

BIRGIT SAMBETH

Attorney-at-law - Accredited Mediator - Conciliator - Arbitrator - Member of Dispute Boards

Partner at ALTENBURGER LTD legal + tax, Geneva, Zurich & Lugano – Switzerland

Former President of the Swiss Bar (2021-2023)

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<https://www.altenburger.ch/people/birgit-sambeth>

<https://imimmediation.org/birgit-sambethglasner>



Professional background

Current

- **Attorney at law, LL.M. International Banking and Finance, Boston**
Head of the Dispute resolution team of Altenburger Geneva

Special areas of practice:

International and national investments, infrastructure projects and constructions; architecture and urbanism; real estate and leaseholds; contract law and commercial relations; procurement, distribution and franchises; organisation & governance; M&A, medical care, pharma and biotech; automotive; bankruptcies & reorganizations; labour and employment; intellectual property; insurance and professional liability; trade, finance and banking; energy, oil & gas, green; as well as complex family matters in inheritance and estates, Trusts as well as matrimonial cases and divorces, Health sector (patients – Drs – Institutions), Public law; territory development and environment.

Sports law and sport events related contractual issues.

Dispute prevention & resolution:

Early case assessment & Process Design

Negotiation, **Mediation**, Litigation and **Arbitration**, Collaborative law and **Dispute Boards**.

- **International Sworn and accredited Mediator** (almost full time Mediator since 1997)
sworn in by the Geneva Government and the Court of Vaud
and accredited by the Surveillance Authority in the Health Sector (2019), Geneva
- Since 2024, **Conciliator-Mediator for ICSID - International Centre for Settlements of Investor State Disputes** (member of the World Bank Group), designation to the ICSID Panel of Conciliators by the Chair of the ICSID Administrative Council.
- **External Mediator for the WTO** (2016-2022) as well as for various private and public Organisations, Companies and Banks.
- **Mediator at the CAS-TAS** Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne <https://www.tas-cas.org/fr/mediation/liste-des-mediateurs.html?MedSlct=4&nmlpt=Sambeth+Glasner>
- Since 2012, listed as **Expert Panelist on WIPO List of Neutrals for Intellectual Property Dispute Resolution Procedure for Palexpo Trade Fairs**
- **Visiting professor** teaching Commercial Mediation @ :
- Pepperdine University & Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Malibu (USA) - Selected Issues in Dispute Resolution: International Multy-Party Disputes

- MIDS Master International Dispute Settlements, Graduate Institute HEI, Geneva (CH)
- CAS and DAS in Commercial Mediation at the University of Fribourg as well as at HEIG Yverdon
- Specialisation as SBA Mediator and Mediation Advocacy at the Swiss Bar Association

Previous

- Lic. Iur. 1984, Bar exam 1990, Geneva (CH) and 1986, LL.M. International Banking Law, Boston (USA)
- First trained at Lloyds Bank plc and then worked with Baker & Mc Kenzie Chicago and Geneva before practicing 5 years at the Tax and Legal Department of Ernst & Young in Basel.
- Managed her own law firm for 11 years in Geneva and merged with Altenburger Geneva and Zurich in 2005.
- Deputy Judge for conciliations at the Geneva Courts (1994-2008)

Specific experience and accreditations

- Certified Mediator by:
The Swiss Bar Association **FSA/SAV**, **FSM/SDM** Swiss Federation of Mediators, **SCCM** Swiss Chamber for Commercial Mediation, **IMI** International Mediation Institute, **CEDR** Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution, London, **CPR** New York, **SIMC** Singapore International Mediation Centre, **CMAP** Centre de Médiation et d'Arbitrage de Paris, **CAM** Camera Arbitrale di Milano; **SCIA** Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration, China, **INSOL** International Insolvency Mediation, and listed as Neutral at **ICC** and **WIPO**.
- Distinguished Member fellow :
- **International Academy of Mediators IAM**, Canada, www.iamed.site-ym.com/members/?id=33510544
- **Center for Mediation and Law**, Russia, www.mediacia.com/wp/314-mlaw_b-406.html
- Former member of the **European Advisory Board of CPR ADR** - International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution NYC <https://www.cpradr.org/strategy/international-initiatives/europe>
- Member of the **Advisory Council of the Swiss Arbitration Centre** (former SCAI) from 2019 to 2024
<https://www.swissarbitration.org/centre/leadership/>
- Co-President of the **Mediation Commission of the Swiss Bar Association**
- Worked on various human right projects to promote and set up Med-Arb regulations and participated in diverse initiatives in this respect, such as an intense training for high qualified professionals in Morocco together with the **World Bank** and **ICC**.

