

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

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Professional Summary

Swiss and Greek attorney-at-law, arbitrator and accredited mediator specializing in international sports arbitration, with over 15 years of experience 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 been involved in numerous high-profile sports disputes. CAS Arbitrator and member of UEFA Club Financial Control Body, with extensive knowledge of tribunal mechanics and contractual / disciplinary and doping proceedings. Lecturer at the University of Fribourg since 2023 (teaching sports contracts). Former lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of Lausanne (teaching sports arbitration) from 2017 to 2023. Working languages: English, French, German, Greek and Spanish.

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 (<30 cases handled as of 2026)
- **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)
- **CAS Managing Counsel and Head of Mediation** (2008-2017)

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

Managing Counsel | Head of Mediation | CAS, Lausanne (2008 - 2017)

- Drafting of legal opinions and orders; proofreading of arbitral awards
- Management of CAS mediation procedures, experience as co-mediator
- Responsible for legal research & other academic and knowledge-sharing activities

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 mediation, alternative dispute resolution and crisis management
- **Fletcher School, Tufts University** (2015-2016): Visiting Scholar in sports governance and arbitration
- **CEDR, London**, Accreditation as Mediator
- **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, Chair of the International Committee**, [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, 2nd edition July 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, 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
- Demonstrated ability to resolve complex contractual and disciplinary issues
- Teaching and public speaking on sports arbitration

For a full list of cases and additional publications, please contact info@sportlegis.com