in a Latin American country (ICSID, Washington D.C., law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between a European company and an African State arising from a construction agreement (ICC, London, law of an African country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving two European companies arising from a tolling agreement in relation to a power station (ICC, Paris, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising from a service agreement (Spanish Arbitration Court, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving various parties arising from a contract relating to a chemical production plant (ICC, London, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving various European parties arising from certain football professional relationships (CAS, Lausanne, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two Latin American companies arising from a concession contract for the construction of an infrastructure project in a Latin American country (ICC, Buenos Aires, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between various European parties arising from a company sale and purchase agreement (ICC, Madrid, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two Asian companies arising from a contract for the construction of a power plant in Asia (ICC, Tokyo, law of an Asian country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two Latin American companies arising from a highway concession contract (UNCITRAL, Washington D.C., law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies in relation to the alleged breach of the non-competition obligation contained in a collaboration and business development agreement (CAM, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising from a contract relating to the aeronautics sector (CAM, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising from the alleged breach of a share purchase agreement (CAM, Madrid, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising from an agreement for the construction of a ferry vessel (CAM, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising from an agreement for the sale of the shareholding in a real estate company (ICC, Madrid, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving various Latin American parties arising from a services agreement relating to a coal port infrastructure (LCIA, Mexico City, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies in connection with the operation of an energy facility in Europe (ICC, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish and English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between European and American companies in connection with several contracts relating to energy infrastructures in a Latin American country (ICC, Paris, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between several European and American companies in connection with the sale of shares of a highway concessionaire in a Latin American country (CAM-CCBC, Rio de Janeiro, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising out of a contract for the sale of real estate in a European country (CAM, Madrid, law of a European country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between several European companies in relation to EPC contracts for the construction of two gas compressors in a Nordic country (SCC, Stockholm, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between European and Latin American companies arising from a shareholders' agreement in relation to a broadcasting company (ICC, Paris, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies in relation to supply and services agreements of shares (ICC, Lisbon, law of a European country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between several Latin American parties arising from a concession contract (CARC-PUCP, Lima, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between several European and Latin American companies and the regional government of a Latin American State in relation to the alleged breach of a construction contract (ICC, Santiago de Chile, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving various Latin American parties arising from a telemetry, tracking and command agreement in relation to a satellite (ICDR, Houston, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving various Latin American companies and a North American company arising from a liquefied gas supply contract (ICC, New York, law of a Latin American country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute under the UNCITRAL Rules between a Latin American company and a regional government of a Latin American State arising from a concession agreement (ad hoc, Washington D.C., law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving two Asian companies in relation to a consortium agreement (ICC, city of an African country, law of an African country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving a Latin American company and two construction companies from Latin America and Europe in relation to the alleged breaches of an EPC turnkey contract for the construction of a hydroelectric power plant in a Latin American country (ICC, Santiago de Chile, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American companies and a Latin American State-owned company in relation to the alleged breach of a series of agreements between the parties relating to data transport and fibre optic communications (IACAC, Quito, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving several African and European companies arising from the alleged breach of a shareholders' agreement (ICC, Paris, law of an African country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two European companies arising from alleged breaches of a contract for the manufacturing and supply of certain boilers in the context of an EPC project for the modernization of a power plant (ICC, Paris, Spanish law, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving two European companies in relation to a share purchase agreement (ICC, Lisbon, Portuguese law, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving two Latin American companies in relation to the alleged breach of a contract for the performance of certain works within the framework of a project for the modernization of an oil refinery (ICC, Miami, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute under the Procedural Rules on Conciliation and Arbitration Contracts Financed by the European Development Fund involving an Italian company and the Ethiopia-Djibouti railway company in relation to a contract of refurbishment of part of the railway line between Addis Ababa and Djibouti (PCA, Ethiopia, Ethiopian law, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute under the Procedural Rules on Conciliation and Arbitration Contracts Financed by the European Development Fund involving an Italian company and the Ministry of Water and Energy of Ethiopia in relation to a contract for the construction and operation of a water treatment plant to supply fifteen Ethiopian cities with clean water (PCA, Ethiopia, Ethiopian law, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving a Spanish multinational company and an African State-owned company arising from a contract financed by the World Bank for the redevelopment and expansion of the electricity distribution system in an African nation (ICC, Frankfurt, law of an African country, English)

