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## LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL FIRM

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### **Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes**

*Gaillard Banifatemi Shelbaya Disputes* is an international firm with a singular focus: managing international disputes in a result-oriented and integrated manner.

Our team is widely recognized as one of the world's leading international arbitration practices, with an unparalleled track record of landmark victories, including the then largest commercial arbitration award ever rendered, the largest investment arbitration award in history, as well as a number of full dismissals of multibillion-dollar claims against different States and State-owned entities.

With nine partners, four counsel and over twenty-five associates, based in three major arbitration centers (Paris, London and New York) and all dedicated to the management of international disputes, our team combines the resources of a first-tier global firm with the focus and flexibility of a specialized practice.

The diversity of our team and its wide range of legal expertise allow us to provide our clients with all-encompassing representation, which minimizes costs and ensures consistent high-quality service, regardless of the language of the dispute, the applicable law or the seat of arbitration.

Our practices cover the entire spectrum of disputes management. We represent companies, States and State-owned entities in investment treaty and commercial arbitrations under all major arbitration rules in respect of disputes governed by a wide range of applicable laws, including international law, English law, French law, US law, Egyptian law and the laws of the Middle East, as well as Colombian and Brazilian law, amongst others. We are able to conduct arbitral proceedings in nineteen languages, including English, French, Arabic, Spanish, German, Russian and Portuguese.

We also advise our clients on liability and risk management through dispute-minded contract drafting and optimization of our clients' corporate structure. Where appropriate, we help our clients achieve favorable negotiated settlements and, where necessary, we devise their collection strategies and represent them in setting aside and enforcement proceedings.

The founders of GBS Disputes are known for having achieved landmark victories in high-stakes international arbitrations and for their intellectual leadership in the field.

**Emmanuel Gaillard**, Shearman & Sterling's former Global Head of Disputes, established Shearman & Sterling's international arbitration practice in 1987 and grew it into one of the world's leading practices. A Professor of Law in France, he serves as a Visiting Professor of Law at Yale and Harvard Law Schools. He is universally regarded as a leading authority in the fields of both commercial and investment treaty arbitration and as one of the top practitioners worldwide. Professor Gaillard has acted as lead counsel in hundreds of investment and commercial arbitrations and has secured many landmark victories and precedent-setting awards. He is one of only two lawyers in the world recognized as a 'star individual' in international arbitration worldwide by *Chambers & Partners*. *Who's Who Legal* comments that "[t]here is no one in this profession better or even equally formidable. He eclipses everyone".

**Yas Banifatemi**, Shearman & Sterling's former Global International Arbitration Practice Group Leader, is a thought leader on international arbitration and public international law and a Lecturer at Harvard, Yale and Sorbonne law schools. She is widely recognized as one of the most prominent international arbitration and public international law specialists in the world and is ranked Band 1 Global-wide in international arbitration by *Chambers & Partners*. She advises and represents States, State-owned entities and companies on both public international law and international arbitration issues. She has been repeatedly praised in all leading professional directories and "*is emphatically described by clients as 'an outstanding lawyer in every possible respect'*". She earns praise for her "*ability to give valuable strategic advice*" and for being "*one of the best technicians in the international investment arbitration field*".

Emmanuel Gaillard and Yas Banifatemi notably secured a USD 50 billion award on behalf of the majority shareholders of the former Yukos Oil Company in a series of three arbitrations against the Russian Federation in relation to the expropriation of their assets in Yukos.

**Mohamed Shelbaya**, who lectures on international investment law at Sciences Po, focuses on international disputes in the oil & gas sector or involving interests in the Middle East. He has represented companies, States and State-owned entities in more than sixty commercial and investment treaty matters, including many multibillion-dollar disputes involving novel questions of international law and geopolitical issues. He also advises energy companies regarding their contractual portfolio and on how to manage potential liability and mitigate litigation risk. He has been praised in *Chambers & Partners* and *Who's Who Legal* as "*one of the greatest arbitration minds of his generation,*" and as being "*a calm, composed and efficient practitioner*" who "*has the ability to turn prima facie losing points into winning arguments*".

In a recent string of precedent-setting awards on the application of the ICSID Convention and the English law of assignment, Emmanuel Gaillard, Yas Banifatemi and Mohamed Shelbaya secured the full dismissal of claims exceeding USD 4 billion that were brought against the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company in connection with the Damietta LNG Liquefaction plant.

**Benjamin Siino** has been praised as *“one of the best French experts in enforcement of arbitral awards”*. He is heavily involved in the enforcement of the USD 50 billion Yukos award across multiple jurisdictions. He also focuses on disputes related to Africa and notably secured, together with Emmanuel Gaillard and Yas Banifatemi, a major victory on behalf of Algeria in a dispute with Orascom TMT, where the Tribunal dismissed USD 4 billion claims brought by Orascom TMT.

**Coralie Darrigade** has over 20 years of experience representing companies, States and State-owned entities, with a particular focus on construction and general commercial disputes across a broad range of industries. She has significant experience in arbitrations involving interests in Europe and Africa. Coralie is recognized as a *“leading individual”* in *The Legal 500: Algeria – Foreign Firms* and is praised in *Who’s Who Legal* as *“a brilliant and hands-on lawyer”* who *“provides great strategic inputs in complex procedural and substantive issues”*.

**Maude Lebois** has over 15 years of experience advising on arbitrations and projects worldwide. She has extensive experience advising the Algerian government and Algerian state-owned entities as well as acting on behalf of clients in complex investment and commercial arbitrations. Maude was noted by legal directories as *“a well-recognised name in the French arbitration market where she stands out for her impressive work handling Africa-related disputes”*.

**Ximena Herrera-Bernal** focuses on Latin American disputes, in which she has significant experience. She represents the Colombian Government in investments disputes and is part of the Commission set up by the Colombian Ministry of Justice for the Reform of the Colombian Arbitration Law. She will lead the firm’s coverage of Latin America, where other partners of the team are also very active.

**Daniel Reich** regularly represents clients in complex energy and pharmaceutical disputes. He recently secured a significant victory for a major European pharmaceutical company in a dispute with a global life sciences company. The USD 700 million claim against our client was dismissed in its entirety and we obtained reimbursement for all of our client’s legal costs.

**Tsegaye Laurendeau** is a former transactional lawyer who focuses on disputes in the M&A, investment funds and international financing space, and regularly advises on valuation and quantum issues in commercial and investment arbitrations. He also works on Africa-related disputes and is familiar with infrastructure and power markets in Africa, having advised on these types of projects as a transactional lawyer. Legal directories recognise him as *“one of the best arbitration lawyers of his generation”*, *“a top-notch attorney, absolutely competent with a great personality”* who is *“rapidly establishing himself as one of the leading practitioners, notably in Africa-related disputes”*.

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