









GIAC ARBITRATION
DAYS in TBILISI













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DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the GIAC Arbitration Days 2025 in Tbilisi. This year marks another significant step in our efforts to establish Georgia as a key regional hub for arbitration.

The Georgian International Arbitration Centre (GIAC) continues to play a crucial role in introducing innovations in arbitration and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to the business and legal communities. With the growing importance of neutral and efficient ADR mechanisms, Georgia is well-positioned to attract foreign investment and foster stronger international business relationships. Our annual conference aims to further this mission by facilitating the development of international arbitration in Georgia.

This year's event spans two conference days, with panels composed of leading advocates, counsels, and arbitrators in the field. These panels will address the most pressing topics in international arbitration, offering interactive Q&A sessions to encourage discussion and engagement.

On behalf of the organizing team, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors and supporters for their generous contributions to this year's event. Additionally, I wish to sincerely thank our distinguished speakers and the entire organizing committee, whose hard work has made GIAC Arbitration Days 2025 a reality.

Finally, a special thank you goes to all of you for being here and making this event a success. We look forward to two days of insightful discussions and fruitful networking!

AGENDA

H Venue: Pullman Tbilisi Axis Towers♀ Address: 37M Ilia Chavchavadze Avenue

DAY 1 - 09.10.2025

① 09:30-10:00	Registration / Welcome coffee
10:00-10:30	Opening remarks / Welcome speeches Paata Salia – Minister of Justice of Georgia Giorgi Pertaia – President of GCCI Beka Injia – Secretary General of GIAC
10:30 – 11:30	 KEYNOTE SPEECH The rise of regional hubs for international arbitration: Opportunities and challenges James Doe – Partner, Head of Construction and Infrastructure Disputes, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break
4 11:45 – 13:15	Scope of Arbitrability: Navigating Legal and Jurisdictional Boundaries
	 Corporate Disputes in Arbitration Labor and Employment Disputes Intellectual Property Disputes Insolvency and Arbitration Moderator:
	Mariam Gotsiridze – Principal Research Fellow, Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy
	 Speakers: Nino Bakakuri – Law Professor at Caucasus International University (Georgia), Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia (ret.) Zakaria Shvelidze – Of Counsel, EY Georgia Agustín Giustiniani – Lecturer at the Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) Marleen Krueger – Partner at WilmerHale
13:15 – 14:30	♣ Lunch



14:30–16:00	Rethinking the Arbitration Process: Time for a Procedural Reset?
	 Excessive Written Submissions: Managing Volume Without Losing Substance Document Production Disorder: Can Discovery Be Disciplined? Witness Statement: who prepares the statement, how witness should act Late-Blooming Claims: Addressing New Issues in Reply Submissions The role of arbitral Institutions in balancing length, cost and efficiency
	Moderator: • Ketevan Betaneli – Paris-Based, New York Qualified Independent Arbitrator
	 Speakers: Charlie Caher – Partner, WilmerHale Anya George – Partner, Schellenberg Wittmer Giorgi Tsertsvadze – Managing Partner, J&T Consulting Shirin Gurdova – Associate, Worldstone Niamh Leinwather – Secretary General, Vienna International Arbitration Centre
<u>\$\bar{\cappa}\$ 16:00-16:30</u>	Coffee Break
h 16:30 – 18:00	Bridging the Divide: The Interaction Between Domestic Courts and
10.50 - 16.00	Investment Arbitration
15.50 – 16.00	 Parallel Proceedings and Anti-Suit Measures - Domestic Courts as Gatekeepers or Disruptors? Judicial Review of Investment Awards - A Check on Arbitral Power or a Threat to Finality? Domestic Law in Investment Arbitration - Deference, Interpretation, and the Tribunal-Court Divide State Liability for Judicial Conduct - Denial of Justice and Beyond Moderator: Eugenia Stavropoulou - Disputes attorney and Ph.D. candidate at the London School of Economics and Political Science
15.50 – 16.00	 Parallel Proceedings and Anti-Suit Measures - Domestic Courts as Gatekeepers or Disruptors? Judicial Review of Investment Awards - A Check on Arbitral Power or a Threat to Finality? Domestic Law in Investment Arbitration - Deference, Interpretation, and the Tribunal-Court Divide State Liability for Judicial Conduct - Denial of Justice and Beyond Moderator: Eugenia Stavropoulou - Disputes attorney and Ph.D. candidate at

DAY 2 - 10.10.2025

1 09:30 – 10:00	₩ Welcome coffee
10:00-11:30	Construction and Infrastructure Arbitration: Frameworks, Claims, and Complexity
	 Evolving Contract Structures: EPC, EPCM, and Multi-Party Scenarios Dispute Resolution Pathways: From Technical Experts to Arbitration Tribunals Categories in Construction Disputes: dispute whish shall not end up in arbitration Disputes where arbitration is inevitable Moderator: Nata Ghibradze – Counsel, Hogan Lovells Speakers: Irakli Khergiani – Partner, Intelligent Solution Asel El Housan – Managing Director, AEH UK Limited Lasha Uplisashvili – Partner, BLC Law Office Rebecca Shorter – Barrister, Chair of the Society of Construction Law (UK)
11:30-12:00	Coffee Break
12:00-13:30	Shifting Landscapes: Emerging Trends in Investment Arbitration
	 Geopolitical Turbulence and New Frontiers of Investment Claims Counterclaims and Defensive Strategies: The New Normal The investor's rights and obligations in ISDS Procedural Innovations: Streamlining Investor-State Arbitration Moderator: Helene Gogadze – Special Counsel, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton Speakers: Anders Junker-Nilsson – Partner, Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes Noor Davies – Partner, White & Case David Khachvani – Counsel, Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler
(1) 13:30 – 14:30	♣ Lunch

