



## Birgit Sambeth

Partner, Geneva



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“In disputes as in life: you need empathy, dedication and a wise solution-oriented mindset.”

Birgit Sambeth is Co-Head of our Dispute Resolution Team. As a former substitute Judge and judicial Conciliator, acting as Mediator and as Arbitrator, she is acknowledged as a forward thinking, holistic and strategic dispute resolution specialist, and is regularly appointed as Neutral to prevent and resolve complex, international and domestic disputes in commercial and international agency/distribution contracts, M&A transactions, construction projects, employment and family/inheritance matters, often with cross cultural and multi-language components.

Listed among the “Thought Leaders - Mediation” by Who's Who Legal since 2018, Birgit has been recognized as the “N° 1 most highly regarded mediator in Switzerland”. She is accredited by a number of national and international organizations, in particular: the Swiss Bar Association (FSA-SAV), the Swiss Chamber of Commercial

London, CFC New York,  
VIAC Vienna, CMAP Paris,  
CAM Milan, CML Russia,  
Shenzhen Court of  
Arbitration (South China)  
(SCIA), ICC, SCAI, TAS-CAS,  
INSOL and WIPO.

In addition to her activity as  
Neutral, Birgit is also  
frequently involved in  
company restructuring and  
insolvency proceedings,  
acting as creditor  
representative or as  
liquidator and trustee in the  
context of domestic and  
international bankruptcy and  
composition proceedings.

## Career

- 2021 President of the Swiss Bar Association
- 2019 Vice President of the Swiss Bar Association
- Since 2005 Partner at Altenburger
- 1994-2008 Substitute judge at the Geneva courts
- 1994-2005 Sambeth Glasner Law Firm, Geneva
- 1989-1994 Legal counsel at Ernst & Young (legal and tax dept.), Basel
- 1986-1987 Legal trainee at Baker & McKenzie, Geneva and Chicago

## Education

- 2019 Accredited Mediator in the Health

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Vaud

- 2005 Sworn-in Mediator by the Geneva Government
- 2004 Accredited CEDR Mediator, London
- 2004 Accredited WIPO Mediator, Geneva
- 1997 Certified mediator in civil, commercial and criminal matters (FSA/CEFOC/INPER), Lausanne
- 1990 Bar admission, Geneva
- 1986 Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Banking and Finance, Boston University, USA
- 1984 Lic. Iur. University of Geneva

## Bar / Court Admission

At all Swiss courts

## Special Engagements

- 2022 Lecturer in Commercial Mediation, LL.M. International Business Law, UNIL Lausanne
- 2008-2022 Lecturer in Commercial Mediation, CAS and DAS University of Fribourg
- 2008-2022 Lecturer in Commercial Mediation, CAS HEIG Yverdon
- 2009-2022 Lecturer at the MIDS Master in

- 2009-2017 Lecturer in Commercial Mediation, Diploma and Master of Arts in International Trading, Commodity Finance and Shipping, HEC Geneva.
- 2009-2017 Lecturer in Commercial Mediation, Master in International Trade law, Contracts and Dispute resolution, University of Torino and IUSE, ITC-ILO in collaboration with UNCITRAL
- 2011-2018 Lecturer in Mediation Advocacy, ECAV Ecole d'Avocature, Geneva
- 2013 Lecturer in Mediation Advocacy, Master's program in commercial mediation, BUCERIUS Law School, Hamburg

## Memberships

- Swiss Bar Association (SAV)
- Geneva Bar Association (ODAGE)
- UIA Union Internationale des Avocats
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- ABA International Section
- Swiss Chamber for Commercial Mediation
- Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA)
- Arbitral Women
- Geneva Business Law Association (AIBL)

- UN Global Mediation Panel for UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, and UN-Women
- IMI International Academy of Mediators
- European Advisory Board of CPR ADR - International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution NYC
- International Academy of Mediators IAM, Canada
- Center for Mediation and Law, Russia

## Rankings

### **Who's Who Legal - National Leader - Switzerland - Restructuring & Insolvency 2022**

"Birgit Sambeth Glasner is a revered for her top-notch on high-profile insolvency disputes at home and abroad. "

### **Who's Who Legal - Thought Leaders Global Elite - Switzerland - Mediation 2022**

Birgit Sambeth enjoys a stellar reputation as "a vastly experienced commercial mediator" who "sits "at the very top of the list".

