

Viren Mascarenhas

Founding Partner

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Viren Mascarenhas is a U.S. litigator with two decades of experience in litigation and arbitration. He founded Mascarenhas Law PLLC to bring together seasoned litigators who are at the top of their game but who are also fundamentally trustworthy and decent individuals who put clients' needs first.

He has been recognized by the leading directories including Chambers Global, Chambers USA, Who's Who Legal, Legal500, and Law360 for his expertise and leadership in international dispute resolution. He has been recognized more generally for achievements in the legal profession by the New York Law Journal, the US South Asian Bar Association, the US LGBT Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

Prior to founding Mascarenhas Law, Viren was a Partner in the Litigation & Arbitration Practice at Milbank LLP (in New York) and at King & Spalding (in New York and London). Earlier in his career, he was an Associate at Freshfields LLP and Skadden Arps LLP (both based in New York).

Investment Arbitration:

Viren is one of the leading practitioners in the field of investment arbitration. He has advised or represented investors in investment arbitration claims against the governments of Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Uruguay, and Venezuela. He has also advised or represented governments in investment arbitrations, including representing the Republic of Türkiye in five investment arbitrations.

Commercial Arbitration:

Viren has significant experience in commercial arbitrations, especially in the energy and metals and mining sectors. He has served as counsel in arbitrations proceeding under the rules of the major arbitration institutions, including the AAA/ICDR, HKIAC, ICC, LCIA, SCC, and SIAC, as well as in arbitrations seated in the major arbitral hubs, including California, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Mumbai, New York, and Singapore.

U.S. Litigation:

Viren represents clients in transnational litigation in U.S. courts. His areas of expertise include the use of U.S.-based discovery in support of non-U.S. proceedings (under 28 U.S.C. § 1782); recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and foreign judgments in U.S. courts (especially if such enforcement implicates the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act); and U.S. collection and execution proceedings to satisfy unpaid awards and judgments.

He has significant experience working with counsel in over 50 jurisdictions all over the world. He is therefore able to lead and to coordinate global proceedings unfolding in arbitrations and court rooms all over the world, and work with counsel trained in different legal traditions.

Public International Law:

Viren started his legal career at the International Court of Justice in The Hague (the “World Court”), where he clerked for H.E. Rosalyn Higgins, former President of the Court. He also served as a Legal Officer at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a war crimes tribunal established by agreement between the United Nations and Sierra Leone. He also has advised defense, energy, and mining companies on a range of human rights issues.

Arbitrator:

Viren also accepts arbitral appointments. He has been listed on the Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”), the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (“ICDR”), and the CPR Institute. He has served as sole arbitrator and emergency arbitrator in proceedings under the Rules of the AAA, the ICDR, and the ICC.

RECOGNITION

Viren has been ranked by the leading directories in the field of international arbitration and public international law. Recognition of his expertise and achievements include:

- Chambers USA and Chambers Global: International Arbitration, 2020 to present. The feedback from Chambers and client testimonials include: “Sources regard him as ‘bright, capable and a really strong advocate;’” “he is someone who has a deep understanding of investment treaty arbitration and has vast experience in the field;” and Viren is “a lawyer you want in your corner.”
- Legal 500: International Arbitration, 2018 to 2024 (“he stands out for his additional specialization in public international law and human rights”).
- Lexology Index: Thought Leader in the categories of Arbitration and Mining, 2017 to present
- 2024 Lexology Awards: North America 2024, Litigation and Arbitration Award
- 2024 Lexology Client Choice Awards, Arbitration & ADR, United States: New York
- The Best Lawyers in America: International Arbitration - Commercial, 2024
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Litigators, 2021 (inaugural list), 2023, 2024
- National South Asian Bar Association: Rising Star, 2019
- National LGBT Bar Association: Rising Star, 2019

- Euromoney Legal Media Awards: Rising Star in international commercial arbitration, 2019
- Latinvex (Rising star for disputes in Latin America), 2019
- Crain's New York Business: 40 under 40 List, 2019
- American Bar Association: Finalist for National Most Outstanding Young Lawyer, 2016
- Law360: Rising Star in Energy, 2015
- New York Law Journal: Rising Star, 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Admitted to the Bar in New York (2006 to present)
- Columbia Law School, Lecturer-in-Law, 2009 to present (currently teaching an upper-level seminar on international commercial arbitration)
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), 2020
- CPR Institute, Arbitration Committee (Chair, 2023 to present; Vice-Chair, 2020 to 2023)
- CPR Institute, Distinguished Panel of Neutrals (2022 to present)
- American Arbitration Association/International Centre for Dispute Resolution, Panel of Arbitrators (2021 to present)
- New York City Bar Association, Member
- American Bar Association, Member
- International Bar Association, Member

EDUCATION:

- University of London, Master of Laws Degree (LLM) with Distinction, 2009. Specialization: International Dispute Resolution
- Columbia Law School, Juris Doctor Degree (JD), 2005. James Kent Scholar (top 1-3% of class); Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (top 33% of class); and Parker Certificate for Achievement in Foreign and International Laws.
- University of Richmond, Bachelor of Arts Degree (BA), summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, 2002.
- London School of Economics, General Course Diploma, Economics. 2021.