- Co-arbitrator in an investment dispute involving a Latin American State-owned company and a Brazilian financial institution arising from a financing agreement (ICC, Rio de Janeiro, Brazilian law, English and Portuguese)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute between two Spanish companies in the construction and glass industries arising from a joint venture agreement (LCIA, Barcelona, Spanish law, English)

- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving two insurance companies in relation to a breach of representations and warranties in a sale contract (ICC, Madrid, Chilean law, English)

Representative matters as counsel

- Representing a Singapore-based global energy company in an arbitration against a Spanish multinational energy utility in relation to a dispute arising from a deal on the transfer of an LNG portfolio and the supply of natural gas (CIMA, Madrid, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a Portuguese investor in an arbitration against an African State in relation to a dispute arising from the confiscation of four gas turbines (ICSID, Washington D.C., English).

- Representing a Spanish renewable-energy company in an arbitration against a Chinese solar panel manufacturer in relation to a dispute arising from solar panel supply agreements for solar farm projects in Brazil (ICC, Frankfurt/Madrid, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a Spanish claimant in an arbitration against parties from the Dominican Republic and Spain in relation to a dispute arising from a family office agreement (CAM, Madrid, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Representing a Spanish manufacturer of automotive components in an arbitration brought by another manufacturer of automotive components from Liechtenstein in relation to a dispute arising from an agreement for the supply of lock nuts (ICC, Paris, Swiss law, English)

- Representing a Chilean construction company in an arbitration against a Peruvian institution in relation to a dispute arising from the construction of various roads (ICC, Panama, Peruvian law, Spanish)

- Representing a Colombian company in an arbitration against Spanish and Colombian companies in relation to a dispute arising from the construction of a highway (ICC, Madrid, Colombian law, Spanish)

- Advising a Spanish company in an arbitration against another Spanish company in relation to a dispute arising from the construction of a power station (CAM, Madrid, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Representing a Spanish construction company in an arbitration brought by a Qatari construction company in relation to a dispute arising from two memoranda of understanding and multiple joint venture agreements for the construction of infrastructure projects in Qatar (ICC, Geneva, Swiss law, English)

- Advising a Latin American company, leader in the production of renewable energy, in relation to a dispute connected with the construction of a wind farm project (ICC, city in a Latin American country, law of a Latin American country, Spanish)

- Advising a Spanish bank in relation to a dispute arising from an agreement to transfer the business of the Spanish subsidiary of a US bank (ICC, Madrid, Spanish law, English)

- Representing four Latin American companies and a Spanish company in an arbitration against another five Latin American companies in relation to a dispute arising from a contract for the construction of a highway (ICC, Madrid, Costa Rican law, Spanish)

- Representing a Spanish company, worldwide leader in environment, water and infrastructure works, in an arbitration against a French company, also a key player in these sectors, in relation to a dispute arising from the sale of the stakes in a joint venture owned by both of them (ICC, Geneva, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a Spanish company, worldwide leader in environment, water and infrastructure works, in an arbitration against another Spanish company and an Austrian company in relation to a dispute arising from the early termination of a contract for the provision of services (CAM, Madrid, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Representing, as lead counsel, an Italian group, leader in the field of engineering and construction of power plants, in a multi-party arbitration involving European and Latin American companies in relation to a dispute arising from a possible breach of contract and the improper enforcement of guarantees (ICC, Santiago de Chile, Chilean law, Spanish)

