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Frederico Singarajah

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Main profile

Frederico is a leading barrister specialising in international commercial dispute resolution, with deep expertise in both litigation and arbitration. He is particularly known for his work in international trade and investment disputes, and his diverse background—as a solicitor, in-house counsel, and now at the Bar—equips him to handle high-value, complex, and high-profile cases with strategic insight.

He is frequently instructed by UK and international law firms, global corporates, government entities, and third-party funders, often in matters involving emerging markets across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. His practice focusses on energy and natural resources, but spans a broad range of sectors, including banking and finance, energy, infrastructure, commodities, aviation, mining, maritime, corporate and M&A, and (re)insurance.

Frederico is an accomplished trial advocate and has represented states, state-owned entities, and private sector clients in English court proceedings. In international arbitration, he acts regularly as both counsel and arbitrator under the rules of major institutions, including the LCIA, ICC, LMAA, AAA-ICDR, DIAC, HKIAC, SIAC, CAM-CCBC, AIAC, ACICA, and UNCITRAL.

Recognised in the *Legal 500 International Arbitration Powerlist*, *Legal 500 UK Bar, Chambers and Partners*, and *Who's Who Legal*, Frederico is regarded as one of the standout arbitration practitioners at the English Bar, ranked both as counsel and arbitrator. He is listed on the panels of leading arbitral institutions worldwide, including the AAA-ICDR, VIAC, HKIAC, AIAC, KCAB, ACICA, B3 and CAM-CCBC.

In 2017, he was appointed by the Ministry of Justice as a Court Examiner, overseeing depositions—primarily for U.S. District Courts—and is now one of the most experienced Examiners in this role.

Alongside his practice, Frederico is committed to legal education. He teaches international arbitration with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and Gray's Inn. He is a course leader at UCL and continues to lecture there and at the University of Westminster.

Arbitrator profile

Frederico is a highly experienced and internationally recognised arbitrator, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and a native Portuguese speaker fluent in Spanish. He specialises in arbitrations involving emerging markets, particularly Latin America, Lusophone Africa, and Southeast Asia. Frederico is listed as an arbitrator with leading institutions including AAA-ICDR, VIAC, HKIAC, CAM-CCBC, CAM, AIAC, KCAB, and ACICA.

His arbitration practice spans a broad range of industries, including shipping, aviation, natural resources, traditional and renewable energy, banking and finance, construction and infrastructure, and the insurance and reinsurance sectors. Frederico is well-versed in major institutional rules such as ICC, LCIA, ICDR, UNCITRAL, SCC, CAM-CCBC, and LMAA, as well as industry-specific rules including GAFTA, FOSFA, LME, SAL, RSA, and FCC. His expertise covers disputes under common law, civil law, and public international law, enabling him to navigate diverse legal systems seamlessly—truly embodying the role of an international arbitration practitioner.

Frederico is recognised in prestigious directories including the International Arbitration Powerlist by Legal 500, Chambers & Partners, and Who's Who Legal, placing him among the most notable arbitration practitioners at the English Bar.

He is pleased to accept appointments as sole arbitrator, panel member, and chair. Operating from London, Sydney, and Rio de Janeiro, Frederico offers flexible fee arrangements for international travel. He holds dual Brazilian and British nationality.

Sample Work:

- *London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)* – party appointed arbitrator, in a dispute brought by a Cayman banking group against an El Salvadorian entity relating to substantial facility agreement. The dispute relates to whether a change in a bank's rating triggered a default event under the facility agreement. Arbitration seated in London, governed by English law.
- *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)* – party appointed arbitrator, in a dispute relating to a company restructure and whether such event triggered termination in a geophysical data use licence for use in offshore oil and gas exploration and production. Governed by Brazilian law, in Portuguese and seated in Rio de Janeiro.
- *Centro Brasileiro de Mediação e Arbitragem (CBMA)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a dispute relating to a charterparty agreement between companies in the oil and gas exploration and production (upstream) sector.
- *Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a post-M&A dispute relating to the transfer of shares in a group operating in the telecoms sector. Arbitration seated in São Paulo, governed by Brazilian law with parties from Brazil, BVI, France, US and Colombia.
- *London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a dispute relating to an alleged breach of a charterparty agreement for a luxury yacht. Arbitration seated in London and governed by English and French law.
- *Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a dispute relating to four contracts for the manufacture and supply of concrete towers for the use of wind generator turbines. Arbitration seated in São Paulo, governed by Brazilian law and in held in Portuguese language.
- *London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a dispute relating to the purchase and sale of a vessel for the exploration and production of oil and gas. Arbitration seated in London and governed by English law.
- *Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a dispute relating to a contract for the leasing of equipment for thermoelectric generation. Arbitration seated in São Paulo, governed by Brazilian law and in Portuguese.

