

Sarra Saïdi
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Avocat à la Cour, Paris Bar, France
Barrister & Solicitor, Law Society of Ontario, Canada

French, English, and Arabic speaker

Sarra Saïdi is a lawyer qualified in France and Canada, focusing on international arbitration, pre-litigation strategy and complex commercial litigation involving domestic and cross-border matters. She acts as counsel in ad hoc and institutional arbitrations across various industries. Sarra also practices in sports law, representing athletes, coaches, and officials before the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). In addition, she is a member of disciplinary panels within sports federations in France, Canada, and at the international level.

Sarra contributes actively to the international arbitration, sports law, and esports communities through teaching, conference speaking, and legal writing on issues at the intersection of dispute resolution and sports governance.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2020 - Present **K&L Gates LLP**, France
International Arbitration and Litigation Lawyer
Assisting companies in pre-litigation and litigation proceedings before state courts or arbitral tribunals (*Ad hoc*, ICC, LCIA, CAIP, etc.).
- Recent arbitration cases:
 - Counsel to an Eastern European energy trader in an ICC arbitration related to the allocation of electricity transmission capacity acquired through a trading platform.
 - Counsel to a Swiss-based raw materials trader in an ICC arbitration against a Middle Eastern base metals supplier.
 - Co-counsel to a North African company in an ICC arbitration in the automotive sector involving a shareholders' dispute.
 - Acted as the arbitral tribunal secretary in an LCIA arbitration regarding a dispute over oil & gas exploration and production contracts between a private company from the Middle East and a state-owned company from Central Africa.
 - Recent pre-litigation and litigation cases:
 - Counsel to a US-based visual media company in its actions to avoid post-M&A litigation regarding strategic photographic archives.
 - Counsel to a sports equipment manufacturer in litigation proceedings regarding distribution agreements in France.
 - Counsel to an Asia-based wireless charger manufacturer in the coordination and implementation of an EU-wide product recall and related corrective measures, in compliance with the EU General Product Safety Regulation.
- 2021 - Present **Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC)**, Canada
Lawyer • Pro Bono Program
Providing legal advice to unrepresented parties involved in disputes before the SDRCC.
- Recent cases: disputed a doping allegation involving a football player from the *Canadian Premier League*, challenged the withdrawal of funding for a bobsleigh athlete, and appealed the non-selection of a heavyweight boxer to Team Canada for the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- 2022 - Present **Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC)**, Canada
Specialized legal advisor • Abuse-Free Sport Legal Aid Program
Assisting sports participants (athletes, coaches and officials) in navigating the OSIC complaint management process, including during investigations, in matters involving alleged violations of the Universal Code of Conduct to prevent and address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).

DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATIONS

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| 2025 | International Olympic Committee , Switzerland • Safeguarding Officer in Sport Certificate |
| 2020 | Université Paris-Est Créteil , France • Sports Law Diploma |
| 2016 | University of Sherbrooke , Canada • LL.M. in Common Law and Transnational Law |
| 2015 | Université Paris-Saclay , France • Master's degree in International Arbitration Law |

ROLES IN SPORTS FEDERATIONS

- 2021 - Present **Alpine Canada**
Member • Alpine Independent Supervisory Board

- 2024 - Present **World Sailing**
Member • Safeguarding Disciplinary Tribunal
- 2025 - Present **French Baseball and Softball Federation**
Member • Committee on gender-based and sexual violence, harassment, and discrimination
- 2025 - Present **French Triathlon Federation**
Member • Appeal Disciplinary Committee
- 2025 - Present **French Athletics Federation**
Member • Appeal Disciplinary Committee

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **Paris Arbitration Week • Speaker**
 - 2025 Clearing Houses and Dispute Resolution: A Discussion with FIFA Clearing House and LME Clear.
 - 2024 Discussion with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.
 - 2023 Safe Sport & Arbitration.
 - 2022 Esports & Arbitration.
- **Université Paris-Est Créteil, France • Lecturer**
Since 2024 “Introduction to *safe sport*”

PUBLICATIONS

- “FIFA’s new menstrual health policy: advancing gender equity in professional sport”, *Sports Law Middle East*, Sader, 2025.
- “Athlete Ombuds. The one-person clearinghouse”, *Sports Law Bulletin*, 3(2). LexisNexis, 2024.
- “The International Olympic Committee’s perspective on Esports and its implications on dispute resolution”, *Sweet & Maxwell’s International Sports Law Review*, Vol.23, Issue 1, 2023.
- “Esports - de la console aux JO”, *La Semaine Juridique*, LexisNexis France, n°43-44, 2021.
- “Roles and tasks of a tribunal secretary”, *International Chamber of Commerce, Dispute Resolution Bulletin*, (4), 40 *et seq.*, 2017.
- “Les femmes dans l’arbitrage, est-ce si différent?”, *Versailles International Arbitration and Business Law Review*, n° 1, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

- **Canadian Bar Association • Member**
- **ICC Tunisia • Member of the ADR & Arbitration Commission**
- **Association des Avocats Conseils d’Entreprises (ACE) • Member**
- **Women in Sports Law (WISLaw) • Member**
- **Middle East Sports Law • Member of the Advisory Board**