### **Legalcommunity Awards Switzerland 2022 - Lawyer of the Year – Dispute Resolution**

"Appreciated by the market for the experience and in-depth knowledge of arbitration matters. The professional is to all intents and purposes one of the icons in her field."

### **Who's Who Legal - National Leader - Switzerland - Restructuring & Insolvency 2021**

Birgit Sambeth Glasner is a prestigious figure in domestic and international mediation with expertise spanning from commercial disputes to criminal matters.”

**Who's Who Legal: Global  
Leader – Mediation 2020**

## Endorsements

### IMI Feedback

“Birgit Sambeth Glasner has consistently been rated at Performance Level 5 by the Parties for whom she has acted as a mediator as well as their attorneys. All of the parties would recommend her as a mediator, a fact borne out by the number of them willing to use her again and some to provide a reference to parties considering the engagement of Birgit as a mediator in the future. Costs were widely reported as reasonable and within international standards. Thus, a very high degree of satisfaction was reported.”

“Birgit has a quick grasp of all the underlying issues and she explores the values with patience. Her skills in setting up and providing an adequate environment for a constructive dialogue is particularly reflected, as well as her patience and flexibility, together with her ability to calm down individual sensitivities and to prevent the escalation of disputes. She is described as having a sound common sense and being confident, pragmatic as well as solution oriented. She tries to

stalemates and she is deemed to be particularly helpful in clarifying and structuring the dispute resolution processes, managing the parties expectations and assisting them to “take a step back”. Humanistic and empathetic, she uses all her personal skills, notably the listening skills, to a genuinely caring attitude, and for being an excellent listener and very skilled communicator.”

“Having lived all her life in a multi-cultural, - professional and - linguistic environment, she handles well cultural differences, whether geographic very human and empathetic, she has a special way to build trust with the parties. She was reported as being committed, having a genuinely caring attitude but, at the same time, also being able to stay firm if needed.”

“Birgit has a brilliant mind, able to catch immediately what is really at stake and has a special way to calmly but firmly help parties to find their way out of the conflict. All the mediations she has conducted were reported as being settled in a very short time.”

## Further Publications

[Download Full List \(PDF\)](#)

## Latest Blog Posts

**Interview: La créativité est intrinsèquement liée à la profession d’avocat**

by Birgit Sambeth



## Interview: Die Pandemie akzentuiert die Diskussion der Gleichstellung

by Birgit Sambeth

### ndlungen

#### Die Pandemie akzentuiert die Diskussion der Gleichstellung

Die vergangenen zwei Jahre haben uns gezeigt, wie zerbrechlich unsere Gesellschaft ist und wie schnell es zu Missständen kommt. Es ist wichtig, dass wir wachsam, aufmerksam und agil bleiben, damit wir unsere Geschäftstätigkeit weiterhin sachgerecht und im wohlverstandenen Interesse unserer Mandantschaft ausüben können.

Diese zwei Jahre haben uns auch gezeigt, wie schnell und wichtig Veränderungen von Gewohnheiten, Arbeitsweisen, Strukturen und Organisation nicht nur sein können, son-

Die Züricher Juristin Zita König ist die des *Emilie Kemptin-Spyri-Preises* 2021. D „eine außerordentlich mutige Frau“ bezeichnen in den Dienst der Gleichstellung von nern in der Gesellschaft und im Recht ges *König* stand das Faktische, das Aufbrechen len Schwerkraft“, wie sie das allumfassenden Machtstrukturen nennt, im Vordergrundsmittel der Organisation für die Sa

## Commentaire romand on the "Loi sur les services financiers"

by Birgit Sambeth



## Interview: Die Pandemielage hat der Justiz den Spiegel vorgehalten

by Birgit Sambeth





# What's Your Next Step?