- Representing, as lead counsel, the Luxembourg subsidiary of a Spanish group, leader at international level in the energy sector, in an investment-treaty arbitration under the Energy Charter Treaty against a European State in relation to a dispute arising from the reduction of the aids to the renewable energy sector (SCC, The Hague, European Energy Charter Treaty, English)

- Representing a Spanish group, leader at international level in the energy sector, in an arbitration against an Asian company in relation to a dispute arising from a contract for the manufacture, supply and delivery of aluminium cable (ICC, London, French law, English)

- Representing an Italian group, leader in the field of industrial construction, in a dispute against a Spanish company arising from a possible breach of contract of the latter due to delays in the payment of the agreed price (CAM, Madrid, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Representing a Spanish company, leader in the energy sector, in an arbitration against another Spanish company, managing the gas transmission network, in relation to a dispute concerning the existence of a contractual right to reduce the volume of transported gas (CAM, Madrid, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Representing a Polish company in an arbitration against a Spanish company in relation to a dispute arising from a breach of the agreements entered under a contract for the distribution of vehicles (VIAC, Vienna, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a French company in an arbitration against a Portuguese company in relation to a dispute arising from the acquisition of a Spanish subsidiary of the former and the non-fulfilment of certain provisions of a share purchase agreement (ICC, Paris, Spanish law, English)

- Advising a Spanish multinational company in a dispute against an Italian company dedicated to renewable energy consultancy arising from the construction of solar plants in Sicily (ICC, Madrid, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a leading Spanish energy company in an arbitration against another leading Spanish energy company in relation to a dispute arising from the sale and purchase of a large power plant project in Spain (ICC, Paris, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a Spanish engineering company in a dispute against various companies in relation to the engineering and construction of a major infrastructure project in the Middle East (CAM, Madrid, Spanish law, Spanish)

- Advising a multinational oil exploration company in an arbitration in relation to the distribution of oil products (ICC, Madrid, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a Spanish wind technology engineering company in an arbitration against a wind energy developer company in relation to a dispute arising from a breach of a license agreement (ICC, Madrid, Spanish law, English)

- Representing a Spanish company in proceedings for the setting aside of the awards issued in a CRCICA arbitration (Spanish courts)

- Representing a Sovereign State in proceedings relating to the appointment of an arbitrator (Spanish courts)

- Representing an African company in several exequatur proceedings initiated before the Spanish courts by three Spanish companies seeking a declaration that certain partial awards, issued in an ICC arbitration seated in Paris, could not be recognized in Spain (Spanish Courts)

- Advising a European subsidiary of a Latin American business conglomerate, shareholder of a European bank, in relation to a dispute arising out of the resolution of such bank (Spanish and European Courts)

Matters as mediator

- Mediator in a complex technology dispute involving a leading Spanish gas company and a leading Spanish multinational company

- Mediator in a commercial dispute between several Latin American companies and several Latin American and European insurers and reinsurers in relation to an accident occurred during the construction of a hydroelectric power plant

Accolades

“David Arias is always extremely prepared. He has great experience, which shows in the way he handles critical situations” (Chambers Global, 2026)

“David spots every detail, has great precision and in international cases, he is excellent. He also asks poignant and detailed questions” (Chambers Global, 2026)

“He is very organised and trustworthy. He always takes care of every detail and his drafting is excellent” (Chambers Global, 2026)

“David has the capacity to know how to take control in a situation. He knows how to be a leading lawyer” (Chambers Global, 2026)

“He is in a league of his own. David understands the client's needs and he has great problem-solving capabilities” (Chambers Europe, 2025)

"David Arias is one of the best, both as counsel and arbitrator" (Chambers Global, 2024)

"As an arbitrator, David has a lot of experience, with a significant sense of authority that allows cases to be carried out with great order and discipline" (Chambers Global, 2024)