14:30-16:00	GIAC – SCC Joint Event Fast Track to Justice at the GIAC and SCC: Emergency arbitration and other ways to quickly resolve a dispute
	Moderator: • Ketevan Betaneli – Paris-Based, New York Qualified Independent Arbitrator
	 Speakers: Jake Lowther – Special Counsel, SCC Arbitration Institute George Svanadze – Senior Partner at Andersen Georgia David Edilashvili – Senior Counsel at Georgian International Arbitration Centre Ginta Ahrel – Partner at Westerberg & Partners Advokatbyrå AB Michael Davar – Partner, Squire Patton Boggs
② 21:00	T Closing Reception

SPEAKERS



Ginta Ahrel
PARTNER, WESTERBERG & PARTNERS

Ginta Ahrel is a counsel and arbitrator based in Stockholm. She specializes in international commercial and investment arbitration and has particular expertise in disputes with parties from Nordic countries and Eastern Europe. Ginta regularly acts as lead counsel for Swedish and international clients in commercial disputes regarding for example complex construction projects, post M&A, equipment sales and delivery and other types of commercial agreements. She has extensive experience in sanctions related disputes, annulment, recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and foreign judgments.

Ginta is often appointed as arbitrator by parties and arbitral institutions, such as the SCC Arbitration Institute, the Finnish Arbitration Institute and the ICC International Court of Arbitration. She has served as chair, sole and party-appointed arbitrator.

Ginta currently serves as the president of the Swedish Arbitration Association and a board member of the SCC Arbitration Institute. She is a member of the International Bar Association's Arbitration Committee's Task Forces on Privilege and Party Respresentation.



Nino Bakakuri

LAW PROFESSOR AT CAUCASUS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (GEORGIA), JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA (RET.)

Justice Nino Bakakuri has 28 years' experience as a lawyer, including 13 years' experience as a full-time judge and 7 years' experience as an arbitrator.

She is a recent former justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia (the highest cassation court in Georgia) where she has served for ten years (2014-2024). She was also a judge of the Administrative and Tax Law Chamber at Tbilisi Court of Appeals (2005-2008) and Tbilisi Regional Court (2004-2005).

From 2016 to 2023 Nino Bakakuri was an official representative of Georgia at Council of Europe's two distinguished institutions – CEPEJ and CCJE, taking active participation in their work in Strasbourg, France. Currently she continues to serve as an international and domestic legal expert for the UN and Council of Europe.

She was a partner at Nodia, Urumasvhili & Partners (2008-2014) leading the corporate and banking law practice of the law firm. For 15 years she has been teaching law at various Georgian universities and professional training centers, including Georgian High

School of Justice, Caucasus International University Law School, Georgian-American University School of Law etc. She has co-authored several books.

She received her LL.M. at Columbia University School of Law in New York, and is admitted to practice law in New York State and the country of Georgia.



Ketevan Betaneli
PARIS-BASED, NEW YORK QUALIFIED INDEPENDENT ARBITRATOR

Ketevan puts years of international arbitration experience at your service.

Ketevan has extensive experience in commercial and investment treaty arbitrations conducted under the major institutional arbitration rules, such as the ICC, SCC, HKIAC, GIAC, and ICSID rules, as well as in ad hoc arbitrations, including under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

Over the past years, Ketevan has worked at top-tier international law firms (with leading international arbitration practices) in Paris and Tbilisi, and at the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, where she handled arbitration matters involving Georgia.

Just one highlight of Ketevan's work includes forming part of a team that secured a USD 50 billion award for the majority shareholders of the former Yukos Oil Company, the largest investment award in history.

Ketevan is also a former ICC Court member for Georgia; a former Chairperson and member of GIAC Arbitration Council; and a current VIAC Ambassador for Georgia.

Dually qualified in New York and Georgia (Caucasian State), Ketevan conducts arbitrations in English, Russian and Georgian. She also speaks French and has notions of Spanish.

Ketevan has been actively contributing to the development of arbitration by sharing knowledge and know-how through different initiatives. This includes regularly speaking at conferences, teaching at a summer school, delivering client presentations, and publishing on a variety of topics related to arbitration and international law. Ketevan has also developed and led written and oral advocacy training courses involving over 100 arbitration lawyers worldwide.



Charlie Caher
PARTNER, WILMERHALE

Charlie Caher is a partner at the International Arbitration Practice Group of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in London.

Mr. Caher has represented clients in numerous institutional and ad hoc arbitrations under all major arbitral institutions, and in most major civil and common law jurisdictions.

Mr. Caher's international commercial and investment arbitration practice covers a wide range of industries, with a particular focus on energy and construction. In addition to his commercial and investment arbitration practice, Mr. Caher also represents clients in complex and high-profile litigation disputes before the English High Court and Court of Appeal.

Mr. Caher is ranked as a leading arbitration practitioner in all the major directories, and regularly publishes and teaches on international arbitration. Mr. Caher is a member of the ICC's Arbitration and ADR Committee (UK), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and an executive member of the London Chapter of Arbitration Ireland.



David Khachvani
COUNSEL, LEVY KAUFMANN-KOHLER

David Khachvani specializes in international commercial and investment arbitration. Over the past ten years, he has worked in over 30 arbitrations related to a variety of sectors, including construction, mining, energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, tourism, and telecommunications. The proceedings he was involved in were conducted under most of the major arbitral rules (ICC, SIAC, LCIA, SCC, ICSID and UNCITRAL) and governed by different governing procedural and substantive laws (English, Swiss, French, Turkish, Singapore, Russian, Uzbek and Georgian laws). David is regularly appointed as arbitrator in international commercial arbitrations. David holds a doctoral degree from the University of Geneva (summa cum laude) and an LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) from the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of Geneva. He has authored several publications related to dispute resolution and international law.



Michael Davar
PARTNER, SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Originally from Tbilisi, Michael Davar is a partner in the London office of Squire Patton Boggs. Michael has been highlighted by Legal 500 2024 as "excellent in his field", a practitioner who is "known for his meticulous attention to detail", and one who "embodies the team's commitment to excellence". Michael is named as a "Next Generation Partner" and is listed as a key lawyer for international arbitration, commercial litigation: mid-market, and commodity disputes.

