

Curriculum Vitae

Professional Profile

With over two decades of experience in contract law, particularly in supporting complex infrastructure, transportation, industrial, and public-sector construction projects, the focus is on navigating complex international transactions and disputes. Demonstrated expertise in contract drafting, negotiation, and administration across all project phases, with a strong focus on risk mitigation, claims management, and contractual compliance. Consistently coordinates with legal, procurement, and project delivery teams to ensure effective contract execution in alignment with organizational and legal requirements. Recognized for precision, integrity, and the ability to resolve complex commercial issues in multi-stakeholder and high-pressure environments.

A proven track record as a trusted arbitrator includes successfully resolving and mediating a diverse range of conflicts across various regions, which has led to valuable insights into different legal systems. Experience in roles such as Chairman, Sole Arbitrator, Co-Arbitrator, and Counsel with esteemed arbitration institutions provides the expertise necessary for fair and efficient resolution in both domestic and international arbitration.

In addition to extensive practical experience, a Ph.D. in international arbitration has been obtained, along with contributions to legal education as a law professor. Publications in reputable legal journals reflect a commitment to advancing academic discourse in the field.

Skills

Contract Lifecycle Management	Claims Preparation	Effective Dispute Management
Progress Payment & Change Order Management	Risk Identification & Mitigation	Contractual Correspondence
Interpretation and Application of Contractual Terms	Legal Expertise and Knowledge	Analytical and Decision-Making
Proficient in Negotiation and Mediation	Skilled in Evaluating Information	Monitor Performance Metrics
Ethical Standards and Professional Conduct	Geographical and Jurisdictional Knowledge	

Professional Experience

- Senior Contract Procurement Officer, Fraser River Tunnel Project. December 2025 to current. Vancouver Canada.
 - Provided strategic advice and support to project management, site management, and project teams in the procurement of project subcontracts.
 - Enforced and safeguarded contractual interests from procurement phase for the project lifecycle.
 - Led comprehensive subcontract procurement, including drafting agreements and ensuring scope alignment.
 - Coordinated with engineering and construction teams to validate technical and contractual requirements for procurement activities.
- Contract Law Specialist, Broadway Subway Project. November 2023 to December 2025. Vancouver Canada.
 - Enforce and defend contractual interests throughout the project life.
 - Support in claims handling and dispute resolution.
 - Administered all contractual matters for valued at \$120 million Canadian dollars contracts.
 - Led end-to-end subcontract administration, including drafting, scope alignment, amendments, change orders, payment certification, and close-out.
 - Coordinated with engineering and construction teams to validate technical components of commercial correspondence.
 - Issued formal contractual correspondence and position letters to clients, consultants, and subcontractors.
 - Monitor contract performance and ensure deliverables are met according to milestones.
- Legal Advisor and Attorney, Francesco Zappalà Law Firm. September 2002 to current. Colombia.
 - Acting as counsel in commercial and trade litigations and arbitrations.
 - Advise clients of their legal rights and all matters related to the law.
 - Managed incoming and outgoing claims, preparing responses, substantiations, and dispute resolution strategies.
 - Negotiate settlements of disputes.
 - Research legal precedents and gather evidence.

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- Arbitrator and Mediator. September 2011 to current. Colombia.
Acting as arbitrator and mediator in commercial and construction arbitrations.
 - Resolve conflicts outside of the court system by mutual consent of parties involved.
 - Apply and interpretate relevant laws, regulations, policies, or precedents to reach conclusions.
 - Conduct hearings to obtain information or evidence relative to disposition of claims.
 - Decide disputes between opposing parties based on evidence arguments submitted by both sides.
- Associate Professor, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. June 2007 – October 2021. Cali, Colombia.
 - Developed in-depth lectures based on books, personal research, and course objectives to drive students learning.
 - Adapted syllabi to provide consistent engagement through in-person and online instruction formats.
 - Expanded personal publication library by proactively pursuing academic journal opportunities.
- Mediation and Arbitration Center Director, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. September 2016 – December 2021. Cali, Colombia.
 - Lead engagement with key mediation and arbitration organizations.
 - Responsible for mediation and arbitration files.
 - Representing at conferences, lectures and other professional occasions
 - Position the mediation and arbitration center in the main issues of multilateral policy for companies.
 - Answering general queries about mediation and arbitral process.
- University Department Director, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. March 2016 – January 2020. Cali, Colombia.
 - Managed Law Professor employee performance through disciplining, coaching and counseling.
 - Develop annual academic schedule for more than 400 Professors to more than 900 courses.
 - Developed and maintained effective working relationships with team members, management, and customers to boost company productivity and morale.