"David Arias is ‘the most talented lawyer for arbitration disputes’" (Global Arbitration Review, 2023)

"David Arias enjoys a fantastic reputation in the market as one of the most experienced arbitrators worldwide" (Lexology, 2023)

"He is a superb arbitrator and counsel" (Chambers Global, 2022)

"The best counsel for arbitration in Spain: he can plan and deliver excellent work" (Chambers Global, 2022)

Market observers describe him as "fantastic and certainly a top-notch arbitrator" (Chambers Global, 2021)

"David Arias is probably the best arbitrator in Spain and also has extensive experience in international arbitration" (Legal 500, 2021)

"Lawyer of the year in International Arbitration" in Spain (Best Lawyers, 2020)

He demonstrates an impressive knowledge of matters involving Hispanic jurisdictions, particularly disputes relating to the energy, power and construction sectors. A market source says: "He's the one you think of for European matters, or Spanish speaking cases" (Chambers Global, 2020)

"David Arias is excellent, the best of his generation" (Legal 500, 2020)

David Arias is uniformly acknowledged for his outstanding expertise in international arbitration. He further advises clients on construction, corporate liability and banking disputes. Arias receives effusive praise from interviewees who laud him as "one of the best lawyers in Spain", with one source continuing: "He has impressed me beyond what words could convey" (Chambers Global, 2020)

"David Arias is undoubtedly one of the two best experts in international arbitration that we have in Spain" (Legal 500, 2020)

He is acclaimed by market sources, who deem him to be "one of the leading lights in Spain" (Chambers Global, 2019)

David Arias "is incredibly capable, hardworking, energetic and has real gravitas" (Legal 500, 2019)

"He is a truly international lawyer with the mentality to understand worldwide issues", says one interviewee, while another notes: "He studies all his cases in depth and is well prepared, so every decision he takes is fast and well grounded" (Chambers Global and Europe, 2018)

Peers say that David Arias "represents the new generation of younger and truly international arbitrators". Other interviewees report that "he offers a good mix between technical knowledge and common sense, so he comes to conclusions that are palatable to all parties and is able to achieve a consensus" (Chambers Global and Europe, 2018)

David Arias, founder of Arias SLP, receives glowing feedback from all sources, highlighting his position as a market-leading arbitrator. "He is a prestigious arbitrator with huge international experience", interviewees report (Chambers Global, 2015)

He is described as "very international" and is praised for his knowledge of the law in different countries. "He is always well prepared and has a lot of common sense", adds another source. Based in Madrid, he comes recommended for complex European disputes and frequently sits as arbitrator under ICC rules (Chambers Global, 2015)

David Arias receives rave reviews from clients, who are impressed by his international outlook, positive attitude, and profound arbitration experience. "He's wonderful; a cut above the rest. He has a razor-sharp intellect and provides succinct, to-the-point advice, getting straight to the core of any issue", say sources. Arias spends much of his time on arbitration, but also has an active litigation practice (Chambers Global, 2013)

David Arias receives strong feedback from market sources. According to one client, "he is extremely intelligent and quickly grasps sector-specific complexities" (Chambers Global and Europe, 2012)

"Excellent response times and comprehensive, well-presented advice" (Chambers Europe, 2011)

David is described as "in a league of his own" when it comes to arbitration (Chambers Global, 2010)

"An extremely sophisticated lawyer who truly grasps the nature of the issues" and "proactive and fully abreast of legal developments" (Chambers Global and Europe, 2009)