Michael advises on an extensive book of cases covering the oil & gas, energy, shipping, international trade, infrastructure and financial industries. He has represented clients in the English and Hong Kong courts and in numerous arbitrations under the auspices of the ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, SIAC, HKIAC, SHIAC, LMAA and GAFTA arbitral rules. His cases have set English legal precedent; he is a co-author of several specialist legal volumes; and he is a named arbitrator/member of arbitral institutions and associations.



Noor Davies

PARTNER, WHITE&CASE

Noor Davies is a partner in the International Arbitration Practice Group in Paris. She has experience in representing and advising sovereign entities and companies in international arbitration matters.



James Doe

PARTNER, HEAD OF CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE DISPUTES

James jointly leads our global construction disputes practice, focusing on major infrastructure, construction and engineering projects.

James has experience in helping clients through his expertise in international arbitration (under the ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL rules), litigation and alternative dispute resolution, and is experienced at handling the most legally, factually, and technically complex disputes.

He has a particular focus on construction law and works to deliver successful outcomes for clients in disputes across a range of sectors, including infrastructure and energy.

Based in London, James brings with him a wealth of experience of working with clients across the globe, in particular in the Middle East and Asia. He was previously based in Seoul, and before that he was head of our disputes practice in Doha.

James' expertise is recognised by the leading legal directories, including both Chambers & Partners, who note that clients enthuse that "he has the expertise and his depth of knowledge is very good.", and the Legal 500 where he is recognised as a leading individual for South Korea International Arbitration.



David Edilashvili

SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL. GEORGIAN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (GIAC)

David Edilashvili is a Georgian lawyer with more than a decade of experience in international arbitration, commercial law, and corporate advisory. He serves as Senior Legal Counsel at the Georgian International Arbitration Centre (GIAC), where he administers arbitration proceedings, advises on institutional policies, and coordinates international projects in cooperation with arbitral institutions and practitioners worldwide. David is also Chief Legal Officer at Geomedica LLC, the Georgian distributor of GE Healthcare, where he oversees corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and high-value commercial transactions.

He has contributed to drafting institutional frameworks, training standards, and educational programs, including serving as Director of the Certificate Course on Representation in Arbitration Proceedings organized by GIAC and Columbia Law School's CICIA.

David holds an LL.M. in Arbitration and Business Law from Erasmus University Rotterdam and studied European Integration at the Europa-Institut, Saarland University. He is a member of the Georgian Bar Association, a founding member of the Georgian Mediators Association, and an accredited mediator.



Nora Fredstie

PARTNER, DAC BEACHCROFT

Nora Fredstie is a Partner at DAC Beachcroft in London, specialising in international arbitration. Dual-qualified in England and New York, she has practised in six civil and common law jurisdictions and has extensive experience as counsel and arbitrator in both investment and commercial arbitrations. Her sector expertise includes life sciences, energy, commodities, and construction. A significant focus of Nora's practice lies in investment arbitration, where she has acted in several landmark cases under both ad hoc and institutional frameworks, arising from treaties, contracts, and domestic legislation.

She is consistently recognised for her strategic insight, advocacy (particularly her cross-examination skills) and deep understanding of cross-border disputes. In 2025, she was named a Global Elite Thought Leader in Arbitration by Lexology.

Nora serves on the ICSID Panel of Conciliators, is the Norwegian delegate to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and chairs the ICC Norway National Committee. She also teaches international arbitration as an adjunct professor at Université Paris Nanterre.



Anya George
PARTNER, SCHELLENBERG WITTMER

Anya George is a Partner in Schellenberg Wittmer's Dispute Resolution Group in Zurich. As a trilingual and dual qualified lawyer, she represents clients in complex international commercial and investment arbitration matters, as well as in enforcement and setting-aside proceedings before the Swiss Supreme Court.

Anya is considered as an "incredibly bright advocate" and "one of the best of her generation worldwide" (Who's Who Legal), and is praised by clients for her "excellent responsiveness" and "complete control of her practice" (Legal 500). She is ranked as one of the most highly regarded arbitration practitioners under 45 worldwide (GAR 45 Under 45; Lexology Index: Thought Leader Global Elite).



Rusudan Gergauli
PARTNER, FORTIOR LAW

Rusudan is a partner at Fortior Law, where she oversees the firm's dispute resolution practices in both Geneva and Tbilisi. Her experience covers a broad range of sectors, including disputes related to the trading of crude oil, grains, and agricultural commodities, as well as chartering and the carriage of goods by sea.

In addition, Rusudan provides advice on sanctions compliance and regulatory matters, navigating complex regulatory landscapes and addressing the impact of sanctions on cross-border disputes.

She holds advanced degrees in International Trade, Investment, and Commercial Law from the University of Oslo, and a Master's degree in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS) from Geneva.



Nata Ghibradze
COUNSEL, HOGAN LOVELLS

Nata Ghibradze is Counsel in the International Arbitration Group at Hogan Lovells International LLP in Munich.

She has extensive experience representing clients in high-stakes international arbitrations, both ad hoc and under the auspices of leading arbitral institutions. Nata's practice spans a wide array of industries, including energy (oil and gas, renewables, hydroelectric power), aerospace and defence, infrastructure (roads, bridges, tunnels, water, and sewage and wastewater systems) and transportation (metro, railways), as well as engineering and industrial projects. She acts as both counsel and arbitrator and also advises clients in dispute avoidance and adjudication proceedings.

Nata's work has a strong international dimension, with a particular focus on disputes involving parties and projects from the Caucasus, Türkiye, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Beyond her practice, Nata is an active contributor to the global arbitration community. She serves as a member of the Arbitration Council of the Georgian International Arbitration Centre (GIAC), is a member of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Arbitration and ADR, and acts as Community Ambassador Network (CAN) Ambassador to Georgia for the Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC). She also joined the Board of Directors of ArbitralWomen in 2022 and was appointed Secretary of ArbitralWomen in 2024.