- *London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)* – sole arbitrator, appointed by the LCIA in a dispute brought by a UAE company against a Bulgarian entity relating to the purchase and sale of aluminium billets for extrusion. Arbitration seated in London, governed by English law.
- *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)* – chair, appointed by co-arbitrators in an arbitration for a dispute concerning a ROV Support Vessel (RSV) time charter agreement, seated in Rio de Janeiro, governed by Brazilian law and held in Portuguese language.
- *London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)* – sole arbitrator, appointed by the LCIA in a dispute brought by an Iranian controlled entity against an Emirati company in respect of alleged overpayments under a purchase and sale agreement for raw cane sugar.
- *Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)* – chair, appointed by co-arbitrators in an arbitration relating to claims for price reduction of two agreements for the purchase and sale of manganese governed by the laws of Hong Kong and seated in Hong Kong. The dispute, between Uruguayan and Chinese parties, also raised allegations of fraud in the counterclaim, relating to a third contract.
- *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)* – party appointed arbitrator in an arbitration relating to claims for breach of two agreements to design and construct a theme park, a licensing agreement governed by the laws of the state of New York and a design agreement governed by English law, seated in London.
- *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)* – party appointed co-arbitrator in an arbitration for claims and counterclaims concerning the termination of an agreement for the manufacture and sale of wind turbine blades seated in São Paulo, governed by Brazilian law and held in Portuguese language.
- *Ad Hoc* – sole arbitrator in a dispute involving English and French parties relating to an exclusive distribution agreement for materials in the construction sector, seated in London and governed by English law.
- *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)* – chair, appointed by co-arbitrators in an arbitration claiming delay and disruption in the construction of a photovoltaic plant from the E & M contractor against the employer. Arbitration seated in Geneva, Switzerland and governed by Brazilian law.
- *London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation (LCAM)* – party-appointed arbitrator in a claim brought by a multinational for payment with a counterclaim for defects in the partial design and manufacture of feedwater heaters for a nuclear power plant in Latin America. Seated in London with English law governing.

Commercial dispute resolution

Civil fraud & asset tracing

Frederico frequently handles claims involving fraud and corruption, drawing on extensive experience in both prosecuting and defending such allegations. This focus has led him to write widely on addressing fraud and corruption in the context of international arbitration. He has acted in global disputes concerning the tracing, freezing, and recovery of misappropriated assets, often involving emergency relief measures and the coordination of multi-jurisdictional legal teams. His work regularly spans the United States, continental Europe, and other international jurisdictions.

Sample Work:

- *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)* – leading counsel for C, a large-scale US headquartered metals trader, against a Zambian company in a dispute relating to a contract about the sale and purchase of copper cathodes, governed by English law and seated in London. The arbitration was part of a larger scale fraud, encompassing various disputes across the African continent.