Conferences

- 12th Harvard International Arbitration Conference, The power –and price– of dissent: the role of separate opinions in international arbitration (12 March 2026, Boston, United States)
- 23rd ICC Miami Conference on International Arbitration, The use of AI in arbitration: what are the boundaries? (2 December 2025, Miami, United States)
- CGPJ-CEIA Congress, Public policy in arbitration (15 December 2022, Madrid, Spain)
- Delos & CEIA-40 event, The Long View Series Madrid Edition (13 February 2020, Madrid, Spain)
- 17th Annual ICC Miami Conference, Interest and inflation adjustment in international arbitration (10 November 2019, Miami, United States)
- Breakfast-Colloquium HSF & El Confidencial, The CNMC's Gas Circular Proposals: Controversial Issues and Impact on the Sector (18 October 2019, Madrid, Spain)
- 2nd CIMA Congress, Thirty years of Arbitration in Spain, Arbitration and Business (16-17 October 2019, Madrid, Spain)
- Regional Arbitration Symposium, Taking stock of the New Rules of the Arbitral Institutions (14 June 2019, Frankfurt, Germany)
- King's College London conference on Transnational Construction Arbitration and ADR in the 21st Century, Good faith, collaborative contracting and beyond: The role of arbitration & ADR in shaping alternative approaches to contracting (6 June 2019, London, United Kingdom)
- ICC Arbitration Conference, Enforcement, Setting Aside and Related Treaty Claims: A View From Europe, The practice of national courts in relation to the setting aside and enforcement of arbitral awards (10 May 2019, Geneva, Switzerland)
- 60 years of the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, Key issues and future challenges, The arbitral agreement (5 April 2018, Seville, Spain)
- 11th Congress of the Centro de Arbitragem Comercial, Influence of soft law in the application of the Voluntary Arbitration Law (6 July 2017, Lisbon, Portugal)
- International Conference of the Universidad Carlos III, Retos de la Nueva CNMC, Arbitrabilidad de los sectores regulados: el caso Enagás v. Gas Natural (amicus curiae) (25 November 2016, Madrid, Spain)
- 4th Conference of Judges and Arbitrators, Independencia e imparcialidad: visión transnacional (24 November 2016, Madrid, Spain)
- 14th Annual ICC Miami Conference, A Conversation with the Institutions: IBA-ICC-ICCA – States as Principal Stakeholders of the Arbitration Process (15 November 2016, Miami, United States)

- Iberian Lawyer Breakfast Masterclass, Is the legitimacy of international arbitration at risk? (14 November 2016, Miami, United States)

- 14th Annual ICC Miami Conference, Oral versus Written Advocacy: Counsel and Tribunal Perspectives (13 November 2016, Miami, United States)

- IBA Foundation Course, Curso sobre Arbitraje (9-11 November 2016, La Habana, Cuba)

- 3rd Pan-American Arbitration Conference, Cases in which there are non-signatory parties to arbitration inclusion and treatment. Analysis of repertoire of prima facie decisions (24 October 2016, São Paulo, Brazil)

- 5th Asia Pacific ADR Conference, Different Perceptions of International Arbitration in Different Jurisdictions (12 October 2016, Seoul, South Korea)

- 2nd Spanish Forum on ICC Arbitration, El arbitraje comercial y de inversiones – un mecanismo adecuado para las empresas, La situación actual de las empresas españolas frente al arbitraje comercial internacional. Consecuencias de un mercado global común (4 October 2016, Madrid, Spain)

- 2016 IBA Annual Conference (18-23 September 2016, Washington, DC, United States)

- 11th International Conference of the CEIA, Nuevos factores en la ejecución y anulación de laudos (12-14 June 2016, Madrid, Spain)

- CAM seminar on damage determination and evidence, Prueba de los daños: diferentes perspectivas (7 April 2016, Madrid, Spain)

- 9th International Arbitration Conference, El arte de manejar a las partes y a los coárbitros (1 April 2016, Quito, Ecuador)

- 19th IBA International Arbitration Day (3-4 March 2016, Shanghai, China)

- CEIA-ICC seminar, Los métodos alternativos de resolución de controversias (22 January 2016, Madrid, Spain)

- 3rd Advance Course on Arbitration, Introducción al Arbitraje Comercial Internacional (22 February 2016, Madrid, Spain)