Agustín Giustiniani

LECTURER AT THE GENEVA LL.M. IN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (MIDS)

Agustín Giustiniani is a Lecturer at the Geneva LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS), where he teaches international commercial arbitration and inter-state dispute settlement. Before joining the MIDS, he practiced international law for over seven years from multiple perspectives, including as Legal Officer at the Permanent Mission of Argentina in Geneva, at the UN International Law Commission, and at the Organization of American States, as well as serving as in-house sustainability counsel for a Spanish company.

He is currently completing a PhD in international law at the Geneva Graduate Institute (expected November 2025) on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and international law, under the supervision of Professor Zachary Douglas KC. He also serves as Managing Editor of the newly launched Latin American and Caribbean Journal of International Law, working alongside Professors Diego Fernández Arroyo and Ambassador Mario Oyarzábal to establish the first English-language academic journal dedicated to Latin America and public and private international law.



Helene Gogadze

SPECIAL COUNSEL, SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON

Helene Gogadze is Special Counsel at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP, based in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Ms. Gogadze specializes in complex litigations and international arbitrations, representing multinational clients in commercial and investment disputes under leading arbitral institutions, different governing laws and places of arbitration. She advises clients throughout all stages of arbitration and litigation—from project counseling, negotiations and drafting to enforcement of arbitral agreements and awards before U.S. federal and state courts. Ms. Gogadze is an accomplished trial and appellate litigator, guiding clients through sophisticated commercial litigations

in US courts as well regulatory actions, enforcement proceedings, and investigations. Her representations include major companies in the oil and gas, energy, construction, technology, communications, financial services, healthcare, real estate, tax, and aerospace and defense sectors, among others. In addition to her advocacy, Ms. Gogadze regularly teaches arbitration courses and conducts trainings and seminars for government officials, investors, private sector representatives and lawyers. She also serves as an arbitrator in commercial disputes.



Mariam Gotsiridze

PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW, SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACADEMY

Mariam Gotsiridze is a lawyer specializing in international dispute settlement.

Mariam is a Principal Research Fellow at SIDRA and her main focus of research is on the Belt & Road Initiative, while she also engaged in research and development projects in relation to international dispute resolution survey and investor-state mediation.

Prior to joining SIDRA, Mariam worked for the government of Georgia. For over 10 years (2012-2022) she was a Head of Arbitration Department in the Ministry of Justice in charge of state representation in international arbitration. Mariam has been involved in major investment and commercial arbitration matters before ICSID, ICC, SCC arbitrations, as well as before ad hoc arbitration under UNCITRAL rules. She has negotiated number of Bilateral Investment Treaties and Free Trade Agreements on behalf of Georgia. Mariam was the Head of Delegation for Georgia in UNCITRAL Working Group III, in ICSID Rule amendment process and in Modernization of the Energy Charter Treaty. Mariam has contributed to legislative reforms and other developments in arbitration and mediation in Georgia.



Shirin Gurdova

ASSOCIATE, WORDSTONE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Shirin Gurdova is an associate at Wordstone Dispute Resolution, specializing in international arbitration. She has represented corporations, state-owned entities and States, in international commercial arbitrations and investor-State disputes both ad hoc (UNCITRAL) and under the auspices of major arbitral institutions (ICC and ICSID). Her experience covers a wide range of sectors, including energy, construction and banking.

Shirin speaks Russian, Turkmen, Turkish, English as well as French and Iranian Farsi.



Asel El Housan
MANAGING DIRECTOR, AEH UK LIMITED

Asel El Housan is a Civil Engineer and a veteran of the international construction industry with more than twenty-nine years of experience in the construction field. She is the founder and the Managing Director of AEH UK Limited. She is an arbitrator and expert witness. Her experience ranges in between many countries including UAE, UK, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Thailand, and Nepal. Asel is a FIDIC affiliate member and certified trainer, she is also a member of many associations like DRBF, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Society of Construction Law, Adjudication Society, and Scottish arbitration centre.

Asel was a speaker at many conferences including FIDIC Users Conference, Adjudication Society Conference, DRBF Annual International Conference, CIArb, Alternative Dispute Resolution International Conference, and many others. Asel has long experience in claims, variations, settlement agreements, and construction dispute resolution both litigation and arbitration and an outstanding experience in different types of Contracts (EPC Turnkey, Design & Build, Construction, DBO, DBOT, DBOO, PPP, Consultancy Agreements & Subagreements, and Subcontracts.



Anders Junker-Nilsson
PARTNER, GAILLARD BANIFATEMI SHELBAYA DISPUTES

He specializes in international commercial and investment arbitration and represents multinational corporations, States and State-owned entities in a variety of institutional and ad hoc proceedings, including under ICSID, ICC, UNCITRAL, SCC, DIS and NAI rules. Notably, Anders is currently representing the investor in the first investor-State treaty arbitration against the Kingdom of Sweden. He was part of the team that secured a complete victory on behalf of Angolan State-owned energy company Sonangol in three parallel arbitrations against a holding company beneficially owned by the daughter of the former President of Angola, Isabel dos Santos. The dispute related to high-profile matters of embezzlement, corruption and money laundering in relation to a share sale and purchase agreement.

Anders also acts as counsel in arbitration-related proceedings before Swedish courts.

His experience related to Georgia includes securing a decision by the Svea Court of Appeal—shortlisted at the GAR Awards in the category of Arbitration Decision of the Year—which held that an SCC tribunal in an investment arbitration brought against Georgia by Mr. Zaza Okuashvili "lacked jurisdiction to hear the dispute between Zaza Okuashvili and Georgia."