Rankings:

- 2017 Who's Who Legal Switzerland : **Ranked n° 1 Mediator in Switzerland** "Highly experienced, with a truly international practice" and "commended for her strategic outlook when it comes to dispute resolution and her excellent record as a Mediator".
- 2018 - Who's Who Legal: Thought Leaders – Switzerland: Selected as the Lead Mediator in Switzerland. "This exclusive guide invites only the country's foremost practitioners, those who truly stand out as being leaders and who are held in the highest esteem by their clients and fellow practitioners because of their expertise and wisdom".
- 2019 - Who's Who Legal : Mediation: " **Birgit Sambeth is recognized as "n. 1 most highly regarded mediator in Switzerland"** and as a "distinguished figure in the international mediation space whom peers describe as 'an absolutely excellent mediator with strong languages skills' ".
- 2019 - Who's Who Legal: Restructuring & Insolvency: "Birgit Sambeth is recognized as Restructuring and Insolvency Expert".
- 2020 - Who's Who Legal: Mediation: "**Birgit Sambeth is recognized Mediation Lawyer of the Year.**"
- 2021 – Who's Who Legal Switzerland Award: Récipiendaire du Prix de la meilleure médiatrice et avocate en médiation
- 2021 - WWL Global Guide Ranking: "Birgit Sambeth is highly recommended by clients and fellow practitioners, who laud her "top-flight" practice and "excellent reputation" in the field".

- 2021 - WWL Legal Mediation: "Birgit Sambeth is phenomenal, and she rightly leads in all ADR rankings". Peers add: "it is an absolute inspiration to work with her".
- 2022 - WWL Thought Leaders 2022 Switzerland found: " Birgit is very top of the List."
- 2023, **WWL Thought Leader Switzerland**: "Birgit Sambeth enjoys a stellar reputation as "a vastly experienced commercial mediator", she "sits at the very top of the list".
- 2023 – WWL Thought Leaders Global Elite : "The "phenomenal" Birgit Sambeth draws praise from international sources thanks to her work on complex commercial disputes."
- 2024 - 2025 – **WWL- Thought Leaders - Global Elite**: "Birgit Sambeth is renowned as "one of a kind" by peers for her outstanding mediation practice, where she is described as "a brilliant and very experienced mediator"
- 2026 Birgit Sambeth is Recognized Mediator by **Chambers Global Guide** (1st Edition for Mediation)

Membership at professional organisations:

- Immediate past **President of the Swiss Bar Association (2022-2023)**
- Former President of the **Swiss Committee of UIA** Union Internationale des Avocats
- Former Vice-Chair of the Mediation Committee of the **ABA International Section**
- Founding Member of the **ADR Commission of the Geneva Bar**
- Former Vice-Chair of the **IBA** Mediation Committee and National representative for Switzerland
- Founding member and former Vice President for **Geneva of the Swiss Chamber for Commercial Mediation**
- Member of **ICC** Switzerland
- Member of **ASA** Swiss Arbitration Association
- Member of **ArbitralWomen**
- Member of **AIBL** Association of Business Lawyers
- Member of **INSOL** Insolvency Practitioners and Insolvency Mediator
- Member of **AGDA** Association of Geneva Business Law

Publications See: <https://www.altenburger.ch/people/birgit-sambeth>

Podcasts <https://podcast.ausha.co/humankind-mediation/birgit-sambeth>

Personal

- Born in 1962 in Geneva, Swiss national
- French & German (mother tongues), English (fluent), Italian and Spanish (very good understanding)
- Former Member of the City Council Veyrier, Geneva, Switzerland

