



DR. SEBASTIAN KNEISEL
Lawyer | Partner

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Professional Background

2014 -
Borris Hennecke Kneisel PartmbB | Cologne, Germany
Founding Partner

2009-2014
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP | Cologne, Frankfurt/Main, Germany
Associate

Education

2009
Second State Exam (qualification to hold the office of a judge in the German state courts), North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

2007
Doctorate degree in law (Dr. iur.), University of Frankfurt/Main, Max Planck Institute for Legal History and Legal Theory: "Arbitration in International Administrative Unions"

2004
First State Exam, Hessen, Germany

1999-2004
Law studies, University of Frankfurt/Main, Germany (Scholarship Holder of the German National Academic Foundation)

Areas of Specialization

Post M&A, corporate, construction / turn-key projects, energy and cross-border sales transactions, D&O-liability

Experience

Arbitral Appointments (- 2025): 36

thereof as Chairman: 15
thereof as Sole Arbitrator: 3
thereof as Co-Arbitrator: 18

ICC, DIS, DIS-SRCoLD, ad hoc

ADR

Mediator, Expert Determination

Counsel

Arbitration: More than 25 international and domestic arbitration proceedings (ICC, DIS, NAI, UNCITRAL, ad hoc)

Litigation: Numerous general commercial and arbitration-related state court proceedings

Academic Activities

2015 - 2021

Lecturer on International Dispute Resolution at the Europa-Institute of Saarland University, Germany

Memberships and Credentials

German Institution of Arbitration (DIS); Past Regional Coordinator of DIS40 (2010-2012)

International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA)

Alumni of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation

"absolute expert, very skillful and solution-oriented" (JUVE German Commercial Law Firms 2024/2025)

WWL Thought Leaders: Germany 2024 – Arbitration

"One can be certain that Sebastian is 100% prepared and has considered and weighed all arguments that have been brought up." (Chambers Europe Guide 2024)

WWL Thought Leaders: Germany 2023 – Arbitration

"Sebastian Kneisel has a great understanding of the questions of law and strategy and has a clear focus." (Chambers Europe Guide 2023)

"Sebastian is a very talented and committed partner who is effective in communicating and enforcing his clients' interests." (Chambers Europe Guide 2023)

Sebastian Kneisel comes highly recommended as “an affable colleague” who excels thanks to his “vast experience in complex disputes”. (Who’s Who Legal: Germany 2022 - Arbitration)

“excellent, creative, hands-on” (JUVE German Commercial Law Firms 2021/2022)

“excellent, very flexible” (JUVE German Commercial Law Firms 2020/2021)

Sebastian Kneisel is one of the “leading arbitrators of the next generation”. (The Legal 500 Germany 2020)

Sebastian Kneisel is a “very dedicated and smart” arbitration practitioner who stands out among peers for his “precise and foresighted” approach to disputes. (Who’s Who Legal: Germany 2020 - Arbitration)

“very experienced all-rounder in arbitration” (JUVE German Commercial Law Firms 2019/2020)

“Sebastian Kneisel is well regarded for his arbitration practice where he advises clients on complex dispute resolution matters and is praised by sources for his deep understanding of arbitration proceedings.” (Who’s Who Legal: Germany 2019 - Arbitration)

Working Languages

German, English

Publications and Speaking Engagements (selection)

Verteidigungsstrategien gegen die Anordnung der Document-Production in: internationalen Schiedsverfahren (Defense strategies against document production in international arbitrations), in: SchiedsVZ 2013, p. 1320-1330 (with Claudia Lecking)

Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit in Internationalen Verwaltungsunionen (1874 - 1914): Die Verrechtlichung der zwischenstaatlichen Streitbeilegung (Arbitration in International Administrative Unions), Baden-Baden, 2009

“From Chatbots to Blockchain: The Impact of Technology on International Arbitration” – Panelist, Humboldt University Berlin (2023)

“Best Practices and Process Efficiency in Arbitration” – ADR Days Barcelona (2018)

“The Interaction between State Courts and Arbitral Tribunals” – Panelist, CEA-40 and DIS40, Barcelona (2018)

„Finanzierung von Schiedsverfahren – Dos and Don’ts im Umgang mit Prozessfinanzierern” – DIS40 Nord, Hamburg, Germany (2018)

“Enforcement proceedings - Strategic choices” – Panelist, AIJA in Stockholm, Sweden (2017)

“International Arbitration” – Panelist, European Lawyers Berlin Annual 2016 Conference (2016)

„Emergency Arbitrator – Erste Erfahrungen aus der Praxis“ – DIS40 Rhein/Ruhr (2014)