Irakli Khergiani
PARTNER. INTELLIGENT SOLUTION

Irakli Khergiani is the Founder and Director of Intelligent Solutions LLC. An experienced engineer and leader in the construction sector, he guides his team in delivering complex and innovative projects with accuracy and efficiency.

He is a member of the FIDIC President's List of Approved Dispute Adjudicators, bringing valuable insight into construction law, dispute avoidance, and resolution. He also serves as a Member of the FIDIC Board contributing to the development of FIDIC's international network and its global consulting engineering community.

Additionally, Mr. Khergiani serves as the President of the Georgian Association of Consulting Engineers (ACEG), where he works to encourage collaboration, share knowledge, and support the growth of the consulting engineering profession in Georgia and Internationally.



Marleen Krueger
PARTNER, WILMERHALE

Marleen Krueger is a partner at the International Arbitration Practice Group of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in London. She focuses her broad practice on international commercial and investment arbitration matters across a range of industries and jurisdictions. She has acted as counsel and arbitrator in all types of commercial and investment treaty arbitrations seated in civil law and common law jurisdictions worldwide, including Germany, England, France, New York, Peru, South Korea, Japan, and Switzerland.

She has represented both private sector and government clients in relation to a variety of sectors, including the oil and gas, energy, pharmaceutical, construction, intellectual property, technology and automobile industries. Her experience includes institutional arbitrations conducted under a variety of arbitral rules, including ICC, LCIA, DIS, SIAC, and UNCITRAL.

Ms. Krueger is fluent in both English and German and has participated in arbitrations conducted in both languages. Ms. Krueger regularly gives lectures on international arbitration at the University of Würzburg, SOAS University of London and Pepperdine University.



Magnus Jesko Langer COUNSEL, LÉVY KAUFMANN-KOHLER

Magnus Jesko Langer specializes in international investment and commercial arbitration, as well as in public international law, with a particular focus on international environmental law. He has acted as secretary and assistant of the arbitral tribunal in several international arbitration proceedings under various rules, including ICSID, UNCITRAL, SCC and ICC. He has also acted as legal adviser in interstate proceedings before the ICJ and has represented clients in civil and criminal proceedings before Swiss courts, including acting as counsel for the enforcement of CAS awards. He currently serves as a member of the Court of Arbitration of the Casablanca International Mediation and Arbitration Centre (CIMAC).

A German national, Magnus Jesko has extensive experience in investment disputes, in particular those relating to environmental matters. His other areas of expertise include oil and gas, mining, natural resources, environmental regulation, infrastructure and service industries in different jurisdictions.

Prior to joining Lévy Kaufmann-Kohler, Magnus Jesko acted as legal adviser in several inter-State disputes. Notably, he was part of the team that represented Argentina before the ICJ in the Case Concerning Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay.



Niamh Leinwather

SECRETARY GENERAL, VIENNA INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE

"Niamh Leinwather is the Secretary General of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre ("VIAC"). She took over the lead of VIAC in January 2022. Niamh has both a common and civil law background (Bachelor of Civil Law, University College Dublin, Mag.iur., University of Vienna, Master of European Studies, University of Vienna). She was the first Irish woman to be admitted to the Austrian Bar in 2013.

Niamh has over a decade of experience in international dispute resolution at Freshfields in Vienna where she acted as both counsel and arbitrator. She has held the office of Secretary Treasurer of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI) since February 2023. In July 2024 Niamh was appointed to the Board of Directors of Arbitral Women and chairs the Education Committee. In October 2024 Niamh was invited to her alma mater as an Adjunct Professor of the Sutherland School of Law (University College Dublin)."



Jake Lowther

SPECIAL COUNSEL, SCC ARBITRATION INSTITUTE

Jake Lowther refers to himself as a "civilized common law lawyer", having first qualified in Australia and then in Sweden. He is currently Specialist Counsel at the SCC Arbitration Institute ("SCC") in Stockholm.

Prior to joining the SCC, Jake was an Associate in the M&A and dispute resolution teams at Nordic-Baltic law firm Magnusson. Before this Jake worked in Seoul, Korea as Foreign Legal Specialist at the Korean Commercial Arbitration Board's international division, KCAB INTERNATIONAL.

Jake also has experience of arbitration practice in Germany, which he obtained alongside completing the International Dispute Resolution LL.M. program at Humboldt-University of Berlin. Jake began his legal career at Ashurst in Australia, where he worked in the employment, M&A, and infrastructure teams.



Sebastiano Nessi PARTNER, CURTIS

Sebastiano Nessi is a Partner at Curtis, specialising in international arbitration, global litigation and sanctions. With dual civil and common law training, he divides his practice between Geneva and London, representing clients worldwide in high-stakes cross-border and domestic disputes.

An expert in commercial and investor-state arbitrations, Sebastiano has acted as counsel in over 85 international arbitrations across leading global venues including Geneva, London, Paris, Dubai, Singapore, New York, and Hong Kong. He has also appeared in high-profile litigations before Swiss, English, New York, and Dubai-DIFC courts. As a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, he regularly serves as co-arbitrator or presiding arbitrator, having sat in more than 50 cases, and has taught arbitration and dispute resolution at the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and leading Swiss and English universities.

Sebastiano is the author of some 50 book chapters and articles, and he is widely regarded as a leading figure in his field by all major directories. He served as the Vice-chair of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Young Members Group (CIArb YMG), and as ICC Representative for Europe and Russia (2019-2021). He currently serves as a Member of the Council of YSIAC (Singapore).



Rebecca Shorter

BARRISTER, CHAIR OF THE SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW (UK)

Rebecca Shorter is a barrister practising from Crown Office Chambers in London, specializing in the resolution of disputes arising out of complex construction, engineering and infrastructure projects. Rebecca is experienced in international and domestic arbitration, litigation and alternative methods of dispute resolution such as dispute boards, adjudication and mediation. She is the current Chair of the Society of Construction Law (UK).



