



WOLF VON KUMBERG

Nationality: German & Canadian

Languages: Fluent in English and German. Social knowledge in Italian and French.

Wolf is a leading internationally recognised independent arbitrator and mediator practising globally out of London, Washington D.C and Abu Dhabi.

Wolf has over 30 years of experience in complex commercial disputes within international business with a particular focus on Maritime, Aviation, Defence, Technology, Cyber, Engineering/Infrastructure, Energy, Oil & Gas and Investor-State dispute resolution. Before establishing his ADR practice, he served as Legal Director and Assistant General Counsel to Northrop Grumman Corporation and prior to this at Litton Industries Inc. During his international career he was located in their Toronto, Zurich and London offices.

As Assistant General Counsel for Northrop Grumman, Wolf worked with Governments and State Agencies in over 52 countries dealing with trade, security, regulatory and investment matters, and responsible for international disputes including arbitration, adjudication, and mediation. In that role, he has held security clearances in major NATO countries. He is also very familiar with EU Law and the domestic Laws of most EU States, as well as being a qualified solicitor in England and Canada. As such, he is well-versed in civil as well as common law.

His expert analysis has covered all types of dispute management and resolution boards, adjudication systems, ADR guidelines and Model Clauses, ADR policies and procedures, Global conflict compliance and governance programs, arbitration programs, government procurement and supply chain dispute management. He has worked extensively with ADR institutions to develop appropriate process design mechanisms for highly complex disputes including state-to-state, investor-state, and commercial matters.

He is a well-rounded and effective international dispute resolution expert, capable of dealing with the most complex and high-value cases. He is a thought leader in the development of investor-state mediation and dispute risks emanating from the energy transition.

Specialist Sector Experience

- Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure
- Mediation & Dispute Boards
- Energy, Oil & Gas
- Maritime
- Aviation, Aerospace, Defence & Government Services
- Engineering & Technology
- Insurance, Reinsurance & Fintech
- Environmental & Climate Change
- Technology & Telecommunications
- Energy, Natural Resources & Renewables

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- Investment Treaty
- Cyber
- Global Corporate Tax

Mediation & Dispute Boards

Mediation

Wolf is also a certified CEDR mediator and American Arbitration Association Master Mediator. He has mediated numerous types of commercial disputes and sits on the mediation panels of CEDR, AIAC, WIPO, SCCA and the AAA/ICDR. He has also been active in the DIFC in Dubai and the ADGM in Abu Dhabi. Disputes have largely been cross-border and include locations in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, New York, Paris, Abu Dhabi, Washington, Toronto, Frankfurt, and London.

As mediator, Wolf has experience in complex, high-value disputes, often involving complex multi-party process design capability. He also has Co-mediation experience and has developed experience in investor-State mediation involving multiple stakeholders. His Commercial mediation experience particularly in the following areas: Aerospace, Aviation, Energy, Environmental and energy transition, Technology, Cyber, Maritime, Insurance, and Construction/Infrastructure.

“Wolf is well placed to understand the needs of business people.”

Dispute Boards

Wolf has applied his accumulated knowledge to the field of global commercial conflict avoidance and resolution and he has been involved in the implementation of Dispute Boards in various regions of the World.

These boards have been used in the aerospace and technology sectors where long-term commitments and relationships required conflicts to be dealt with expeditiously and cost-effectively, permitting projects to be delivered. His previous dispute board experience has related to: defense projects, joint venture undertakings, green projects, and infrastructure programs.

As Assistant General Counsel at Northrop, Wolf was responsible for developing a dispute management process including an ADR Policy, Guidelines and International Dispute Clauses. In addition, he was involved in its international compliance program and complex regulatory investigations. Wolf’s expertise also includes development and implementation of specialized global Early Issue Conflict Management (EICM) programs such as conflict avoidance structures, single and co-mediation programs, and board room and partnership dispute programs.

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Energy, Oil & Gas

Wolf has broad energy dispute resolution experience in both downstream, upstream and renewable energy such as solar and wind projects and has been involved in energy exploration and transit disputes. He was Counsel for Western Atlas (Schlumberger purchased the company in 2006) in its oil and gas exploration and drilling activity globally. Wolf also represented Western Atlas in disputes with States and commercial parties. In addition, he worked extensively with The Energy Charter Treaty Organization in relation to energy transit matters and sit on the ECT panel for transit disputes.