Education

- Ph.D. in International Arbitration, Università degli Studi La Sapienza, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Rome Italy, July 2016.
- LL.M. Master in European Private Law, Università degli Studi La Sapienza, Facoltà di Giurisprudenza, Rome Italy, July 2008.
- LL.M Master in Commercial Law, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Facultad de Derecho, Medellin Colombia . June 2005.
- Licence in Law, Universidad de San Buenaventura, Facultad de Derecho, Cali Colombia, J.D., August 2002.

Publications in Academic Journals available upon request.

Advanced Courses in Arbitration

- Fordham University Law School. New York, EEUU. 2009. Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- International Centre Dispute Resolution. Bogotá D.C., Colombia. 2009. Arbitraje Comercial Internacional.
- American University Washington Law School. Washington, EEUU. 2015. International Arbitration.
- Camera Arbitrale Internazionale. Italia. 2020. Diritto dell'Arbitrato.

Advanced Courses in Construction Arbitration

- Cour Europeenne D'Arbitrage. 2022. Construction Arbitration Training Course.
- The Construction Institute of Canada. Vancouver. 2024. Construction Law Course.
- Institution of Civil Engineers. Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference. London 2023 & 2024.

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Arbitration Center Memberships. Chartered Arbitrator 15 years of experience in trade and construction disputes.

- Vancouver International Arbitration Center
- Centro de Arbitraje de la Cámara de Comercio de Bogotá D.C.
- Centro de Arbitraje de la Cámara de Comercio de Cali
- Superintendencia de Sociedades de Colombia
- Camera Arbitrale di Firenze
- Camera Arbitrale Internazionale Italiana
- Centro Internacional de Arbitraje y Dispute Boards de Peru

Recognitions

- Minerva Ph.D. Thesis 'Deregulation dell'Arbitrato Internazionale'. Università degli Studi La Sapienza, Rome.
- Cum Lode Thesis 'Arbitration' Master in European Private Law, Università degli Studi La Sapienza, Rome.
- Arbitrator of the Year. Centro de Arbitraje de la Cámara de Comercio de Cali.

Publications in Academic Journals

- Arbitrato Internazionale e Ordine Pubblico Internazionale – Origine, Problemática e Teoria Conflittualistica.
- Auténtico Orden Público Internacional Desde la Óptica del Arbitraje Internacional.
- Persistente Binomio entre Arbitraje Internacional y Lex Mercatoria.
- Due Process en el Arbitraje Internacional.
- Memória Histórica da Arbitragem.
- Universalismo Histórico del Arbitraje.
- Arbitrato Internazionale e Ordine Pubblico Internazionale – Norme Imperative e A-nazionalità.
- Normatividad Procesal Aplicable en el Arbitraje Internacional.
- Autonomia Contrattuale nell'Arbitrato Internazionale.
- Arbitrato Internazionale e Ordine Pubblico Internazionale – Precisazione del Concetto di Ordine Pubblico Internazionale.
- Emancipación del Exequatur de la Anulación del Laudo Arbitral.
- Aplicación del trialismo jurídico al análisis de laudos arbitrales en las inversiones extranjeras en energías renovables.
- Regulación Integrada de Energía y Medio Ambiente en la Unión Europea Bajo las Premisas del Derecho de la Integración.
- La Equivalencia Funcional entre Árbitro y Jueces. Análisis desde su Responsabilidad.
- Brevisima Historia del Arbitraje como Medio de Protección al Consumidor en Colombia desde una Perspectiva Estrictamente Legal.
- Comparación Histórica e Institucional de los Procesos de Integración Regional de la Unión Europea y Mercosur.
- A Propósito del Origen del Código Civil Colombiano.
- Nasciturus Diritti e Responsabilità.
- Advance Directives Declaraciones Anticipadas de Tratamiento Médico o Mal Denominado Testamento Biológico.
- Estatuto Jurídico del Concebido.
- Doctrina y Jurisprudencia en Materia de Interpretación e Integración del Derecho Contractual Italiano.

Languages. Native in Italian and Spanish. Professional in English and Portuguese.

Personal Information. Born in 1973, married with 1 daughter, Italian and Colombian nationality.

Interest. Tennis, Soccer Referee, History, Modelism, and Offroad.

Board Director of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada West.

Board Director of the Society of Italian Researchers & Professionals in Western Canada.

References available upon request