

FRANCISCO J. BATLLE

Partner

**Bar admissions**

Dominican Republic

Languages

Spanish and English

✉ fbatlle@adellmerizalde.com

☎ +1 809 524 4222

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Investment Arbitration
- Commercial Arbitration
- Public international law
- Constitutional and administrative law

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Francisco J. Batlle has focused on commercial and investment arbitration, representing private companies as well as state-owned companies and sovereigns, including Costa Rica, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. He has acted as counsel in complex international arbitrations involving a wide range of institutions, procedural rules, and treaties. Francisco also acts as arbitrator.

Francisco has been recognized by the most important international directories, including as a *Future Leader in Arbitration* by Lexology Index. In the 2025 edition of that directory, a client described him as "*a smart and talented lawyer who is great in client interactions.*" In the Global Arbitration Review's 2024 edition, a State client highlighted his contributions, emphasizing that "*Francisco is detail-oriented and understands all aspects of the case.*"

Prior to joining Adell & Merizalde, Francisco was a Senior Associate at a top-tier American law firm. Previous experience includes acting as Law Clerk at the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic and interning at the Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ) in Bogotá.

Francisco lectures on arbitration and alternative dispute resolution at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Lexology Index: Future Leader in Arbitration
- Who's Who Legal: Future Leader in Arbitration
- Legal 500 Latin America: Recommended Lawyer
- Latino Leaders: Lawyers to Watch
- Chevening Scholar, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom

EDUCATION

- University of Nottingham, LL.M. in Public International Law
- Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Law Degree

MEMBERSHIPS

- Colegio de Abogados de la República Dominicana (CARD)

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"Francisco is detail-oriented and understands all aspects of the case."- **GLOBAL ARBITRATION REVIEW**

- Inter-American Commercial Arbitration Commission (IACAC) Young Group, Representative for the Dominican Republic
- ICC Young Arbitration and ADR Forum (ICC YAAF)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Young ICSID)
- Institute for Transnational Arbitration (Young ITA)
- British Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic, Member of the Legal Committee
- Latin American Council of International and Comparative Law Scholars, Dominican Republic chapter (COLADIC-RD)
- UK Alumni Association

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERSInvestment arbitration (counsel)

- Represents Costa Rica in an ICSID arbitration filed by German investors arising from expropriation proceedings relating to the construction of a hydroelectric dam. Approximately US\$40 million in dispute. The language of the arbitration is Spanish.
- Represents a Caribbean State in an investment dispute with a US company regarding alleged rights associated with a salvage concession. Amount in dispute to be determined.
- Represented the Republic of Ecuador in a PCA investment arbitration under UNCITRAL rules initiated by a US investor concerning the construction and modernization of oil refineries. The language of the arbitration was English. Over US\$200 million in dispute.
- Represented the Republic of Costa Rica in an ICSID arbitration filed by a Spanish investor related to the closure of poultry production facilities. The language of the arbitration was Spanish. Over US\$100 million in dispute.
- Member of the team that represented the Republic of Estonia in an ICSID arbitration. The language of the arbitration was English. Over €90 million in dispute.
- Member of the team that represented a Middle Eastern State in set-aside proceedings conducted in Paris.

Commercial arbitration (counsel)

- Represents a State Entity of a South American state in an ad hoc arbitration related to the expansion and conversion

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*"Senior associate Francisco Batlle is a key name for international arbitration."
"Francisco Batlle [is] also praised by clients."*

– **LEGAL 500, LATIN AMERICA**

project of a high-capacity road. Over US\$75 million in dispute. The language of the arbitration is Spanish.

- Represents a South American public entity in an ICC arbitration seated in New York, related to guarantees governed by New York law in connection with the provision of services in a regulated sector. Over US\$75 million in dispute. The language of the arbitration is Spanish.
- Represents a Latin American corporate group in a dispute concerning the enforcement of a shareholders' agreement.
- Represented a Latin American state-owned oil company in 3 ICC oil & gas arbitrations seated in The Hague under Dutch law. The language of the arbitration was English. Over US\$300 million in dispute.
- Represented a Latin American state in a millionaire ICC arbitration initiated by a European corporation concerning the construction of an aqueduct. The language of the arbitration was Spanish.
- Represented a U.S. major league baseball team in a millionaire arbitration initiated before the Arbitration Court of the Chamber of Commerce of Santo Domingo. The language of the arbitration was Spanish.

Experience as arbitrator

- Co-arbitrator. Claimant v. Respondent. Corte de Arbitraje y Resolución Alternativa de Conflictos (Cámara de Comercio y Producción de Santo Domingo). Case No: 2xxxxx3. The language of the arbitration is Spanish.

Secretary to Arbitral Tribunals

- Administrative secretary in an ICC arbitration seated in Monterrey, Mexico involving 2 Latin American oil corporations.
- Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal in 4 arbitrations before the Chamber of Commerce of Lima (CCL), seated in Lima, Peru, between Latin American companies.

Federal courts of the United States of America (counsel)

- Member of the team that represented a Latin American state-owned oil company seeking victim restitution before Federal Courts in Miami and New York.

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"Francisco is a rising star with a lot of exposure to international arbitration." "He is an excellent professional, responsible and trustworthy."

- **LEXOLOGY INDEX**

- Member of the team that represented a Latin American state-owned oil company in 28 USC Section 1782(a) judicial-assistance proceedings before Federal Court in Houston, Texas.
- Member of the team that represented European corporations in 28 USC Section 1782(a) judicial-assistance proceedings before Federal Court in New York.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Investigador y asistente editorial, "Universal Citation in International Arbitration (UCIA)", second edition, Global Arbitration Review (GAR), June 2023.
- Co-author, "Coexistencia de la Convención de Nueva York y la Convención de Panamá en Las Américas", El Arbitraje Comercial Internacional: Estudio de la Convención de Nueva York, Tirant Lo Blanch, January 2022.

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Conferencia de Arbitraje Internacional", Comisión Interamericana de Arbitraje Comercial, Santiago de los Caballeros, May 2025.
- "VII Conferencia Los Jóvenes y el Futuro del Arbitraje IPA", Instituto Peruano de Arbitraje, Lima, May 2025.
- "Panama Arbitration & ADR Week", Centro de Conciliación y Arbitraje de Panamá, Ciudad de Panamá, March 2025.
- "XIV Convención de Centros de Arbitraje de Centroamérica y El Caribe". Corte de Arbitraje de la Cámara de Comercio de Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo, October 2024.
- "Perspectivas del arbitraje: las distintas visiones de los actores del proceso", CIAC Jóvenes, Santo Domingo, August 2024.
- "XIII Convención de Centros de Arbitraje de Centroamérica y El Caribe", Centro de Conciliación y Arbitraje de Panamá, Ciudad de Panamá, October 2023.
- "8th ICC YAF Global Conference", ICC YAF, September 2021.
- "Técnicas para la conducción efectiva del procedimiento arbitral", Centro de Resolución de Disputas de la Cámara de Comercio de Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo, February 2021.