

Mahnaz Malik

CALL: 2002 (NEW YORK); 2012 (ENGLAND AND WALES)

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Languages: Urdu (fluent); Punjabi (fluent); Hindi (oral conversational)



Overview

Mahnaz is a barrister and arbitrator at Twenty Essex who specialises in representing governments and corporations in commercial and investment arbitration.

She has extensive expertise in advising governments, corporations and international organisations on international disputes. Mahnaz has acted as counsel on behalf of both investors and states in several investment and commercial disputes including ICC, ICSID, LCIA and PCA administered arbitrations.

Mahnaz's appointment as an arbitrator in *EuroGas Inc and Belmont Resources Inc v Republic of Slovakia* makes her one of the youngest ever appointed to an ICSID Annulment Committee since records began, and the youngest woman. She serves on the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators and was on the editorial board of the ICSID Review.

She is routinely sought for her expertise in a range of common law systems across Asia and Africa. Mahnaz is particular adept in dealing with states and state entities as parties to international arbitration proceedings. Mahnaz recently joined the Shanghai Arbitration Commission's new cohort of SHAC Arbitrators (Overseas).

Mahnaz also has extensive expertise in advising governments and international law organisations on international investment law issues, developing model treaties and negotiating positions, sovereign guarantees, foreign investment laws and the training of government officials. She also assists individuals and corporations in relation to obtaining investment treaty protection and sovereign

Publications

Below are examples and a full list is available upon request:

- Mahnaz Malik, [Deutsche Lufthansa AG v Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: Am I My Brother's Keeper?](#), ICSID Review - Foreign Investment Law Journal, 2023;siad023.
- [International Law Protections for Foreign Investment in Pakistan](#) [Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry 2019].
- *Expropriation Regime under the Energy Charter Treaty* [Energy Charter Secretariat 2012] (co-author).
- 'IISD Model International Agreement on Investment for Sustainable Development: Background and Progress' in *Sustainable Development in International Investment Law* [Kluwer 2010].
- *International Law Protections for Foreign Investment in Pakistan* [Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry].
- 'SAARC & ASEAN Bilateral Investment Treaties' presented at the conference on

guarantees. She has analysed some 1000 treaties and advised over 20 governments and three regional groupings on international law. She has designed and delivered training for over 600 government officials.

She publishes, teaches and speaks extensively. Her writings are frequently cited in academic journals, academic theses and appear on syllabi. Her professional awards include the prestigious Financial Times Legal Innovator of the Year Award 2007 and the Law Society of England's national award for the Trainee Solicitor of the Year 2001. Mahnaz is an adjunct faculty member of the master's programme in investment treaty arbitration at Uppsala University, Sweden. She has also served as a member of the ICC Commissions on Arbitration and Anti-Corruption.

After graduating with a MA in Law from Cambridge University, she qualified as an Attorney at Law (New York), Solicitor (England & Wales), advocate of the high court in Pakistan and an English Barrister (Lincoln's Inn). She recently taught investment law at the LLM programme of the University of Zurich and has been elected as a Governing Body Fellow of [Hughes Hall](#) College Cambridge University from 01 September 2021.

Mahnaz accepts instructions as counsel and appointments as an arbitrator.

Her name is also spelt as Mehnaz Malik.

She is registered on her practising licence as Mehnaz A. Malik.

Recent talks and lectures

- Keynote Speech at the Istanbul Arbitration Week 2024 on "Borderlands between investment treaty arbitration and domestic law"
- Speaker at the South Eastern Europe Arbitration Conference on 26 September 2024 in Vienna on the Role of International Law and Treaties in Evolving Investment Arbitration
- Speaker at the 5th Bucharest Arbitration Days on the Sovereign Right to Regulate on 6 June 2024
- Closing keynote address at the University of Bocconi's International Arbitration Conference 'When International Arbitration Meets the Rule of Law' conference in Milan on 24 May 2024
- Speaker at the Pakistan International Disputes Weekend (PIDW) in Karachi on the ICC Arbitration Panel relating disputes involving states and state entities on 11 May 2024
- Speaker at the Azerbaijan Arbitration Association's first Azerbaijan Arbitration Days on two panels: (i) Managing renewable energy disputes; and (ii) leadership and innovation in Baku on 25-26 April 2024
- Adjunct Faculty Member of the Master's Programme in Investment Treaty Arbitration at Uppsala University, Sweden (2023)
- Speaker on International Investment Treaties and Provisions Sensitive to Climate Change, and the Technology Revolution: A Close Look at Aerospace, Seabed Mining and the Environment Confirmation, Washington Arbitration Week (28 November 2023)
- Speaker, KCAB Arbitration Week, Seoul, 31 October 2023
- Speaker on leadership, Istanbul Arbitration Week, 04 October 2023, Istanbul
- Speaker on BITs and geo-political risk: Government of Jersey's Jersey Finance flagship event in London, 26 September 2023
- Speaker on multi-tiered dispute resolution provisions in treaties, laws and contracts, Asia ADR Week organised by AIAC, Kuala Lumpur, 26 August 2023
- Speaker, British Institute of International and Comparative

'Multilateralism and Regionalism in Global Economic Governance' held by the Asian International Economic Law Network (AIELN) at the University of Tokyo (3 August 2009).

