



Josep Galvez FCiarb

Barrister, England and Wales
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Practice Summary

Josep Galvez is an English barrister and former Spanish judge with a practice that focuses on international arbitration and cross-border commercial disputes, particularly involving EU sovereign states and Latin American parties. He brings to his work over two decades of experience in civil and commercial law, combined with a profound understanding of both common and civil law traditions. His bilingual proficiency in Spanish and English, along with his nuanced grasp of Latin American legal and cultural dynamics, positions him as a leading figure for complex disputes arising in or connected to the region.

Josep's expertise spans a range of sectors, with significant emphasis on investment treaty arbitration, energy, and infrastructure. He is regularly instructed in matters involving intricate jurisdictional challenges, sovereign immunity defenses, and the enforcement of awards, where his former judicial experience lends a distinctive strategic insight. In recent years, his work has included acting for both states and multinational corporations in high-stakes disputes under the most relevant arbitration rules, with a focus on issues of international law and the protection of foreign investments.

In addition to his practice at the Bar, Josep serves as an Arbitration Delegate to the Barcelona Arbitration Court and is actively involved in promoting best practices in international dispute resolution between Latin America and Europe. He frequently advises on matters of jurisdictional overlap, anti-suit injunctions, and interim relief in transnational cases and is recognised for his thoughtful and effective advocacy in both arbitration proceedings and related court applications.

Career

2024 Barrister, 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, London
2022 Call: England & Wales (Lincoln's Inn)
2014—16 Disputes Counsel, Andersen Spain
2009 Joined Spanish Judiciary
2007—09 Legal Counsel, TUI Travel PLC
2007 Admitted to the Barcelona Bar Association

Areas of Expertise

- **Arbitration and related court applications**
Extensive experience in international arbitration across the EU and Latin America, including commercial and investment disputes under ICSID, LCIA, DIAC, SIAC, UNCITRAL and ICC rules, among others. Proficient in addressing jurisdictional and procedural issues, particularly from Latin American legal systems, and adept at mitigating political and regulatory risks.
- **Sovereign Immunity**
Expertise in cases involving sovereign immunity, representing both states and multinational entities. Skilled in asserting and defending jurisdictional objections and managing the complexities of state defense in international arbitration proceedings.
- **Enforcement & Anti-Suit Injunctions Extensive**
practice in enforcing international arbitral awards in the UK under the New York and Panama Conventions, frequently advising clients on anti-suit injunctions and other protective measures in multi-jurisdictional contexts.
- **Bilingual Advocacy**
Fluent in Spanish, providing seamless bilingual advocacy and advisory services to Spanish-speaking parties. Culturally adept, ensuring nuanced communication and effective representation aligned with Latin American business and legal practices.

Notable Cases

- Counsel to a sovereign Latin American country and its central bank involved in a complex dispute concerning various instances of non-compliance with the assignment requirements under English law, among other crucial points at the merits of the matter. This dispute forms part of an ongoing series of legal confrontations between the same entities across different forums.
- Counsel to a Spanish company in a still ongoing international arbitration in contractual dispute under English law before the International Court of Arbitration of the ICC rules in a claim for damages arising from a contractual investment breach by an African government of the agreements established around technical development in the country and its subsequent enforcement.
- Counsel to a Canadian company on a dispute against an African sovereign country before the International Court of Arbitration of the ICC regarding the infringement of investment for discovering and exploiting hydrocarbon deposits in specific regions in exchange for a share of the resulting revenue. The ongoing case includes enforcing a \$619m award in different jurisdictions, including Belgium and France.
- Counsel to an ultimate-owner Canadian group in a compensation claim (judicial review) against the Kingdom of Spain under Spanish law for damages derived from the public administration's liability derived from the frustration of extraction projects located in Spain after abrupt regulatory changes banned its exploitation.
- Represented an international lender to recover a matured multimillion-dollar loan in an arbitration dispute before the London Arbitration tribunal against guarantees based in different countries, including world freezing order enforcement between the English jurisdiction and the Spanish courts.
- Represented a Spanish group in dispute in Spain after purchasing a logistics company due to severe contingencies concealed by the sellers during the negotiation, due diligence and closing stages in the M&A transaction, obtaining a decision awarding a millionaire compensation, interest and court costs.
- Advised a group of Spanish companies in proceedings for the recognition and enforcement of a Spanish judgment in England and Wales granting multi- millionaire compensation for television rights agreements infringement and for obtaining precautionary measures.
- Counsel opinion on arbitration under Spanish law in defense of a group against a renowned Spanish construction group to obtain nullity of the arbitration award for claiming compensation for damages arising from the frustration of Spain's most significant storage plant.

Relevant Professional Affiliations

- Fellow - Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- London Court of International Arbitration
- Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
- Dubai International Arbitration Centre
- Board Member, Arbitration Section, Barcelona Bar Association
- UK Delegate at the Barcelona Arbitration Tribunal
- Viena International Arbitral Centre
- Law360 International Arbitration Editorial Board member

Selected Publications

"Interim remedies in support of Arbitration".
Arbitration Module.
LexisNexis, 2024.

"Challenging jurisdiction and anti-suit provisions".
Arbitration Module.
LexisNexis, 2024.

"The long and winding road—ICSID tribunal grants Infracapital €24.9m in the lengthiest and most tortuous investment dispute against Spain ever. But hell awaits now for award enforcement (Infracapital Solar BV; and Infracapital F1 S.à r.l. v Kingdom of Spain)"
LexisNexis, 2024.

"State Immunity and Arbitration"
Arbitration Module. **LexisNexis, 2024.**

Speaking Engagements

"Has Brexit released the jurisdictional Kraken? The Anti-Suit Injunction strikes back again" –
CIArb, Iberian Chapter (2024).

"Renewable energies and the Kingdom of Spain"
Real Academia de Jurisprudencia y Legislación (2023).

Delegate of the UK's Ministry of Justice for the Great Legal Services at the IBA's Annual Convention in Paris (2023).

Academic Appointments

2019—24 - Lecturer on International Arbitration,
ISDE Law & Business School.

2015—2024 - Private International Law,
University of Barcelona.

2010—2014 - Honoric Professor
Private International Law
Universitat de les Illes Balears.

Languages

- English
- Spanish
- French
- Catalan