
Arbitration in Life Sciences

CMS has a vibrant international arbitration practice reflecting our expertise in the life sciences sector. This work spans complex contractual disputes, urgent relief and regulatory matters involving life sciences companies.

Arbitration plays a significant role in dispute resolution in the life sciences sector, recognising the benefit of obtaining confidential and internationally enforceable awards through a process which may allow for the parties to nominate a decision-maker with appropriate sector expertise.

Global practice with local insight

CMS' Arbitration practice is international with 78 offices in 43 countries and experts in all of the major arbitration hubs. Our deeply entrenched technical and local jurisdictional knowledge means we are able to advise clients on their largest and most business critical matters.

High value and significant disputes

We are regularly instructed in disputes of great strategic or financial importance. The CMS arbitration group's current portfolio of international arbitrations is valued at approx. US\$48 billion.

Collaborative legal support

Our arbitration specialists operate as a team, offering you prompt cross-border legal advice and representation from a single point of contact. We work with you to establish the most efficient ways of resolving disputes in light with your commercial objectives, via top quality advice and innovative project management.

Market Leaders

CMS has many market-leading partners and next-generation lawyers who are active in their respective regions and further afield. A number of our partners sit on the boards of various international arbitral institutions. Our team's involvement within the arbitration community complements our already extensive technical knowledge.

Sector focus

Within CMS we have local and international life sciences sector groups, which enables our arbitration team to draw on and work alongside market-leading industry experts and provide you with commercial legal solutions to your specific issues.



“A go-to outfit for significant disputes.”

“An excellent team with real strength in depth.”

Chambers UK 2021, International Arbitration.

Some highlights of our experience

Canadian pharmaceutical distributor

Advising on an ICC arbitration on the breach of a distribution agreement between a distributor in North America and an API supplier in India whose product had consistently failed to meet regulatory standards and testing requirements.

US-based pharmaceutical company

Advising on allegations of breach of contract under a supply agreement, including a threatened injunction for specific performance and LCIA arbitration.

US-headquartered life sciences company

Advising on bringing an LCIA arbitration arising out of a contractual dispute resulting from the imposition of US sanctions by OFAC, and on related settlement negotiations.

Large pharmaceutical company

Defending a large pharmaceutical company in arbitral proceedings filed by a group of pharmaceutical companies to obtain injunctive relief restraining the respondent's ability to sell, import, export, manufacture, store or deliver certain generic drugs.

European-headquartered global foundation

Successfully obtaining emergency relief in an LCIA emergency arbitration in relation to an urgent contractual dispute regarding the global development, manufacture and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines.

Global pharmaceutical and biotechnology company

Successfully defending the Respondent in an LCIA arbitration, in relation to the alleged breach of an agreement for the production and supply of an API used in an OTC product.

US-headquartered conglomerate

Advising on force majeure, termination and other issues arising out of sanctions and export restrictions affecting the performance of contracts with disputes to be resolved by SIAC arbitration.

Global diagnostics solutions provider

Advising on a distribution agreement for diagnostics products including pre-arbitration, enforcement and settlement advice.

Get in touch



Richard Bamforth
Partner
T +44 20 7067 3641
E richard.bamforth@cms-cmno.com



David Bridge
Partner, Solicitor Advocate
T +44 20 7367 3021
E david.bridge@cms-cmno.com



Louise Boswell
Partner, Solicitor Advocate
T +44 20 7367 3725
E louise.boswell@cms-cmno.com