Wolf has acted as counsel, arbitrator and mediator in energy-related disputes covering the following matters:

- exploration and drilling
- transportation and trading;
- energy transit;
- supply and marketing;
- infrastructure for oil and gas projects;
- concession disputes with States;
- renewable energy disputes respecting wind and solar projects

Maritime

Wolf was the General Counsel for Sperry Marine, a global manufacturer supplier of sophisticated marine equipment. In this capacity, he acquired a good knowledge for the maritime shipbuilding and shipping industries, together with related issues. He has been involved in several maritime disputes, as counsel, arbitrator and mediator. His experience includes:

- Marine equipment manufacture and supply
- Shipbuilding (commercial and defence)
- Maritime satellite communication systems
- Ship collision investigations
- Maritime security
- Environmental issues

Aviation

Wolf has unparalleled experience in disputes related to the Aviation & Aerospace, Defence, Compliance, Investor/State, IP, Cyber Security and Technology Industries.

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He is a founding member of the Aerospace, Aviation and National Security panel of AAA. Having worked for Northrop Grumman Corporation a major aircraft manufacturer for the US Airforce contributing to such iconic aircraft as the F15, B2 Bomber, the GlobalHawk and the F35, he is well versed in the design, manufacture and supply of aircraft systems globally. He is also highly experienced in dealing with global aerospace supply chains and the issues associated therewith.

He also specialises in aerospace/aviation disputes arising out of the energy transition and climate change.

His aviation disputes experience includes:

- Aircraft manufacturing and supply contracts
- Procurement issues
- Certification issues
- Aircraft joint venture, syndicate and partnering disputes
- Aircraft sale, leasing and financing agreements
- Aviation insurance and reinsurance claims
- Warranty and repair claims
- Aircraft crash investigations
- IP and licensing-related claims

Engineering & Technology

Wolf has worked for and with several global engineering companies. He has a broad understanding for research, development and implementation of multi-party, complex engineering, and technology programmes. In this context, he is extremely familiar with the workings of joint venture infrastructure projects and the issues arising from them. He has acquired broad technical and commercial engineering expertise, which he is now utilising in complex, high value engineering disputes. In particular, his engineering experience extends to:

- Research and Development
- Infrastructure projects
- Complex Joint venture arrangements
- Satellite systems
- Navigation systems
- Mechanical
- Civil
- Electrical
- Industrial

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Insurance & Reinsurance

Wolf has extensive experience in both the insurance and reinsurance markets as counsel, arbitrator and mediator. This experience is garnered from several decades as in house counsel for several commercial companies with global operations. This expertise extends to the following areas of cover:

- Property
- Professional Indemnity
- Commercial
- Health
- Environmental

Environmental & Climate Change

Wolf has been a thought leader in developing ADR mechanisms to deal with the increasing number of environmentally related disputes arising out of Climate Change. He has worked with several leading energy producers to identify areas of dispute risk arising from Energy Transition and developing ADR mechanisms to mitigate those risks utilising his own extensive disputes experience. He has written and spoken on the topic at major Institutional events this year including ICCA, the IBA, the ABA, and several Regional dispute week events. Wolf’s focus is on providing the following energy transition dispute resolution services:

- Facilitated negotiation
- Mediation
- Adjudication
- Arbitration
- Conflict Avoidance Boards

Investor-State

Wolf is a leading international ADR figure working together with ICSID, CEDR, and the Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat to develop protocols and policies, as well as training to enable the use of mediation in investor-state disputes. In the process, he contributed to the Investor-State Mediation Guide for the Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat. He is active in developing the field of Investor-State mediation together with ICSID, CEDR, IMI and the ECT. He has worked with several countries to put in place mediation protocols to be used in disputes with investors and has actively worked with them to resolve investor disputes through mediation and arbitration.

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Wolf is a founding member of the ADGM/CEDR Investor-state mediation panel in Abu Dhabi specialising in energy transition disputes.