Zakaria Shvelidze of COUNSEL, EY GEORGIA

Dr. Zakaria Shvelidze serves as an Of Counsel at EY Georgia. He leads the litigation practice primarily focusing on complex dispute resolution matters, including the areas of cross-border investments, land and real estate, energy, infrastructure, civil, corporate, bankruptcy and administrative law. His practice also encompasses corporate and commercial advisory, providing strategic counsel and client representation in a wide area of transactional matters.

Zakaria is renowned for his expertise in national and international labour law. He provides comprehensive representation and advisory services to both national and international clients on all aspects of labour law including employment disputes, redundancies/ terminations, industrial relations, labour regulatory and policy compliances, cross-border and multi-jurisdictional labour and HR projects. Zakaria's contributions in the field have played a pivotal role in shaping labour law reforms in Georgia, involving the development of labour legislation – labour code, law on labour safety, labour inspection law and several governmental orders. He is a co-editor and author of commentaries on the Labour Code of Georgia, and author of numerous academic publications who regularly serves as an expert speaker at national and international conferences on labour laws and regulations.



Eugenia Stavropoulou

DISPUTES ATTORNEY AND PH.D. CANDIDATE AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Eugenia Stavropoulou is a disputes attorney and Ph.D. candidate at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where she is a Judge Rosalyn Higgins Scholar. Her research explores harm and loss in international law, ISDS, and cross-border dispute resolution. She has practiced as both counsel and tribunal secretary in Greece, Switzerland, and South Korea, and is admitted to the Athens Bar Association. She holds first-class LL.M. degrees from the University of Athens and from the Geneva Graduate Institute/University of Geneva (MIDS Programme).



George Svanadze

MANAGING PARTNER, ANDERSEN GEORGIA

George Svanadze advises clients on general corporate issues, structuring of cross-border transactions of local and foreign companies. Mr. Svanadze also specializes in international commercial and investment contract drafting, legal due diligence procedures, conflict of laws, commercial arbitration and litigation, licensing regulations, competition law, free industrial zones, banking and financial transactions, labor & employment and migration issues.

George Svanadze conducts workshops and trainings for Georgian judges, notaries, attorneys, public and commercial registries on the issues of private international law, contract law, international trade and business law, company and corporate law, labor and employment law.

Prior to joining Andersen Georgia and MG Law Office, Mr. Svanadze gathered extensive experience leading legal practices of Big 4 companies and another international auditing and law firm. In particular, he served as the Associate Partner and the Head of EY Law Practice in Tbilisi, Georgia. He led legal practice of Deloitte as the Head of Deloitte Legal; he also acted as the Senior Associate Lawyer at Rödl & Partner in Georgia and in his early carrier years he worked as an in-house counsel of leading mineral water producing company in Georgia. He has also gathered his professional experiences in Germany working for international law firms in Hamburg and Berlin.



Giorgi Tsertsvadze

MANAGING PARTNER, J&T CONSULTING

Giorgi Tsertvadze has over 20 years of experience in dispute resolution, actively representing local and international clients in court, international arbitration, and mediation proceedings. He has participated in numerous international arbitration cases as an expert on Georgian law.

In addition, he serves as a practicing arbitrator and mediator.

Giorgi has taken part in leading international programs, including the Max Planck Institute (Germany), the JAMS Weinstein Fellowship (USA), the Volkswagen Foundation (Germany), Chuo Law School (Japan), and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (Germany). Since 2020, Giorgi has been a mediator on the United Nations Global Mediation Panel.

He also has extensive academic experience, having served for years as an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law of Tbilisi State University. He is the author of more than ten scholarly publications in Georgia, Germany, Austria, Japan, and the United States.



Lasha Uplisashvili PARTNER, BLC LAW OFFICE

Lasha Uplisashvili joined BLC in 2008 and was gradually promoted to Partner in 2021. His practice area includes energy law, real estate, investment, litigation and arbitration. Lasha has vast experience in representing the investors with the State and State entities and vice-versa.

With his deep knowledge of and experience in the energy law, Lasha has been involved in numerous energy projects. Starting from advising on project related issues such as land acquisition, permit and licenses, elaboration of the respective agreements, followed by due negotiations with the Government of Georgia and other energy related State companies, his experience and expertise in energy field is truly exceptional. Lasha "is well regarded in the market for energy work", notes Legal500.

Prior to joining BLC in 2008, Lasha served as a Legal Advisor at the Department of International Legal Relations of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Restaurants/Sightseeing/Museums & Galleries/ Nightlife

There are plenty of restaurants featuring traditional Georgian cuisine, as well as good restaurants serving Italian, Turkish, Thai, Chinese, and American dishes. For tips, we suggest consulting the Tbilisi e-guide published by AnotherTravelGuide.com. On the forthcoming events in Tbilisi please visit: http://info-tbilisi.com.

Shartdeni (in the Old Tbilisi) and Tabidze streets (near the Freedom Square) are full of cafes and nightlife spot places.

If you have located your own favorite restaurant, café, bar, or club please let us know and we will add it in this Guide.

Here are our recommendations:

BARS & RESTAURANTS

Funicular

Georgian restaurant

- Second floor of Funicular complex, Mtatsminda plateau, Tbilisi
- 窗 +995 32 298 00 00
- http://www.funicular.ge

Cafe Stamba

International, Fusion, Georgian, Cafe, European

- 🕅 14 Kostava street, Stamba Hotel, Tbilisi
- **窗** +995 322 02 19 99
- https://stambahotel.com

Kartuli Sakhli

Traditional Georgian Cuisine

- 2 Tsabadze Street, Tbilisi
- **(b)** +995 591 930011; +995 591 930012
- georgian-house.ge

Lolita

Bar, European

- 7 Chovelidze Street, Tbilisi
- 爾 +995 322 02 02 99
- https://roomshotels.com/lolita

Black lion (Shavi lomi)