- 3rd Conference of Judges and Arbitrators, El orden público y el control judicial del arbitraje (25 November 2015, Madrid, Spain)

- 13th Annual ICC Miami Conference, Tools for urgent and preliminary relief in international arbitration: a mock case closing session (2 November 2015, Miami, United States)

- ICC Conference on Resolution of Disputes in the International Energy Sector, Reconocimiento de laudos relacionados con disputas en el sector energético (27 August 2015, Mexico City, Mexico)

- 2nd Annual ITA-IEL Joint Conference on International Energy Arbitration, The revised IBA Guidelines on conflicts of interest in international arbitration (15-16 January 2015, Houston, United States)

- 2014 IBA Annual Conference, Conflicts of interest in international arbitration: the new IBA Guidelines (19-24 October 2014, Tokyo, Japan)
- 7th Conference of the Centro de Arbitragem Comercial, Medidas cautelares (10-11 July 2014, Lisbon, Portugal)
- 1st Conference of the Latin American Arbitration Association, Las Directrices de la IBA sobre representación de parte en el arbitraje de internacional (17 June 2014, Mexico City, Mexico)
- YAF Roundtable on Arbitrability and Public Policy, La sede del arbitraje: qué efectos tiene en el desarrollo del proceso y la ejecutabilidad del laudo (16 June 2014, Mexico City, Mexico)
- 1st Course on Arbitration and Mediation of the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Régimen de ejecución de laudos arbitrales y acuerdos de mediación (8 April 2014, Madrid, Spain)
- 17th IBA International Arbitration Day, The Gathering and Taking of Evidence: Should We Seek to Level the Playing Field? (14 February 2014, Paris, France)
- 11th Annual ICC Miami Conference, A judicial perspective: opening roundtable on current judicial trends on selected topics (4 November 2013, Miami, United States)
- 1st Conference of Judges and Arbitrators, La anulación del laudo: la confirmación de los jueces de las decisiones arbitrales (15 November 2013, Madrid, Spain)
- 2nd International Arbitration Conference of the ICAB, Prevention of dilatory tactics (24-26 October 2013, Barcelona, Spain)
- 2013 IBA Annual Conference, Arbitrators' conflicts and party representation: working on guidelines (6-11 October 2013, Boston, United States)
- 3rd Day of the Portuguese Chapter of the CEIA (23 September 2013, Lisbon, Portugal)
- PLI International Arbitration 2013, Arbitration Around the World (10 June 2013, New York, United States)
- France-Spain Day of the CEIA, Buenas Prácticas de los Árbitros (22-23 November 2012, Madrid, Spain)
- 10th Annual ICC Miami Conference, International Arbitration in Latin America (11-13 November 2012, Miami, United States)
- 2012 IBA Annual Conference (30 September to 5 October 2012, Dublin, Ireland)
- 7th International Conference of the CEIA, Cuestiones críticas en el arbitraje, Extension of the Arbitration Agreement to Non-signatories and Intervention of Third Parties in the Arbitration (24-26 June 2012, Madrid, Spain)
- PIDA Advanced Training on ICC International Commercial Arbitration, Study of a Practical Case with the 2012 ICC Arbitration Rules; The Design of the Procedural Strategy, Focusing on the Preparation

of the Request for Arbitration; Sovereign Immunity in International Arbitration: The Execution of Foreign Awards (14-17 May 2012, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic)