Cyber

Wolf worked for over 25 years with several defence companies that pioneered the field of cyber technology. In that role he was at the cutting edge of developments and acquired a good understanding for cyber vulnerabilities and defences. He has also been involved in the development of blockchain technology and understands its vulnerabilities. He was also involved in several cyber related disputes in which his security clearances were essential. He currently sits on the board of a cyber “Think Tank” and has knowledge related to:

- Ransomware
- Phishing
- Data leakage
- Hacking
- Insider threats
- Blockchain and cryptocurrency
- Software vulnerabilities
- Machine learning and A1 attacks

Experience

Recent examples of his mediation experience include:

- \$6.1 Million dispute respecting adjustments and warranties on the sale of an IT Defense Contractor.
- Complex multi-party cross border technology licensing dispute, with a value of over \$20 Million held pursuant to the CEDR mediation rules.
- Multi-party \$12 Million fraud claim stemming from a real estate construction project in New York City held pursuant to the AAA-ICDR rules.
- Accounting industry dispute respecting reputational, and breach of contract matters pursuant to the CEDR mediation rules.
- Multimillion dollar (\$21 Million) dispute in the aviation industry focused on the breach of a joint venture agreement pursuant to the AAA mediation rules.
- Multimillion dollar dispute in the construction of a glass manufacturing plant for the auto industry by an American Company against a Spanish manufacturer pursuant to the ICDR mediation rules.
- Claim by a satellite Network provider against a satellite manufacturer, for failure to properly meet licensing requirements for required satellite orbit deployment. Cross-border dispute, ICC Rules – Seated in NY.
- Engineering/Technology claim for improper design and construction of a security monitoring system.

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- Engineering/Technology claim for improper installation of radar masts at a large infrastructure project in North Africa.
- Commercial contracts supply chain issue respecting sale of counterfeit parts.
- Insurance dispute over interpretation of policy wording in a business interruption cover, due to faulty construction of a naval shipyard.
- Intellectual Property claim for breach of intellectual property agreement by a subcontractor on a major New York construction project.
- Intellectual Property software license dispute related to a gas infrastructure project in the Middle East.
- Partnership & Shareholder dispute over termination provision in a shareholder agreement for a large infrastructure project.
- Partnership & Shareholder dispute between JV partners over settlement of a major contracts claim.
- Partnership & Shareholder dispute between shareholders over sale of an energy related business.
- Partnership & Shareholder dispute in a medical partnership over revenue sharing.
- Property claim respecting water pollution on a former industrial site in Paris.
- Sale of goods and services claim for design inappropriate computer equipment
- Shipping/Maritime dispute over the manufacture and installation of bridge system on a cruise ship.
- Shipping/Maritime claim for damage caused to a super yacht for deficient engine controls.
- Shipping/Maritime dispute respecting a Charter party Contract.

As Arbitrator & Counsel

Wolf has extensive experience in AAA, ICDR, ICC, LCIA and AIAC and ad hoc cases. Seats have included Geneva, London, New York, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

- Cross border supply contract dispute.
- Maritime claim respecting ownership of a superyacht.
- Dispute respecting commercial terms governing a distribution agreement in the Middle East.
- Aerospace claim for failure to achieve airworthiness certification.
- Aviation/Aerospace claim for return of faulty aircraft engines.
- Engineering/Technology claim by Ministry of Defence for non-performance of engine control unit in frigate.
- Engineering/Technology claim for improper design of radar installation.
- Commercial Contracts claim regarding breach of contract for late delivery of machines to a major infrastructure project.
- Commercial Contracts termination for convenience claim on a large Middle Eastern project.
- Insurance dispute over the payment of a reinsurance claim at shipyard damaged by hurricane.
- Intellectual Property dispute concerning breach of software license agreement on a large South Korean project.
- Property dispute concerning major environmental indemnification claim under a transaction agreement.
- Sale of goods and services claim for sale of faulty switches to be used in an engine control system.
- Sale of good and services claim for delivery of faulty construction equipment.

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- Aviation/Aerospace claim by major aircraft manufacturer for deficient system design leading to crash of aircraft.
- Aviation/Aerospace claim by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) for non-performance of aircraft design.
- Aviation/Aerospace claim by UK Ministry of Defence related to early warning system on military jet.
- Aviation/Aerospace claim by French Ministry of Defence related to Tracker Aircraft.
- Engineering/Technology claim for improper software design for the London Ambulance services.
- Commercial contracts dispute concerning breach of contract for failure to deliver a working software program on an emergency response system.
- Commercial contracts claim for consequential damages for delivery of faulty switches to a major City communication system.
- Investor State claim against Government of Egypt for expropriation.
- Investor State claim against Government of Libya for expropriation.
- Investor State claim against Government of Venezuela for expropriation.
- Corporate Fraud claim for payment of bribe in a public procurement contract.
- Corporate Fraud claim concerning money laundering in a complex multi-national commercial deal.
- Employment and workplace dispute over scope of duties provision in an employment agreement.
- Insurance dispute over calculation of a major property claim.
- Intellectual property dispute over conversion of a proprietary design by a competitor.
- Intellectual property patent infringement claim respecting an aircraft guidance system.
- Property claim involving remediation under a property lease agreement.
- Sale of goods and services claim for improper installation of a ship's guidance system.
- Shipping/Maritime dispute over design provisions in a shipbuilding contract.
- Major Italian Tax case involving the payment of dividends to a European holding company.
- Dutch case on tax jurisdiction of a European multinational company