- UNDP Issues Paper, 'IIAs signed by CEMAC and ECOWAS Countries: An Exploration of critical linkages with investment provisions in EPAs' (2008).
- 'The innovations introduced by the COMESA Common Investment Area (CCIA) with respect to investor protection in IIAs, including the investor-state arbitration process' in *Arbitration and Mediation in the ACP-EU Relations*, containing papers from a conference held by the Association for International Arbitration (AIA) in Brussels, May 2008.
- 'Time for a Change - Germany's Bilateral Investment Treaty Programme and Development Policy', Occasional Paper No 27, FES Geneva, November 2006.
- Report on Bilateral Investment Treaties between EU member states and Pacific countries for the Commonwealth Secretariat, 2006.
- Report on Bilateral Investment Treaties between EU member states and Caribbean countries for the Commonwealth Secretariat, 2006

Awards

- [Awarded 'The Financial Times Legal Innovator of the Year 2007'](#)
- 'Wig & Pen Pro Bono Award' at the Law Society's Young Solicitor Group Pro Bono Law Awards (2005)
- Award for 'The National Trainee Solicitor of the Year' presented by The Law Society of England and Wales' Trainee Solicitor Group (2001)
- Award for 'The National Trainee Solicitor Most Likely to Succeed On The International Stage' presented by The Law Society of England and Wales' Trainee Solicitor Group (2001)

Professional memberships

- Member, Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (2026-)
- Member, Panel of Arbitrators of the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) (2026-2031)
- Member, World Bank Sanctions Board
- Member, Reserved Roster of Temporary External Sanctions Panel Members of Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)

- Law and Volterra Fietta's seminar on Mining Disputes Between Investors and States on 01 June 2023, London
- Expert teacher at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb)'s The Learning Lab-Arbitrator Skills Development Series on Challenges to Arbitrators from 10 May to 14 June 2023
- Speakers/tutor on Durham Law School's Summer School on International Arbitration on jurisdiction under BITs, 10-15 July 2023
- Speaker on experiences of states in investment arbitration at CIARB Pakistan's Pakistan International Disputes Weekend, Lahore, 21 May 2023
- Speaker at the 8th Cambridge Arbitration Days on the developing jurisprudence on arbitrator challenges in ISDS proceedings, Cambridge, 15 April 2023
- Guest Lecturer, Stockholm University LLM In International Commercial Arbitration Law, 15 March 2023 on jurisdiction in BITs.
- Speaker on future trends in the globalisation of international arbitration, SOAS, 24 January 2023 (London)
- Speaker, Guidelines on Prevention and Defense in Investment Arbitration, Washington Arbitration Week, 30 November 2022 (Washington DC)
- Speaker, International Sanctions and Investment Protection, Leaders for Private Client, 17 November 2022 (Dubai, UAE)
- Speaker, Arbitrator Appointments, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB) Annual Congress, 09 November 2022 (London)
- Speaker/Arbitrator adjudicator on Practicum on human rights claim in international arbitration, International Law Weekend ("ILW"), held at Fordham Law School in New York City between October 20-22, 2022, celebrated the centennial anniversary of the American Branch of the International Law Association (New York)
- Panellist, The State Enterprise as Investor: A Special Threat Requiring Special Rules or Not? Juris Sixteenth Annual Investment Treaty Arbitration: A Debate & Discussion, 14 October 2022 (Washington DC)
- Speaker at the International Seminar on China-EU Comprehensive Investment Treaty (CAI): What Can the CAI Bring to Us? (March 2021)
- Delegate at UNCITRAL Working Group III's meetings on Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform (February 2021).
- Speaker on the *CI Arb PolicyCast* series '[The Geopolitics of ISDS - Global Challenges, International Cooperation, and the Breakdown of Multilateralism](#)' (August 2020)
- Speaker on the podcast *The Tea on International Arbitration* discussing '[The Future of Investment Treaty Arbitration in the EU](#)' (June 2020)
- Speaker at the [BIICL Corporate Restructuring: Managing Investment Risks through Treaty Protections](#) (March 2020)
- Keynote speaker at the Washington University of Law symposium (21 February 2020)
- Speaker at CIICA event 'International Arbitration in Pakistan: Present and Future Challenges' (November 2019)
- Speaker on the relationship between contract and treaty claims at the Twenty Essex State of Play seminar (September 2019)
- Speaker at CI Arb event 'Evolution, Not Revolution: ISDS Reform at UNCITRAL Working Group III' (3 September 2019)
- Teaching International Investment Law at the Blatnavik School of Government at the University of Oxford (15 February 2018).
- Teaching International Investment Arbitration for the LLM Programme at the University of Zurich (February 2018).
- Speaker on the *Hesham Al Warraq v Indonesia* case in the UNIGE-IISD Lunch Series on 'Investment Disputes: Investment Arbitration and Criminal Conduct', Geneva (21
- Member, ICSID Panel of Arbitrators (2012 to present)
- Member, Panel of Arbitrators of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)
- Member, List of Arbitrators of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Member, List of Arbitrators of the Court of Arbitration at the Polish Chamber of Commerce
- Member, List of Arbitrators of the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) (2023-)
- Member, BVI Centre for Arbitration (2022-)
- Member, Shanghai Arbitration Commission (2022-)
- Member, Panel of Arbitrators, Asian International Arbitration Centre, Kuala Lumpur (2022-)
- Member of Panel of Arbitrators, Energy Disputes Arbitration Centre, Turkey (2021-)
- Member, Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing International Arbitration Centre (BAC/BIAC)'s Panel of Arbitrators for International Investment Disputes (2021-to present)

