

FRANCISCO J. BATLLE

Senior Associate

**Bar admissions**

Dominican Republic

Languages

Spanish and English

✉ fbattle@adellmerizalde.com

☎ +1 809 792 5200

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Francisco J. Batlle is a Senior Associate at Adell & Merizalde. He 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. In addition, he has vast experience with administrative, constitutional, civil, and commercial litigations.

Francisco was recognized as a *Future Leader in Arbitration* by Who's Who Legal. 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, where he worked on international law and human rights matters.

He has intervened as *amicus curiae* in proceedings before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in collaboration with the Latin American Council of International and Comparative Law Scholars, Dominican Republic chapter (COLADIC-RD). Further, given the Dominican Republic's non-permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council, Francisco successfully coordinated a capacity-building project on United Nations law.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Who's Who Legal: Future Leader in Arbitration 2024
- Legal 500 Latin America: Recommended Lawyer 2024
- Latino Leaders: Lawyers to Watch 2021
- 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

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- GLOBAL ARBITRATION REVIEW**MEMBERSHIPS**

- Colegio de Abogados de la República Dominicana (CARD)
- 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)
- 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.
- 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 project of a high-capacity road. Over US\$70 million in dispute. The language of the arbitration is Spanish.

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- 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.
- Member of the team that represented a U.S. corporation in award recognition and enforcement proceedings in Colombia.

Secretary to Arbitral Tribunals

- Administrative secretary in an ICC arbitration seated in Monterrey, Mexico involving two Latin American oil corporations.
- Assistant to the Arbitral Tribunal in 3 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.
- 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.