Professional & Academic Qualifications

Career History

- July 2021 – Member Arbitra International
- April 2019- Member Int-Arb 2021
- 2015– March 2020 – Member ArbDB Chambers – London, England
- 2015 -March 2020 - Consulting Counsel Bird & Bird- London
- 2000- 2015 European Legal Director Assistant General Counsel Northrop Grumman Corporation European HQ – London, England
- 1992 – 2000 European Legal Director Litton International SA European HQ – Zurich, Switzerland Litton Industries Inc.

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- 1987 - 1992 Vice President, Counsel and Assistant Secretary to Litton Systems Canada Limited (a subsidiary of Litton Industries, Inc.), a 3'000 employee aerospace electronics manufacturer having facilities in Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax, Canada.
- 1985 - 1987 Litigation Associate - Smith, Lyons, Torrence, Stevenson, & Mayer Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Education

- 1989 Solicitor's Final Examination - The Law Society England and Wales
- 1984 - 1985 University of Cambridge, United Kingdom - LL.M. Master of Law International Commercial Law
- 1981 - 1982 Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto, Ontario Bar Admission Course Barrister and Solicitor - April, 1982
- 1977 - 1980 Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Ontario - LL.B. Bachelor of Law
- 1974 - 1977 York University, Toronto, Ontario - B.A. History and Political Science

Professional Associations

- Former Chairman and former Director of the International Mediation Institute (IMI)
- Former Director of American Arbitration Association (AAA-ICDR)
- Director the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)
- Former Chair of the Board of Management Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- Former Member of the Steering Committee of the CCIAG (Corporate Counsel International Arbitration Group)

Mediation & Arbitral Panels

- Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)
- Fellow of Civil Mediation Council (CMC)
- Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC)
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
- Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)
- The American Arbitration Association/ The International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA/ICDR)
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Abu Dhabi International Financial Centre (ADGM)
- Asian Institute of Alternative Dispute Resolution (AIADR)
- Shanghai Arbitration Commission (SHAC)

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- Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA)
- Investor State Mediation Panel Abu Dhabi (ADGM/CEDR)

Publications, Articles & Thought Leadership

- “The Development of Investor-State Mediation and its Future in Supporting Energy Transition” – 2022 Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- “The Use of Conflict Avoidance Boards in Green Projects: A Conflict Avoidance Blueprint for Global Environmental Sustainability” – October 2021
- “Investor State Mediation and the Singapore Convention” March 2021
- The Time for Investor State Mediation has Come: A Concept Paper, June 2020
- “Seven Keys to unlock Mediations golden age” – June 2020
- GC Insider: Aviation and Aerospace Supply Chains- At the Tipping Point
- “Mediations in an emergency – GC Magazine” March 2020
- “The Energy Charter Treaty and ADR in the context of Investor-State and other Disputes” January 21, 2016
- Corporate ADR Systems; “Implementing a Corporate ADR Policy and Formulating ADR Guidelines
- “Investor-state dispute settlement reconceptualised: Regulation of disputes, standards and mediation” [Vol. 18: 467, 2017]
- “What the Nordic Banking Scandals Can Teach us about Corporate Culture”
- Boeing 737: “Mediation and the Resolution of Complex Supply Chain Issues”
- Making Mediation Mainstream - ADR in Business Volume II – Wolter Kluwer
- Using ADR as a tool for Containing Legal Risk -Legal Risk Management, Governance, and Compliance – Globe Law and Business
- CEDR “[Understanding Investor-State Mediation](#)” January 2022
- The use of Conflict Avoidance Boards in Green Projects: A conflict avoidance Blueprint for Global Environmental Sustainability – Business Law International, Vol 23, No 1, January 2022.
- The development of Investor State mediation and it’s future in supporting Energy Transition – The International Journal of Arbitration, Mediation and Dispute Management.

Client Quotes

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“We were really impressed by Wolf and his handling of a difficult mediation. He worked very hard to get a deal and during some very unsociable hours and I would not hesitate to recommend him again in the future.”

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