

Augustin Barrier Partner, Geneva



Augustin specialises in international arbitration, including commercial and investment treaty arbitration. His main area of focus is on the extractive industries, specifically energy and mining. His practice spans the full life cycle of projects, from exploration and development to production, processing, marketing, and downstream operations, and extends to related joint ventures, infrastructure, and cross-border investments, with a strong emphasis on matters involving Europe and Africa.

He has acted in numerous international arbitrations, both institutional (including before the ICC, SCC, CCJA and ICSID) and ad hoc. He brings recognised experience in disputes involving States, State-owned entities and private sector participants across Europe and Africa, under a range of legal systems reflecting both civil law and common law traditions. He regularly engages with issues specific to the African context, including regulatory and local content frameworks, resource governance, and investor-State relations.

Augustin regularly publishes on international law and arbitration, and notably contributes to the *Revue des revues of the Journal du droit international* (Clunet).

Current professional memberships

- + Co-Founder of the Swiss Chapter of ENERAP (Energy Related Arbitration Practitioners)
- + Member of Young Mining Professionals (YMP) Switzerland
- + Member of ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (YAF)
- + Member of LCIA Young International Arbitration Group (YIAG)
- + Member of African Arbitration Association (AfAA)
- + Member of ASA below 40

Career history

- + Partner, LALIVE, Geneva, 2025 – present
- + Counsel, LALIVE, Geneva, 2020 – 2024
- + Associate, LALIVE, Geneva, 2016 – 2020
- + Associate, Dentons Europe, Paris, 2014 – 2016
- + Associate, Bredin Prat, Paris, 2010 – 2014

Academic qualifications

- + Master in Litigation, Arbitration & ADR, Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, 2009
- + Master in Economic Law, Sciences Po, Paris, 2008
- + Bachelor of Law, Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Paris, 2007

Contact

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Practices

- + Arbitration - International Commercial
- + Arbitration - Investment Treaty

Sectors

- + Energy
- + Mining

Languages

- + English
- + French

Nationality

- + French

Admission

- + Geneva (foreign lawyer), 2017
- + Paris, 2011

Recognition

Ranked as Future Leader

Who's Who Legal, Arbitration, 2023

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Who's Who Legal, Arbitration, 2022

“Augustin’s expertise and knowledge in the case is particularly advanced. Particular emphasis should be placed on his skills to prepare witnesses for the proceedings. Patience, empathy capacity, perfect process (case) management, ability to establish mutual trust between client and legal representative.”

Legal 500, Dispute Resolution: Arbitration, Key Lawyer, 2021

Ranked Future Leader

Who's Who Legal, Arbitration, 2021

Recent publications

The AfCFTA’s Dispute Resolution Framework: New Opportunities & Key Considerations For Swiss Investors In Africa

BERND EHLE, AUGUSTIN BARRIER

In: SABC Member Legal Insights Newsletter, March/April 2025

Mitigating the costs of potential disputes in Africa through third-party funding

BERND EHLE, AUGUSTIN BARRIER

In: SABC Member Legal Insights Newsletter, 2023

Mali Ecowas Sanctions: The Impact on Foreign Investors

AUGUSTIN BARRIER, BAPTISTE RIGAUDEAU

In: LALIVE Blog, 27 January 2022, Lexology online, 31 January 2022

Recent conferences

African Arbitration Association - African Arbitration Association - 5th Annual Conference

AUGUSTIN BARRIER , Role: Speaker, Panel 4: ESG in investment arbitration
Douala, 10 October 2024

University of Geneva - Symposium on Investors’ Obligations

AUGUSTIN BARRIER , Role: Speaker, The Landscape of Laws, Compliance with National and International Law
Geneva, 16 May 2024

African Public Procurement Network (Réseau africain de la commande publique) - 3rd General Assembly

AUGUSTIN BARRIER , Role: Speaker, Presentation of a report to the African Development Bank on arbitral seats in Africa
Abidjan, 12 December 2023