

Dr. Nino Sievi, LL.M., Partner

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DE | EN | FR | ES



Nino Sievi is a triple-qualified disputes lawyer. He represents clients in complex commercial disputes before arbitral tribunals (ICC, Swiss Rules, DIS, ad hoc, etc.) and Swiss courts, particularly in the fields of contracts, banking, post M&A, commodities, construction, crypto/blockchain, tech and asset recovery. He also serves as arbitrator in international arbitration proceedings.

Recognitions

- Recognized by **Who's Who Legal** (2024) as one of the top 20 most highly regarded arbitration practitioners under 45 in the entire EMEA region (Europe, Middle East and Africa)
- Recommended by **Who's Who Legal** in the categories Commercial Litigation and Arbitration
- Ranked in **Leaders League** (International Arbitration: "highly recommended"; Banking Litigation: "excellent")
- Ranked in **Legal 500** for Litigation and Arbitration
- Ranked in **Best Lawyers** for Arbitration

Bar Admissions

- Switzerland (2014)
- Germany (2019)
- England & Wales (2019, Barrister, non-practising)

Professional Experience

- Partner at Nater Dallafor Rechtsanwälte AG, Zurich (since 2023)
- Partner at Lex Futura AG, Zurich (2019 – 2023)
- External consultant to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (2019 – 2020)
- Associate at CMS von Erlach Partners AG, Zurich (2012 – 2019)

Education

- Bar Transfer Test, BPP Law School, London (2018)
- University of Cambridge (LL.M. in International Law, 2018)
- Transfer test for admission to the German bar (2017)
- Accredited commercial mediator (CEDR, London, 2017)
- University of Fribourg (MLaw, 2012; PhD, 2017)
- Center for Transnational Legal Studies, London (2010 – 2011)

Other Professional Activities

- Co-Chair ASA below 40 (under 40 group of Swiss Arbitration Association)
- Lecturer, University of Zurich
- Member of the expert group "Justitia 4.0" (tasked with leading the digitization of the Swiss justice system)

Recent Cases: Arbitration (Counsel)

- Ad-hoc arbitration seated in Switzerland representing Swiss and US companies in a dispute concerning the purchase of crypto tokens and violation of representations in financing transaction (USD 820 million)
- ICC Rules arbitration representing a construction company regarding plant construction in Eastern Europe (CHF 20 million)
- ICC Rules arbitration representing Hungarian gas trader against Ukrainian company for payment of penalties under gas delivery agreement (USD 20 million)
- Ad-hoc arbitration seated in Switzerland representing US company against Eastern European state-owned company regarding illegal termination of agency agreement (USD 10 million)
- ICC Rules arbitration representing a market maker against a crypto exchange regarding termination of services agreement (USD 6 million)
- Swiss Rules arbitration representing Chinese company regarding contested payments under financing agreement with Swiss start up (USD 6 million)
- Aerosuisse Rules arbitration representing owner of private jets fleet regarding operations manager's breach of duties (CHF 5 million)
- Swiss Rules arbitration representing Turkish company regarding outstanding receivable for lease of aircrafts (EUR 2 million)
- Emergency Arbitration and subsequent Swiss Rules proceedings representing a Turkish distributor of consumer electronics in a dispute about unlawful termination (EUR 3 million)
- Swiss Rules arbitration representing commodity trader in dispute relating to dissolution of joint venture (CHF 0.5 million)

Recent Cases: Arbitration (Arbitrator)

- Emergency Arbitrator in Swiss Rules proceedings between Swiss and Brazilian parties regarding TV broadcasting rights and bank guarantees governed by Swiss law (USD 95 million)
- Co-Arbitrator in ICC Rules proceedings seated in Switzerland between German and Italian parties regarding construction of food plant in Italy governed by Swiss law (USD 14 million)
- Emergency Arbitrator in Swiss Rules proceedings regarding a crypto token generation event (fundraising) and thereto connected services (USD 5 million)
- Co-Arbitrator in Swiss Rules proceedings between Russian and Spanish parties regarding sale of coal and AML-issues in payment of purchase price governed by English law (USD 3.5 million)
- Sole Arbitrator in ICC Rules proceedings between German and Brazilian regarding construction project in Brazil governed by Swiss law (USD 800,000)
- Sole Arbitrator in ICC Rules proceedings between German and Irish parties regarding distribution of medical and laboratory equipment governed by German law (USD 750,000)
- Sole Arbitrator in DIS Rules proceedings between Chinese and German parties regarding sale of satellite components governed by German law (EUR 550,000)
- Co-Arbitrator in LCIA proceedings between Russian and American parties regarding sale of steel governed by English law (USD 500,000)
- Sole Arbitrator in Swiss Rules proceedings between Ukrainian and Polish parties relating to laboratory services in pharmaceutical industry governed by Ukrainian law (EUR 120,000)
- Sole Arbitrator in Swiss Rules proceedings between Swiss and French parties regarding post-M&A dispute governed by Swiss law (CHF 100,000)
- Sole Arbitrator in Swiss Rules proceedings between Cypriot and Swiss parties regarding corporate services agreement governed by Swiss law (CHF 70,000)