September 2017).

- Speaker on Panel on 'Brexit, EU and Foreign Investment' at the University of Leicester (14 June 2017).
- Speaker on 'Law, Risk and Finance: Time to Rethink in the Energy Sector?': Centre for Commercial Studies, Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL) (26 January 2017).

For a full list of nearly a hundred talks and lectures, please contact us.

Education

- Georgetown University, USA: Georgetown Leadership Programme, School of Foreign Policy (2010)
- University of Cambridge: BA and MA in Law (1998)

Example cases

- Representing the Republic of Turkey against Enel S.p.A in an ICSID arbitration in connection with a renewable energy generation enterprise under the Italy-Turkey BIT (pending).
- Successfully represented the government of Albania in UNCITRAL arbitration brought by Sky Petroleum Inc by obtaining the dismissal of a claim worth US\$1 billion arising from an oil exploration contract with full costs awarded in her client's favour.
- Successfully represented the governments of Pakistan and Balochistan in ICSID and ICC proceedings in relation to interim relief applications over gold and copper deposits (*Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited v Islamic Republic of Pakistan, ICSID and Tethyan Copper Company Pty Limited v Government of Balochistan, ICC*).
- Successfully represented the government of Indonesia in obtaining dismissal of a US\$75 million claim arising out of the bail out of a major bank pursuant to the UK-Indonesia bilateral investment treaty (*Rafat Ali Rizvi v Indonesia, ICSID*).
- Successfully represented the Government of Indonesia in the landmark investment treaty dispute brought by a Saudi investor pursuant to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Agreement (UNCITRAL) arising from the bail out of a major bank (*Hesham al Warraq v Republic of Indonesia*).
- Successfully represented a State in obtaining dismissal of a default judgment against it on grounds of sovereign immunity (inter alia) in the English courts: *Mid-East Sales Ltd v United Engineering & The Islamic Republic of Pakistan* [2014] EWHC 1457 (Comm).
- Advised over 15 governments on review of their investment treaty programmes and training of high and mid-level government officials: countries include Turkey, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Lao, Vietnam, Namibia, Cambodia, Kenya, Indonesia, Zambia, Ethiopia, Botswana, Mauritius, Ecuador, Bolivia, Iraq and the Seychelles.
- Consultant on international investment treaties to the following international organisations: Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat (51 member countries including Turkey), International Institute for Sustainable Development, COMESA Secretariat (regional organisation of 19 African countries), SADC (regional organisation of 14 African countries), United Nations Development Programme, The World Bank and The Commonwealth Secretariat.