Georgian restaurant

- 30 Zurab Kvlividze Street, Tbilisi
- 窗 +995 32 296 09 56

Barbarestan

Georgian family restaurant, Wine Bar

132 Davit Aghmashenebeli Ave, Tbilisi
 Tel: + 995 551 12 11 76, + 995 322 94 37 79

Craft Wine Bar

Wine Bar, Restaurant

- 54 Egnate Ninoshvili Street, Tbilisi
- **(b)** +995 599 66 33 00, +995 599 66 33 00
- ☐ info@communalcraft.ge

Gabriadze Café

European and Georgian cuisine

- 12 Shavteli Street, Next to Gabriadze Theater, Tbilisi
- 窗 +995 322 98 65 94

MUSEUMS

Georgian National Museum

The museum represents development of Georgia's material culture from the Bronze Age to the early 20th century. The Treasury holds a stunning collection of intricate jewelry and artefacts wrought in gold and silver, dating back thousands of years. Other exhibits include some of the oldest human remains discovered outside Africa, the Homo Ergaster fossils found at Dmanisi. There is also a section dedicated to life during the Soviet Occupation.

QB-2, Rustaveli Av. 3, MLiberty Square, tel. (+995) 32 299 80 22, www.museum.ge, Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon, Admission 5 Lari, children under 18 - 0.5 Lari, under 6 - free. Guided tours (up to 10 person) – 25 Lari. Guide service in Georgian, English, German, and Russian languages.

Museum of Fine Arts

Once a seminary where Joseph Stalin studied for the priesthood from 1894 to 1898 until he was expelled for revolutionary activities, now home to a collection of fine art. It contains works dating from the Middle Ages by a number of different artists, as well as historical pieces thousands of years old. Its Treasury section contains is many of Georgia's most sacred and revered objects including icons, crosses and jewellery in precious metals and stones. The Treasury can only be visited with a guide. QC-2, Gudiashvili 1, MLiberty Square, tel. (+995) 32 299 99 09, museum.ge, Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon, Admission 3 Lari, children under 18 - 0.5 Lari, under 6 - free. Guided tours (up to 10 person) - 25 Lari. Guide service in Georgian, English, German, and Russian languages.

Museum of Theatre, Cinema & Music

The museum houses rich materials, which reflect history of old and contemporary Georgian Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography. Among them are samples of the XVII c. painting, Persian miniatures, German and French prints, and works of XX c. artists. In the museum are stored also theatre costumes, memorial belongings, audio-video records, playbills, programs, films, collections of theatre decorative art. QG-2, la Kargareteli 6, tel. (+995) 32 295 35 63, www. artpalace.ge.

ART GALLERIES

Akhundov House

Located in the basement of 19th century building, in the ancient Ortachala district, 200 meters from Meidan Square and famous Sulphur Baths. Since its opening is May 2013, the gallery is actively involved in the cultural life of the city. It constantly hosts art exhibitions and auctions, which present and offer Tbilisians and city guests fine art canvases and small sculptures of famous artists - outstanding representatives of contemporary Georgian art. QD-3, Gorgasali 17, tel. (+995) 32 275 02 07, www.akhundovhouse.ge, Open 11:00 – 18:00. Closed Mon.

Lado Gudiashvili Exhibition Hall

The gallery displays works by one of the founders of modern Georgian art - Lado Gudiashvili's "Promenade" exhibition. Apart from Gudiashvili art, there presented paintings and works from the 1960s. The Exibition Hall shop offers silver and enamel jewellery and works of well-known contemporary artists, books, souvenirs. QB-1, Gudiashvili 11, MLiberty Square, tel. (+995) 32 293 23 05, www.ladogudiashvili.ge, Open 13:00 - 19:30. Every day except for official holydays. E-mail: info@ladogudiashvili.ge Admission: General – 15 Lari, Children 6–18 – 8 Lari, Students and Pensioners - 8 Lari (with valid document presented), Children up to six years of age are admitted free of charge.

WORTH KNOWING

- ATM machines Cash machines are ubiquitous in Tbilisi, many dispensing both GEL (Georgian Lari) and US Dollars. Reputable banks in Tbilisi include Bank of Georgia, Liberty Bank, and TBC.
- Currency exchange Currency exchange booths are common in Tbilisi. They are used frequently by Georgians and foreigners. The rate at an exchange booth is normally a bit better than that given by the bank. Many exchange booths are open early in the morning and late into the night, and some operate 24/7.
- ₩ Electricity Georgia runs on a European 220v system, with a standard European two-pin socket. If the power supply for your electronic device says "100-240v", you do not need a power converter, only a plug adapter (US three-prong to European two-pin).
- Georgian food Georgian cuisine is rated among the world's tastiest, with influences from Middle Eastern and European culinary traditions. The cuisine offers a variety of dishes using various herbs and spices. Many dishes contain tarragon (an herb with a very specific taste that improves both digestion and potency, according to the locals). Georgian cuisine offers many meat and vegetarian dishes, with bread and cheese also playing an important role (pun intended) in the daily diet.
- News about Georgia To keep up with the news and happenings in Georgia, before, during, and after your visit, www.ipn.ge and www. georgiandaily.com are useful sites. While you are in Tbilisi, there are several free English-language newspapers available at hotels and restaurants frequented by foreigners.

- **Safety** While generally safe, Tbilisi is like any other major city in the world. Please be aware of your surroundings and personal belongings at all times. The city can become much more active as the evening progresses.
- ♠ Taxis Should you choose to use a taxi for personal travel, the cost to travel within the central part of the city should not exceed 8-10 GEL, with travel to the outlying areas of the city costing 15-18 GEL. We do not recommend you utilize the small minibuses as they are considerably less safe than taxi travel. Taxi service can be ordered by telephone (+995 322 200 200, +995 322 911 414), or by the application Bolt; you may arrange a taxi on the street, but we advise you negotiate the price before the trip begins.
- ♣ Tipping At restaurants, a 10-15% service charge is often included in the bill, you may or may not add up to an additional 10%. There is also a practice by some Georgians to provide coins to the older people and children asking for money on the street. Please use your own discretion in responding to these requests.
- ♦ Water While water from the tap is safe to drink, it may be advisable to stick to bottled water during a short visit to Tbilisi. Still water (non-carbonated) is available in almost all stores and restaurants in Tbilisi. If you are interested in natural mineral waters (carbonated), there are two famous brands− Borjomi & Nabeghlavi − available everywhere.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency

For any emergency, including matters related to the fire department, Emergency Medical help or police call 112.

