

ARMESTO & ASOCIADOS

ÁRBITROS

FRANCISCA SEARA CARDOSO

Armesto & Asociados

General Pardiñas 102

28006 Madrid – Spain

Tel. (+34) 91 562 16 25

fsc@jfarmesto.com

www.jfarmesto.com

Francisca Seara Cardoso is a partner at Armesto & Asociados, a boutique of arbitrators with an international and independent profile and a good business sense, founded by Juan Fernández-Armesto.

Francisca joined Armesto & Asociados in 2019, where she acts as arbitrator and secretary to arbitral tribunals in arbitration proceedings, including international, *ad hoc* and administered arbitrations involving both commercial and investment disputes. Most of the cases are administered by ICC, ICSID, PCA and local arbitral institutions. As to *ad hoc* arbitrations, most of them are subject to the UNCITRAL Rules. The list of arbitrations in which Francisca has participated since she joined Armesto & Asociados can be found below.

Professional Experience

Before joining Armesto & Asociados, Francisca Seara Cardoso worked as an associate at the Portuguese law firm Morais Leitão, where she gained extensive experience as counsel in domestic and international arbitrations (with a particular focus on Portuguese-speaking countries), in a variety of industry sectors, including energy, construction, M&A, corporate, among others. Francisca also acted as counsel in commercial disputes before the Portuguese courts. She was also a member of Team Genesis – a specialized multi expert team within Morais Leitão, with a particular focus on entrepreneurship and innovation – and of the Social Responsibility Committee of the firm. Previously, Francisca worked in the Banking and Finance practice group of Morais Leitão and in the Mergers & Acquisitions team of the Portuguese law firm Vieira de Almeida & Associados.

Additionally, Francisca was a lecturer of Business and Economic Law at Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics.

Professional Memberships and Activities

- Member of the Portuguese Bar
- Member of the Portuguese Arbitration Association (Associação Portuguesa de Arbitragem - APA)
- Member of the Spanish Club of Arbitration (Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje – CEIA)
- Co-chair of the CEIA-40 (2023-2024)
- Member of the Task Force on Sports Arbitration and Entertainment of the Madrid International Arbitration Center (2025-)



- Member of the Future Committee of the Arbitration Centre of the Portuguese Chamber of Commerce (2024-)
- Member of the Tribunal Secretary Network
- Member of the Task Force preparing guidelines on the use of tribunal secretaries in international arbitration
- Member of the ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (ICC YAF)
- Member of Young ICCA
- Member of Young International Arbitration Group (YIAG)

Education

Francisca Seara Cardoso holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from the Lisbon School of Law of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (2009-2013), for which she received four merit scholarships. During her undergrad, Francisca completed an exchange program at Fundação Getúlio Vargas, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Francisca also holds a Master's degree (LL.M.) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (London, United Kingdom), with a specialisation in corporate and commercial law, obtained in 2014.

In 2018, Francisca completed a post-graduate program in Commercial Litigation, at Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal.

Languages

- Portuguese (mother tongue)
- English (bilingual)
- Spanish (bilingual)

Conferences and publications

- “*Técnicas Avançadas sobre Produção de Provas em Arbitragem*” – speaker in the event organized by the ICC and *Club Español e Iberoamericano del Arbitraje – CEIA*, São Paulo (2025);
- “Arbitration with State entities at the shrink: what lies ahead?” – speaker in the event organized by the Câmara Portuguesa de Comércio no Brasil and Jus Mundi during the Paris Arbitration Week, Paris (2024);
- “*Arbitragem societária em Portugal*”, *Arbitragem 2 Mundos: Diálogos entre o Brasil e Portugal*, Vol. II, 1.^a ed., São Paulo, Quartier Latin (2024);
- “Arbitral Award: Drafting, challenge and enforcement” – lecturer at the NOVA Summer School on International Arbitration, Lisbon (2023);



- “Efficient Procedural Management: Best Practices, Limits, and Challenges for the Future” – speaker at the XVI Congress of the Portuguese Commercial Arbitration Center organized by CAC Future and APA-40, Lisbon (2023);
- “Drafting arbitral awards” – speaker in a workshop organized by the IBA Arb40, on the IBA Toolkit on drafting arbitral awards, Milan (2023);
- “*Árbitros e impugnações: entre a independência e a imparcialidade*” – speaker at the VI Encontro de Arbitralistas Lusófonos, Paris Arbitration Week, Paris (2023);
- “*Cómo afrontar un arbitraje de construcción?*” – speaker in a workshop organized by MAD VYAP, Madrid (2022);
- “*Arbitragem societária*” – speaker at the XI Encontro Internacional de Arbitragem de Coimbra, organized by the section under 40, Coimbra (2022);
- “How to chart a successful course in arbitration” – speaker in a webinar organized by ICC YAF (2022);
- “*Salidas profesionales en el arbitraje*” – speaker in a webinar organized by University of Valencia (2022);
- “Abuse of Process in Investment Arbitration” (co-authored with Adam Jankowski), *Revista de Arbitraje Comercial y de Inversiones*, Vol. XIII (2021);
- “Introduction to Arbitral Secretary Appointments” – speaker in a webinar organized by Young ICCA (2021);
- “*La diversidad, inclusión y género en el arbitraje*” – speaker at the Congress of the Central American Young Arbitrators (2021);
- “Portugal: charting a path towards a corporate arbitration-friendly jurisdiction” – *Young Arbitration Review* (2018);
- “P2P Lending” (co-authored with Luís Roquette Galdes and João Lima da Silva) – *FinTech desafios da tecnologia financeira*, Almedina (1st Edition) and 2019 (2nd Edition);
- “*Uma revolução chamada crowdfunding*” (co-authored with Luís Roquette Galdes) – IV Congresso de Direito das Sociedades em Revista, Almedina, 2016;



- “Fifth International Arbitration Meeting of Coimbra” (co-authored with Filipe Vaz Pinto) – Young Arbitration Review, 2015.