Relevant ICSID and investment treaty arbitration experience

- Representing the Republic of Turkey against Enel S.p.A in an ICSID arbitration in connection with a renewable energy generation enterprise under the Italy-Turkey BIT (pending). *Enel, S.p.A. v. Republic of Turkey, ICSID Case No. ARB/21/61*.
- Annulment Committee member in *Almasryia for Operating & Maintaining Touristic Construction Co. L.L.C. v State of Kuwait* (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/2).
- Annulment Committee member in *EuroGas Inc. and Belmont Resources Inc. v Slovak Republic* (ICSID Case No. ARB/14/14).
- Counsel to the Governments of Pakistan and Balochistan in two claims brought in relation to a gold and copper mining licence by an international mining company under a bilateral investment treaty at ICSID and a contract at the ICC (*Tethyan Copper Company v Pakistan, ICSID*).

- Counsel to a large German enterprise against an Eastern European country in a bilateral investment treaty arbitration (ad hoc) arising out of the construction of a major shopping mall project.
- Successfully represented the Government of Indonesia in obtaining dismissal of a US\$ 75 million claim arising out of the bail out of a major bank pursuant to the UK-Indonesia BIT (*Rafat Ali Rizvi v Indonesia*, ICSID)(instructed by KarimSyah in Jakarta).
- Counsel to the Republic of Indonesia on an ICSID arbitration brought by a British investor under the UK-Indonesia bilateral investment treaty in relation to the bail-out of a bank (*Rafat Ali Rizvi v Republic of Indonesia*, ICSID) (instructed by KarimSyah in Jakarta).
- Lead Counsel to a Turkish investor in a BIT claim at ICSID against a Central Asian State in relation to the construction of a major project.
- Advising a South Korean multinational in relation to a potential ICSID claim under a bilateral investment treaty over a tariff dispute with the Government of an Asian state.
- Advising a major Dutch company on ICSID arbitration proceedings against the Government of Egypt for breach of the Netherlands-Egypt bilateral investment treaty.
- Advising a British sports personality in relation to claims for intellectual property rights' infringement against a large Asian state arising out of a UK bilateral investment treaty.

Commercial arbitration and litigation

- Lead counsel in an English law ICC arbitration involving multiple parties concerning EPC arrangements for a coal fired power project.
- Successfully represented a Turkish state entity in an LCIA claim governed by English law related to an oil drilling contract. All costs awarded in client's favour.
- Counsel to the Government of Albania against a US investor in relation to a claim worth US\$1 billion arising from the termination of an oil exploration contract (ad hoc arbitration) (*Sky Petroleum Inc v Albania*, UNCITRAL, oil exploration contract).
- Represented a European state entity in an international arbitration arising from the termination of a multi-million-dollar contract by reducing the damages awarded against her client by nearly 80% (confidential).
- Counsel to an Asian government for the setting aside a default judgment before the English Commercial Court.
- Counsel to an Indian entertainment company in relation to the settlement of a distribution and licensing dispute with a European company over a fashion satellite television channel.
- Counsel to a Japanese trading company on an ICC English law arbitration in relation to its dispute with a Turkish firm
- Counsel to a Central Asian airline in relation to an ICC arbitration against a US aircraft leasing company.
- Counsel to an Australian energy company on a LCIA Indian law arbitration in relation to a dispute over a gas exploration joint venture in India. 16. Counsel to a British telecommunications company on a LCIA English law arbitration in relation to a dispute over a technology investment in Nigeria.
- Counsel to a UAE based shipping construction company on an ad hoc arbitration under the English Arbitration Act 1996 in relation to an insurance claim against a Japanese firm arising out of a collision between a barge and an off shore oil rig in the Indian ocean.
- Advising the Cowasjee Foundation, the Karachi Port Trust and the Government of Pakistan in relation to claims arising from the Tasman Spirit oil spill (38,000 tonnes of oil).
- Counsel to an American purchaser of Indian metal in relation to multi-party disputes, with its shipper and its state-run Indian supplier, including Indian Supreme Court proceedings and an ad hoc English law arbitration in London.

Advisory work with governments and international organisations

- Assisting a South African country with drafting a model investment treaty, advice on negotiations with Gulf countries and model investment contracts.
- Assisting two East African countries with drafting their model bilateral investment treaties.
- Advising a South African country on a model investment treaty.
- Advising on investment treaty negotiations between a South East Asian country and a North American country.
- Assisting the SADC Investment Sub-Committee (a regional grouping of 15 countries) on its investment programme and

revising the SAD regional investment code.

- Assisting COMESA (a regional grouping of 19 Eastern and Southern African states) in drafting its regional investment promotion and protection treaty (CCIA).
- Advising the Government of a Central Asian state on its model investment treaty.
- Advising the Government of Pakistan on investment treaty negotiations with the United States of America.
- Advising a West African country on mining disputes and ICSID arbitration proceedings pursuant to its foreign investment law.
- Advising the Government of Qatar on the arbitration/dispute resolution regime for the International Qatar Finance Centre.