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In 2025, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of successful legal practice. BLC was established in 2000 by attorneys educated in Georgia and the United States of America and experienced in different fields of law. Our company grew together with the Georgian market and businesses. We have provided legal services to the very first direct investors, multinational companies, international organizations, financial institutions, foreign Embassies and diplomats, NGOs and Georgian companies.

Currently, BLC is the leading law firm in a number of areas of law, true cornerstones of our legal services are: banking and finance law, tax law, corporate transactions and structures, real estate, energy, civil and administrative litigations.

We have carried out many successful litigations and arbitrations, provided our clients with comprehensive due diligence studies, and have been engaged in large and medium transactions involving mergers and acquisitions. Through its associates and experts, BLC has provided services in family law matters, inheritance, criminal and administrative matters. BLC has been largely involved in privatizations and auctions, carried out by the Georgian government.



At EY, our purpose is Building a better working world. The insights and quality services we provide help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

In a world that's changing faster than ever, our purpose acts as our North Star, guiding our 400,000 people — providing the context and meaning for the work we do every day. We help digital pioneers fight data piracy; guide governments through cash-flow crises; unlock new medical treatments with data analytics; and pursue high quality audits to build trust in financial markets and business. And now we've unified all our artificial intelligence (AI) innovation and development efforts under one platform, EY.ai, to help enable clients to efficiently access the benefits of AI. It is also intended to increase transparency, trust, and confidence in AI as EY seeks to use these new capabilities to serve the broader interests of society and contribute to a more inclusive future.

Through our four integrated service lines — Assurance, Consulting, Strategy and Transactions, and Tax — and our deep sector knowledge, we help our clients to capitalize on new opportunities and assess and manage risk to deliver responsible growth. Our high-performing, multidisciplinary teams help them fulfill regulatory requirements, keep investors informed and meet stakeholder needs.



Gvinadze & Partners is a leading Georgian business law firm re-launched in 2010 after the separation from what used to be DLA Piper Gvinadze & Partners. With its predecessor law firms Georgian Consulting Group (GCG Law Office), Ernst & Young Legal (EY Law Georgia), Gvinadze & Partners LP and then most recently DLA Piper Gvinadze & Partners LP, law firm has a long and successful history

of serving and promoting inward investment in Georgia and are widely recognized as leaders in the Georgian legal services market. In this crucial postindependence period of Georgia's development, Gvinadze & Partners have represented the lion's share of truly diverse international clientele, ranging from international NGOs and diplomatic missions to industrial giants, multilateral lending institutions and multi-billion oil and gas consortia. Firm is equally wellknown for its dispute resolution expertise, having acted in some of the highest profile disputes in the Georgian courts as well as in international arbitration, and having provided quality support to many crossborder arbitration and litigation matters involving Georgian law, including successful enforcement of a number of foreign arbitral awards in Georgia.



J&T Consulting was established in September 2008. It was not the best time to start a new law firm; nevertheless, we managed to take the first bold steps.

In conjunction with the accumulated experience, the fundamental principles that distinguish J&T Consulting from its competitors in the market have been identified. First and foremost, it implies the highest standard of service based on trust and professionalism.

From the very beginning, the founders of the firm defined a narrow profile of the occupational field, that is only business services. We do not provide services for criminal cases. Moreover, none of our partners or employees are entitled to practice criminal law.

J&T Consulting is the remarkable example of a successful integration of theory and practice, which has often become a reason of our superiority in specific cases. All three partners of the company: Giorgi Tsertsvadze, Otar Machaidze and Simon Takashvili are doctors of law and professors. They have a broad of academic experience at numerous universities.

J&T Consulting is the only law firm in the market having its own training center. The Center's projects have been successfully providing practical knowledge to students and beginner lawyers for several years.

Silver Sponsors



Andersen Georgia is a member firm of Andersen Global, an international association of member and collaborative firms presented in more than 170 countries worldwide, providing a wide range of tax, legal, outsourcing, valuation and business advisory services to both companies and individuals operating in diversified industries.



LPA has a team of highly experienced litigators, representing clients on corporate, civil and administrative (including tax) disputes before administrative bodies, common courts of Georgia and arbitration institutions. LPA attorneys have represented clients on extremely complex and multi-million disputes and in most cases have reaches desired results.



Founded in 2005, 'Nodia, Urumashvili and Partners' is one of the leading full-service law firms based in Georgia. The Company is renowned for its pre-eminent practices in Banking and Finance, Tax Law, Corporate, Commercial and M&A, Real Estate and Construction, Restructuring and Insolvency, and Employment Law with outstanding expertise in each field, along with a well-established dispute resolution practice. The company offers full legal support across a wide range of industries. The firm's client base is diverse and includes the leading companies virtually from all major sectors in Georgia.



GRATA International is a dynamically developing international law firm which provides services for projects in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: full coverage of the entire region with network of offices, highly qualified team of professionals suited for cross-border projects. Firm's reputation and expertise are confirmed by testimonials from transnational clients and leading international ratings.



Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer is a world-leading global law firm, where our ambition is to help you achieve your goals.

Exceptional client service and the pursuit of excellence are at our core. We invest in and care about our client relationships, which is why so many are longstanding. We enjoy breaking new ground, as we have for over 170 years.

As a fully integrated transatlantic and transpacific firm, we are where you need us to be. Our footprint is extensive and committed across the world's largest markets, key financial centres and major growth hubs.

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