LIST OF ARBITRATIONS

As Arbitrator

1. **Spanish Company vs. Spanish Company**, Sole Arbitrator, ICC, energy and energy commodities swaps, Spanish Law, Spanish language (2025).
2. **Spanish Company vs. Spanish Company**, Sole Arbitrator, CAM, agrobusiness sector, Spanish law, Spanish language (2024).

As Secretary or Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal

1. **Afriland First Group SA, Afriland First Bank SA, Joseph Toubi, and Paul Kammogne Fokam v. The Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Assistant to the Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, H. C. Alvarez KC and A. Mourre), ICSID Case No. ARB/23/38, investment arbitration. Counsel to Claimants: White & Case LLP (Washington D.C. and New York). Counsel to Respondent: Hogan Lovells U.S. LLP (New York, Miami and Houston) (2024).
2. **Eastern European Company v. Eastern European Companies**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, E. Kee and N. Gould), ICC, engineering, procurement and construction contract, Eastern European law, English language. Counsel to Claimant: Lalive and Roschier. Counsel to Respondents: 3 Verulam Buildings (2023).
3. **Vasilisa Ershova and Jegor Jeršov v. Republic of Bulgaria**, Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, J. Paulsson and T. Landau KC), ICSID Case No. ARB/11/29, investment arbitration, English language. Counsel to Claimants: International Arbitration Chambers New York, Hecht Partners LLP. Counsel to Respondent: Ministry of Finance, White & Case LLP and Tomov & Tomov (2023).
4. **Santiago Romero Barst and Maria Auxiliadora Rodriguez (Romero Family) v. Republic of Ecuador**, Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, L. O’Naghten and L. Boisson de Chazournes), UNCITRAL Rules, investment arbitration under BIT, English and Spanish language. Counsel to Claimants: Homer Bonner Jacobs Ortiz, Rivero Mestre LLP and Echaíz y Asociados. Counsel to Respondent: Procuraduría General del Estado de Ecuador and Hogan Lovells U.S. LLP (2023).
5. **Bayındır İnşaat Turizm Ticaret ve Sanayi A.Ş. v. Islamic Republic of Pakistan**, Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, K. Hobér and J. Christopher Thomas QC), ICSID Case No. ARB/21/48, investment arbitration, English language. Counsel to Claimant: Swanson Huddell & Daschbach, Fishman Haygood and Kabine Law Office. Counsel to Respondent: International Disputes Unit, Office of the Attorney General for Pakistan, Reed Smith and Essex Court Chambers (2022).



6. **Brazilian energy company v. Brazilian energy company**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: D. Villanúa, V. Galíndez and C. Zanetti), ICC, Brazilian law, Portuguese language (2022).
7. **Mexican logistics company v. Mexican distributor of hydrocarbons, petroleum and petrochemical products**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: D. Villanúa, G. Lozano and E. Zuleta), ICC, Mexican law, Spanish language (2022).
8. **Italian Construction Company and its Chilean Subsidiary v. French Construction Company and its Chilean Subsidiary**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, J. Arancibia Mattar and L. Lévy), ICC, Chilean law, English language. Counsel to Claimants: Baker & McKenzie. Counsel to Respondents: Lalive (2021).
9. **South32 SA Investments Limited v. Republic of Colombia**, Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: D. Villanúa, G. Tawil and A. Jana), ICSID Case No. ARB/20/9, investment arbitration under BIT between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Colombia, Spanish and English languages. Counsel to Claimant: Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Dechamps International Law and PHR Legal. Counsel to Respondent: Agencia Nacional de Defensa Jurídica del Estado de Colombia, Latham & Watkins (2020).
10. **Chinese Company and Brazilian Companies v. Brazilian citizens**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, E. Zuleta and C. A. Carmona), ICC, share purchase agreement, Brazilian law, English language. Counsel to Claimants: Linklaters and Lefosse Advogados. Counsel to Respondents: Cescon, Barrieu, Flesch & Barreto Advogados and Baker Botts (2020).
11. **Leopoldo Castillo Bozo v. Republic of Panama**, Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: D. Villanúa, R. Barahona and G. Bottini), PCA Case No. 201940, investment arbitration under BIT between Dominican Republic and Panama, Spanish language. Counsel to Claimant: Contreras y Rodríguez Abogados. Counsel to Respondent: Superintendencia de Seguros y Reaseguros, Dirección del Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas and Dr. Carlos Alberto Arrue Montenegro (2020).
12. **Carlyle Group and others v. Kingdom of Morocco**, Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, H. Grigera Naón and S. Wordsworth), ICSID Case No. ARB/18/29, US-Morocco Free-Trade Agreement, English language Counsel to Claimant: Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP. Counsel to Respondent: 3 Verulam Buildings (2019).
13. **US construction company v. Central American office of an international organisation**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: D. Villanúa, J. Sicard-Mirabal and J. R. Feris), UNCITRAL, construction contract, *lex mercatoria*, Spanish language (2019).
14. **Chilean Company v. Chilean and Italian Companies**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, O. Garibaldi and A. Fermandois), ICC, construction contract, Chilean law, Spanish language (2017).



15. **International Construction Company v. Central American Public Agency**, Administrative Secretary to the Arbitral Tribunal (members of the Tribunal: J. Fernández-Armesto, H. Grigera Naón and J. E. Nunes Pinto), ICC, construction contract, law of Central American Republic, Spanish language; Counsel to Claimant: In-house, Derains & Gharavi and White & Case; Counsel to Respondent: In-house and Bofill Mir & Alvarez Jana Abogados, (2015).

March 2025