

# Dr. Despina Mavromati, LL.M., M.B.A., FCI Arb

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## Professional Summary

Swiss and Greek Attorney-at-law specializing in international sports arbitration, with over 15 years of experience in legal counsel- and arbitrator roles in a multilingual environment and across various jurisdictions. Member of the Bar Association of the Canton of Vaud (OAV) and the Thessaloniki Bar Association (ΔΣΘ). Recognized as a leading expert in sports law and dispute resolution, having being involved in numerous high-profile sports arbitrations. CAS Arbitrator and member of UEFA Club Financial Control Body, with extensive knowledge of tribunal mechanics and contractual / disciplinary and doping proceedings. Working languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Greek.

## Ongoing Sports Arbitration Mandates

- **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** (2023 - Present): Arbitrator in contractual and disciplinary disputes. Experience as party-appointed, Panel Chair or Sole Arbitrator in numerous CAS procedures
- **UEFA Club Financial Control Body (CFCB)** (2023 – Present): Member (Appeals Chamber)

## Past Arbitration Roles

- **Doping Hearing Panel of the International Powerlifting Federation** (2017 – 2023)
- **Independent Tribunal of the International Tennis Federation** (2017 – 2023)
- **Disciplinary Tribunal of World Athletics (formerly IAAF)** (2018 – 2023)
- **Sport Resolutions (UK) Panel of Arbitrators** (2017 – 2023)
- **Chair of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission of the International Weightlifting Federation** (2020-2021)
- **UEFA Appeals Body Member** (2018 – 2023)

## Attorney-at-law | former Counsel with Swiss law firms Valfor / BianchiSchwald (2022-July 2025)

- Independent attorney specializing in international sports law and arbitration (2017 – Present)
- Former of Counsel at Valfor Attorneys-at-Law (previously BianchiSchwald LLC) (2022 – 2025)
- Experience as counsel, co-counsel, and expert witness in numerous high-profile sports arbitrations
- Proven expertise in regulatory drafting and in negotiating complex commercial agreements, including sponsorship deals, image and media rights, and agency partnerships

## Counsel | Managing Counsel | CAS, Lausanne (2008 - 2017)

- Drafting of legal opinions and orders; proofreading of arbitral awards
- Management of CAS mediation procedures
- Responsible for legal research & other academic and knowledge-sharing activities
- Representation of CAS at international conferences, including regional forums with the IOC

## Academic Activities

- **Lecturer, University of Fribourg** (2023- Present): Teaches 'Sports Contracts'
- **Lecturer, Swiss School of Business Management Geneva** (2021- 2025): 'Human Rights in Sports'
- **Lecturer, University of Lausanne** (2017 - 2022): Taught 'sports arbitration' & 'sports contracts'
- **Visiting Professor, University of Western Ontario** (2017): Co-taught 'sports law' with Prof. Richard McLaren

## Education and Professional Training

- **Harvard Law School** (2016): Program on Negotiation – Semester training and Diploma in alternative dispute resolution and crisis management
- **Fletcher School, Tufts University** (2015-2016): Visiting Scholar in sports governance and arbitration
- **University of Fribourg, Switzerland** (2007): Dr. iur. in Law – Ph.D. thesis on EU law ('The Law of Payment Services in the EU')
- **University of Saarland, Germany** (2002): Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- **University of Saarland, Germany** (2001): Europa-Institut, LL.M. in EU Law
- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece** (1998): Lic. iur. in Law

## Board Positions, Memberships and Affiliations

- **Fellow**, [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators \(FCIArb\)](#)
- **Founder and former Board Member**, [Women in Sports Law \(WISLaw\)](#)
- **Board of Directors**, [Sports Lawyers Association \(SLA\)](#)
- **Member**, [Swiss Association of Sports Lawyers \(ASDS\)](#)
- **Member**, [Association Suisse de l'Arbitrage \(ASA\)](#)

## Selected Published Books and Articles

- **Books:**
  - Commentary on the CAS Code (with Matthieu Reeb, 2015; 2nd ed. 2025)
  - The Law of Payment Services in the European Union (Kluwer Law International, 2008)
- **Selected Articles:**
  - Applicability of Swiss Law in Doping Cases, Yearbook of Int. Sports Arbitration (2017)
  - Procedural Issues in Caster Semenya Judgment, International Sports Law Blog (2020)
  - Review of AC Milan v. UEFA Decision, LawInSport (2018)
  - Governance of International Sports Federations through the Lens of Global Administrative Law, Marquette Sports Law Review' (2023)
  - The Appeal Procedure before the CAS: Key Insights and Practical Tips (ASA Bulletin 2023)
- **Website / Blog:**
  - [www.sportlegis.com](http://www.sportlegis.com), including notes on the jurisprudence of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (SFT) related to sports-related cases

## Languages and Key Skills

- Fluent in English, French, German, Spanish and Greek
- Dispute resolution in various jurisdictions, experience in EU law
- Multilingual communication and problem solving in complex legal contexts
- Teaching and public speaking on sports arbitration

For a full list of cases and additional publications, please contact [info@sportlegis.com](mailto:info@sportlegis.com)