- Seminar of the Centre for European Studies of the Universidad San Pablo CEU, Arbitration and Company Groups (12 April 2012, Madrid, Spain)
- 15th IBA International Arbitration Day, Neutrality: Myth or Reality? (8-9 March 2012, Stockholm, Sweden)
- 9th Annual ICC Miami Conference, 2012 ICC Rules of Arbitration (6-8 November 2011, Miami, United States)
- 2011 IBA Annual Conference (30 October to 4 November 2011, Dubai, UAE)
- Iberian Lawyer Breakfast Masterclass, The Effect of the Economic Recession on Litigation, Strategies and Mechanisms to Manage Conflicts in Unstable Environments and Strict Regulatory Contexts (20 October 2011, Madrid, Spain)
- 2011 Fall Meeting of the American Bar Association International Law, International Arbitration: The year in review (11-15 October 2011, Dublin, Ireland)
- ICC UK Seminar, Is International Arbitration Meeting the Demands of its Users? Characteristics of the Right Seat for Arbitration: Seats in South America (21 September 2011, England)
- ICC Seminar, The New Legal Framework of International Arbitration, The Arbitrator and Lawyer in the New Legal Framework (26 August 2011, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia)
- 22nd Annual Institute of Transnational Arbitration Workshop, Litigating the Merits of an International Arbitration (16 June 2011, Dallas, United States)

Publications

- IBA Guidelines on Conflicts of Interest in International Arbitration: brief account of the review process and of special interest issues (IBA Arbitration Committee Bulletin, 2023)
- Anatomy of a case dealing with (negative and positive) recognition claims of awards: some considerations on legitimate interest and linked awards, Arbitration Beyond Borders: Essays in Memory of Guillermo Aguilar Álvarez (ed. Nigel Blackaby KC and W. Michael Reisman, 2023)
- La anulación del laudo en la sede y la anulación del laudo por la autoridad cuya Lex Fori se aplicó, Iurgium, nº 35 (2019)
- Soft Law Rules in International Arbitration: Positive Effects and Legitimation of the IBA as a Rule-Maker, Indian Journal of Arbitration Law, vol. 6.2 (2018)
- Un caso práctico de tácticas de guerrilla en arbitraje internacional, Anuario de Arbitraje 2017 (Coord. María José Menéndez Arias. Civitas, 2017)
- El procedimiento de árbitro de emergencia: una visión práctica, Anuario de Arbitraje 2016 (Coord. G. Jiménez- Blanco. Civitas, 2016)

- Law & Practice Spain, Chambers Legal Practice Guides: International Arbitration (Chambers & Partners, 2015)
- Arts. 44 and 45, Comentarios a la Ley de Arbitraje (Coord. C. González-Bueno. Consejo General del Notariado, 2014)
- Law & Practice Spain, Chambers Legal Practice Guides: Litigation (Chambers & Partners, 2014)
- El arbitraje internacional, Revista Jurídica de Castilla y León, No. 29 (2013)
- Spain, Arbitration World, 4th edition (Thompson Reuters, 2012)
- Reflexiones Ley de Mediación (VIII), Diariojuridico.com (2012)
- The Role of the Spanish Courts under the Framework of the Arbitration Act, The Global Legal Post (2010)
- El nuevo Reglamento de Arbitraje de UNCITRAL, Revista Ecuatoriana de Arbitraje, No. 2 (2010)
- Fast-track arbitration: An option worth seriously considering, Chambers Magazine (2010)
- Spain, Arbitration World, 3rd edition (Thomson Reuters, 2009)

Professional memberships

- Madrid Bar Association
- IBA Arbitration Committee
- ICC Latin American Arbitration Group
- Arbitration Commission, Spanish ICC Committee
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Spanish and Ibero-American Arbitration Club (CEIA)
- Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
- Latin American Arbitration Association (ALARB)
- International Law Association (ILA)
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA)
- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)
- ICC Institute of World Business Law

- Club of Arbitrators of Milan Chamber of Arbitration
- Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC)
- British Virgin Islands International Arbitration Centre (BVI IAC)
- Conciliation, Arbitration and Amicable Composition Center of the Chamber of Commerce of Medellin for Antioquia
- Center for Arbitration and Mediation of the Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC)
- National and International Center for Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce of Lima (CCL)
- Dubai International Financial Centre - London Court of International Arbitration (DIFC-LCIA)
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC)
- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
- Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)
- Portuguese Arbitration Association (APA)