Advising over 15 governments on review of their investment treaty programmes and training of high level and mid-level government officials. Countries include: Turkey, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Lao, Vietnam, Namibia, Cambodia, Kenya, Indonesia, Zambia, Ethiopia, Botswana, Mauritius, Ecuador, Bolivia, Iraq, and the Seychelles.

Consultant on international investment treaties to the following international organisations:

- Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat (51 member countries including Turkey)
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- COMESA Secretariat (regional organisation of 19 African countries)
- SADC (regional organisation of 14 African countries) 5. United Nations Development Programme
- The World Bank
- The Commonwealth Secretariat

Arbitrator appointments

- Member of the ad hoc Annulment Committee in *Rami Levy and others v. Republic of Bulgaria* (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/47), appointed by the Chairman of the ICSID Administrative Council, June 2026.
- Serving as sole arbitrator in a DIAC involving a trade dispute.
- State appointee on ICSID Panel of Arbitrators
- ICSID Annulment Committee Member in ICSID Case No. ARB/18/2: ICSID Annulment Committee member, *Almasryia for Operating & Maintaining Touristic Construction Co. L.L.C. v State of Kuwait* (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/2). Appointed by ICSID. Concluded.
- ICSID Annulment Committee Member in ICSID Case No. ARB/14/14: ICSID Annulment Committee member, *EuroGas Inc. and Belmont Resources Inc. v Republic of Slovakia* (ICSID Case No. ARB/14/14). Appointed by ICSID. Concluded.
- DIS Arbitration: Co-arbitrator in a German-law governed arbitration under DIS rules in relation to a cross-border gas supply contract. On-going.
- Ad hoc arbitration under the English Arbitration Act: Co-arbitrator in an English law governed arbitration in relation to the breach of a conditional fee agreement.
- Chair, five-member panel at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University related to disciplinary proceedings against Professor (2023)
- Chair, five-member panel at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University related to disciplinary proceedings (2022)
- Member, five-member disciplinary panel in relation to disciplinary proceedings at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University (2022)
- Member, three-member panel in relation to academic review committee at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University

Experience as arbitrator and adjudicator

- Member, World Bank Sanctions Board. One of seven external judges serving on cases assigned to panels of three judges (confidential and ongoing)
- Member, Reserved Roster of Temporary External Sanctions Panel Members of Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)
- State appointee on ICSID Panel of Arbitrators

- ICSID Annulment Committee Member in ICSID Case No. ARB/18/2: ICSID Annulment Committee member, Almasryia for Operating & Maintaining Touristic Construction Co. L.L.C. v State of Kuwait (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/2). Appointed by ICSID. Concluded.
- ICSID Annulment Committee Member in ICSID Case No. ARB/14/14 ICSID Annulment Committee member, EuroGas Inc. and Belmont Resources Inc. v. Republic of Slovakia (ICSID Case No. ARB/14/14). Appointed by ICSID. Concluded.
- DIS Arbitration: Co-arbitrator in a German-law governed arbitration under DIS rules in relation to a cross-border gas supply contract. Concluded.
- Arbitrator, ICC arbitration involved a \$50 million dispute relating to payments for project in Africa (Ongoing)
- Appointed as arbitrator in infrastructure concession dispute between a private concessionaire and a European State, involving claims arising from a long-term construction and operation agreement (UNCITRAL Rules, EU seat)
- Sole Arbitrator, DIAC Arbitration in relation to a trading dispute (Concluded).
- Arbitrator, LMAA, dispute relating to demurrage involving Turkish and Chinese companies
- Arbitrator, LMAA arbitration relating to payments in relation to a charter
- Ad hoc arbitration under the English Arbitration Act: Co-arbitrator in an English law-governed arbitration in relation to the breach of a conditional fee agreement (Concluded)
- Chair, 5-member panel at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University, related to disciplinary proceedings (2022)
- Chair, 5 member panel at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University related to disciplinary proceedings against Professor (2023)
- Member, 5-member disciplinary panel in relation to disciplinary proceedings at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University (2022)
- Member, 3-member panel in relation to the Academic Review Committee at Hughes Hall College, Cambridge University

Recommendations

'Startlingly precocious'... 'really innovative'... 'the breadth and boldness of Ms Malik's activities are striking. Her experience shows what can be achieved with energy and determination'. [The Financial Times UK, Innovative Lawyers](#)

...amazingly effective... [The Times UK](#)

Leadership Maker [Asian Legal Business's Top 100 Lawyers in Asia](#)