- *RE: Bernard L Madoff Investment Securities (US) (SDNY) [2022]* – QBD – sitting as an examiner in the deposition of witnesses relating to the recovery of assets of the largest financial fraud in history.
- *Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA)* – advising and representing C in a fraud claim for payment of price of buyer's failure to produce evidence of loss as alleged. Seated in London and governed by English law.
- *National Crime Agency (NCA) & Department of Justice (DoJ US) [2018]* – advising the NCA's International Corruption Unit assisting the US DoJ in a multi-billion USD investigation in the oil & gas sector in an African state.
- *Serious Fraud Office (SFO) v AS & Anr [2018]* – advising in a prosecution of an international fraud involving an unregulated collective investment scheme in an opaque company and trust structure involving Brazil, UAE, US and England.
- *KDB (Receiver of Rex Venture Group LLC) (US) v SS & Ors [2016]* – advising and representing the US SEC appointed receivers in relation to the enforcement of judgments of a North Carolina court relating to fraudulent payments from a 'Ponzi' scheme.
- *RE: SB Property Investment (Brazil) [2014]* – advising and representing over 80 private investors in the UK, UAE, NZ and US, in a class action involving the purported acquisition, parcelling and development of land in the northeast of Brazil. The claim for fraudulent representation involved an opaque corporate structure involving companies in Brazil, Belize, Jersey and England.

Languages

- Native Portuguese
- Spanish

Professional associations

- Founder and Director of London Arbitration Week
- Bar Council of England and Wales, Vice-Chair of the International Committee, responsible for the Americas
- Gray's Inn, International Arbitration Course Leader & Vis Moot Coach, International Committee
- London Arbitration Week (LAW), Founder and Director
- Lex Anglo-Brasil (bilateral law association), Founder and Co-chair
- Instituto de Advogados do Brasil (IAB), Honourary Member
- American Bar Association (ABA), Associate Member
- Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), Fellow
- International Bar Association (IBA), Member
- Society of Construction Law (SCL), Member
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR), Member
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), Fellow
- Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA), Fellow
- London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA), Supporting Member
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), Member
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Arbitration & ADR Committee, Member
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), Member
- Comitê Brasileiro de Arbitragem (Cbar), Member

Frederico is on the list of arbitrators for the following institutions:

- American Arbitration Association – International Center for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR)
- Asia Pacific International Arbitration Chamber (APIAC)
- Câmara de Arbitragem Empresarial do Brasil (CAMARB)
- Câmara do Mercado (B3)
- Centro de Arbitragem e Mediação da Câmara de Comércio Brasil-Canadá (CAM-CCBC)
- Centro Brasileiro de Mediação e Arbitragem (CBMA)
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC)
- Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC)
- Mozambique Centre for Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation (CACM)
- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) International

Qualifications

- BA (Hons)
- Admitted to the Roll of Solicitors of England & Wales
- Admitted to the Brazilian Bar Association (OAB)
- Ministry of Justice Appointed Court Examiner
- Accredited Mediator
- Accredited Full SFO Security Clearance
- Digital Dispute Resolution Specialist (DDRS)
- Sits on ADR ODR's DDRS panel

Directory recommendations

Frederico is recommended for International Arbitration in The Legal 500, Chambers and Partners (UK Bar and International Arbitration Powerlist) and Who's Who Legal:

- *"Frederico is fantastic."* (Chambers UK 2026, International Arbitration)
- *"Fred is a clear communicator, an effective leader, a great lawyer and a pleasure to work with. He is tenacious in his work, confident in his views, and adept at juggling competing commitments. Fred gets the job done, does it well and is a collaborative team player along the way."* (The Legal 500 2026, International arbitration: counsel)
- *"Mr Singarajah is an exemplary choice for those seeking a competent and trustworthy arbitrator. His professionalism and integrity set a standard for arbitration that truly deserves recognition."* (Chambers, 2025, International Arbitration: Arbitrators)
- *"Fred is very well versed and prepared to transmit the legal concepts and perceptions from English law to Brazilian lawyer and a Brazilian client. Also, he has a proactive posture, offering a fast and qualified service for his clients."* (The Legal 500, 2024, International Arbitration: Counsel)
- *"Very prepared to work for non-English clients, especially Brazilian clients. He is very professional and he always is available to assist or support in all the advocacy activities."* (The Legal 500, 2023)
- *"He is a very good communicator and is bilingual in English and Brazilian Portuguese which is invaluable."* (The Legal 500, 2022)
- *"Strong knowledge of international law and arbitration. He is excellent at presenting his case and cross-examining witnesses."* (Who's Who Legal, International Arbitration)