

Paul Cohen

Year of Call: 1999



Practice Summary

Paul Cohen is among the world's foremost international arbitration practitioners. He is also highly experienced in international anti-bribery and fraud work. Paul heads the international group at 4-5 Gray's Inn Square Chambers. He is called to the Bars of New York and England and Wales. Paul practiced for many years with the late Arthur Marriott QC, one of the founding fathers of modern international arbitration. Paul got his start in international law working at the Prosecutor's Office of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. A former speechwriter on the Clinton/Gore Presidential Campaign, Paul later worked on high-profile international cases with the late Ted Sorensen, John F Kennedy's legendary speechwriter and counsel.

Paul is particularly well known for his work in the energy, financial, and technology sectors. He has appeared in commercial disputes involving all the major arbitral institutions, as well as in ad hoc arbitrations. He has represented both investors and host states in investment treaty disputes. In February 2022, Paul won a \$15 billion award on behalf of his clients against Malaysia, to date the largest unconsolidated award in arbitral history.

Paul is often called upon to represent clients in highly complex cases in which clients feel concerned that their case might be lost in the minutiae. Paul's prior experience as an American-qualified trial lawyer has made him one of the counsel of choice for distilling difficult fact patterns to their essence. Clients have called him "riveting" and "quite simply unrivaled" in his presentation to arbitral tribunals.

Paul is one of the world's authorities on the topic of bribery in international investigations and disputes. He is the co-author of *International Corruption* (Sweet & Maxwell, 2nd ed 2018), the first book to address bribery and corruption from a multinational perspective.

Paul acts exclusively as counsel and does not serve as an arbitrator. He accepts direct instruction from clients. Paul holds a longstanding interest in technology in arbitration, and currently serves as President of the Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center.

Representative Matters

Investment treaty claim against Asian government in connection with petroleum resources

Multi-billion dollar ad hoc arbitration contract claim involving lessees of commercial interests

Defense of sovereign East Asian government in investment treaty arbitration against British and Saudi bankers

Offshore entity in arbitration enforcement proceedings in New York

Silicon chip manufacturers in international disputes involving Singapore, Vietnam and China

Aircraft manufacturer in dispute against European military purchaser

International publishing company on anti-corruption compliance in international matters

Defense of claim by parastatal entity against alternative energy concern

Prosecution of claim by gas-to-liquids entity in Caribbean

African offshore unitization claim

Parallel commercial and investment treaty mining claim

Fraud-related telecommunications claim by Brazilian entity against Italian entity

Defence of claim by investor against African government

Defence of claim by European pharmaceutical company against owner of rival entity

Annulment proceeding for State against oilfield developer

Defence of plastics manufacturer against acquirer of a plant in Brazil

Claim by European oil company against seller of refinery

International publishing company on anti-corruption compliance in international matters

Defense of claim by parastatal entity against alternative energy concern

Fraud-related telecommunications claim by Brazilian entity against Italian entity

Defence of claim by investor against African government

Defence of claim by European pharmaceutical company against owner of rival entity

Annulment proceeding for State against oilfield developer

Representative Matters

Represented witnesses in largest US criminal tax fraud trial to date

Internal investigation of major European insurance company in trade sanctions inquiry;

Numerous clients in Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigations (all resulting in non-prosecution or deferred prosecution)

International financial institution in connection with a multi-agency money-laundering investigation

Major cruise line in a criminal investigation involving alleged violations of US and international environmental law

Leading financial institution in securities litigation stemming from the collapse of WorldCom

Internal investigations of mutual fund companies in connection with regulatory inquiries into market timing and late trading

Worldwide insurance and financial services company in criminal and regulatory investigations arising out of industry-wide bid-rigging revelations

Memberships

- Co-Chair, International Task Force, Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center
 - Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Technology in International Arbitration
 - Editorial Board Member, Global Arbitration Review
 - New York City Bar, International Commercial Disputes Committee, Member
 - New York International Arbitration Center, Former Director
 - International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), Member
 - International Arbitration Club of New York, Member
 - International Bar Association, Member
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Education

- Columbia Law School
- Juris Doctor.
- Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.
- Senior Editor, Human Rights Law Review.
- University of Paris (Panthéon-Sorbonne)
- Advanced studies in Private International Law.
- Harvard University
- Post-doctoral research fellow.
- Oxford University
- Doctorate in Political Science.
- Full scholarship from the UK Economic and Social Research Council.
- University of Pennsylvania
- Bachelor of Arts.
- Summa cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa; Dean's List all years.