

Kenneth Beale

Partner

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He / Him

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Areas of Focus

Business Litigation

International Arbitration

Specialized Litigation and Arbitration

National Security and Crisis

Technology



Overview

Ken Beale brings more than 15 years of experience to bear for clients facing complex bet-the-company international disputes in a diverse range of jurisdictions, including against foreign governments. His transatlantic practice includes first-chairing and successfully representing clients in numerous commercial and investor-state arbitrations throughout the world. He also sits as arbitrator.

Described as “one of the best” in the field, “very experienced in handling large cases”, and as standing out for his “insightful and great oral arguments”, Ken has first-chaired many high-stakes hearings and acted as counsel under the auspices of most leading institutions, including the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR), International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC), and Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC), as well as in matters under the UNCITRAL Rules.

Companies across industries, including financial services, oil and gas, telecommunications, energy, and manufacturing turn to Ken for contractual and treaty arbitrations, as well as for breach of contract, shareholder, joint venture, and post-M&A disputes. He also is a go-to resource for hedge funds and litigation funders considering litigation and arbitration matters.

As a member of the Specialized Litigation and Arbitration Practice, Ken also routinely represents clients in significant multi-jurisdictional enforcement actions and in court, often in connection with foreign judicial and arbitral proceedings.

Areas of Focus

- Business Litigation
- International Arbitration
- Specialized Litigation and Arbitration
- National Security and Crisis
- Technology
- Hedge, Investment, and Private Equity Funds
- Communications, Internet, and Technology
- India
- Middle East

Representative Matters

- Representing one of the world's largest manufacturing companies in a shareholder dispute worth in excess of €1 billion.
- Representing numerous financial institutions in an ICC arbitration pertaining to a shareholder dispute over control of a European company.
- Representing one of the world's largest natural gas producers in several gas price review arbitrations, each valued at more than €1 billion.
- Representing one of the world's largest asset managers in an international arbitration seated in South America related to allegations of fraud and corruption, with several hundred million dollars in dispute.
- Representing a Middle Eastern oil and gas company in an ICC arbitration pertaining to a high-profile contractual dispute with its counterparty over the sale of natural gas, with several hundred million dollars in dispute.
- Representing a South American retail company over the sale of its business in a South American-seated ICC international arbitration, with several hundred million Euros in dispute.
- Representing an international oil and gas company in a California-seated AAA-ICDR arbitration against an African oilfield services provider in a breach of contract dispute.
- Representing an American financial services company in an international arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules with a European sovereign over the expropriation of a financial institution of which it was a major shareholder.
- Representing a European multinational in multiple parallel arbitral proceedings sited in Europe in connection with a shareholder dispute, with in excess of €1 billion in dispute.
- Representing the owner of one of the world's largest mining companies in an international arbitration under the UNCITRAL Rules against a European sovereign over the alleged exploration of a mining business.

- Representing an oil exploration company in an ICC arbitration related to a contractual dispute over services provided in Africa.
- Representing one of Europe's largest companies in multibillion-Euro arbitrations against a European sovereign.

Credentials

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland

Education

- Yale University, JD
- University of Cambridge, MA
- Pomona College, BA, valedictorian, *summa cum laude*

Clerkships

- Chief Judge Carolyn Dineen King, US Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- Hon. Peter J. Messitte, US District Court, District of Maryland

Service / Recognition

Awards

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Litigators*, 2023-2025
- Capital Pro Bono High Honor Roll, 2024-2025
- *Chambers Global*, International Arbitration (UK), 2023-2024, 2026
- *Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2024*