Recent Cases: Commercial & Corporate Litigation

- Representation of construction company in relation to outstanding payment claims for change orders and defense against penalty claims for alleged delay (CHF 4 million)
- Representation of the seller of a mechatronics company in a post-M&A dispute relating to earn-out clauses (CHF 6 million)
- Representation of startup founder in relation to shareholders' dispute leading to a negotiated exit payment (CHF 3.5 million)
- Representation of investor in shareholders' dispute relating to financing of tech startup and potential merger as well as outstanding payments for advisory services (CHF 9 million)
- Defending board member of construction company against director's liability claim (CHF 4.5 million)
- Representation of consultant against crypto start up regarding payment for advisory service in relation to listing on crypto exchange (CHF 3 million)

- Representation of commodity trading company against Swiss private bank regarding contested loan repayment due to effects of sanctions and unwarranted currency conversions (CHF 2 million)
- Representation of a Zurich business hotel in connection with its COVID-19 cancellation policy and related customer claims (CHF 1.8 million)
- Representation of a Swiss construction company in disputes with a state-owned client due to alleged deficiencies in construction work (CHF 1.5 million)
- Representation of a listed company from the Nordics against their Swiss supplier in a dispute regarding cancellation of a supply agreement (CHF 8.5 million)

Recent Cases: Banking & Finance Disputes

- Representation of HNWI against major Swiss bank in relation to violations of due care standard in providing investment advice and thereto connected trading losses (CHF 40 million)
- Representation of HNWI against major Swiss bank in relation to blocking of physical gold deposited with the bank (CHF 25 million)
- Representation of HNWI against major Swiss bank in relation to denied release of funds due to alleged investigations by IRS (CHF 9 million)
- Representation of Swiss private bank against customer in a dispute regarding allegedly fraudulent transfers (CHF 8 million)
- Representation of consultant against crypto start up regarding payment for advisory service in relation to listing on crypto exchange (CHF 3 million)
- Representation of commodity trading company against Swiss private bank regarding contested loan repayment due to effects of sanctions and unwarranted currency conversions (CHF 2 million)
- Representation of Swiss private bank against customer regarding uncovered losses in forex trading (CHF 1.8 million)
- ICC Rules arbitration representing a market maker against a crypto exchange regarding termination of services agreement (USD 6 million)
- Ad-hoc arbitration seated in Switzerland representing Swiss and US companies in a dispute concerning the purchase of crypto tokens and violation of representations in financing transaction (USD 820 million)

Recent Cases: Disputes & Asset Recovery

- Representation of German individual against fiduciary in recovery of misappropriated company assets and shares (CHF 40 million)
- Representation of individual against Swiss and German companies regarding fraudulent scheme for real estate investments (CHF 7 million)

- Enforcement of several foreign judgments originating from Germany, France, Slovenia, UK and other European jurisdictions ranging in value from CHF 0.5 million to 75 million
- Frequent representation of creditors in insolvency proceedings and assistance to foreign insolvency administrators

Publications: Monographs and Commentaries

- Swiss Contract Law: An Introduction for International Dispute Resolution Practitioners, Kluwer Law International, 2024
- Commentary on Arts. 129-146 of the Federal Act on International Private Law, Handkommentar zum Schweizer Privatrecht, 2023
- Commentary on Arts. 88-91 and 98-105 of the Federal Act on Debt Enforcement and Bankruptcy, Basler Kommentar SchKG, 2021
- Commentary on Art. 7 of the Federal Act on Anti-Money Laundering, Basler Kommentar GwG, 2021 (co-author)
- Die negativen Feststellungsklagen des schweizerischen Rechts im Anwendungsbereich des Lugano Übereinkommens [Swiss negative declaratory actions under the Lugano Convention], doctoral thesis, Zurich 2017
- Report on International Instruments and Principles Relevant to the Tourism Project as well as Possible Grounds of Jurisdiction for Matters Relating to International Tourists, Report submitted as consultant to the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), March 2020 (<https://assets.hcch.net/docs/09c716a6-9073-4a41-aa71-9d7eb1ba8c4e.pdf>)

Publications: Arbitration-Related Articles

- Typography in Arbitration: An Underused Advocacy Tool?, Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 6 April 2023, available at: <https://arbitrationblog.kluwerarbitration.com/2023/04/06/typography-in-arbitration-an-underused-advocacy-tool/>
- Dispute Resolution in the Blockchain Ecosystem, Blockchain Lawyers Forum Yearbook 2022, p. 12-13
- Pre-Appointment communications with prospective arbitrators - limits, disclosure and documentation, German Arbitration Journal (SchiedsVZ) 2021, p. 1-6
- Video Conferencing in International Arbitration – the Seoul Protocol on Video Conferencing in International Arbitrations as a Guide to Vest Practice, Young Arbitration Review 2020(1)
- Report on Main Features of Declarations in Switzerland, in: Gessel-Kalinowska, The Legal, Real and Converged Interest in Declaratory Relief, Kluwer International, The Hague 2019.
- Facing Defaulting Respondent: a Challenge for the Arbitrators as well as Claimant, Latin American Journal of International Trade Law, 2015(1), p. 100-112
- Arbitrability of Tenancy Disputes in Switzerland, Quid? Fribourg Law Review 2014(1), p. 26-28

- Waiving the Action for Annulment – Pro-Arbitration Taken a Bridge too far?, *Vindobona Journal of International Commercial Law and Arbitration* 2012(2), p. 113-122
- Waiver of the Right to Request Revision of Arbitral Awards in Switzerland, *Young Arbitration Review* 2011(3), S. 25-26
- The Availability of Damages in the European Union for Breach of the Arbitration Agreement, *Dispute Resolution Journal* 2011(1), S. 57-63

Publications: Litigation-Related Articles

- Justitia 4.0 – Digitalisierung der Schweizer Justiz, *ZZZ* 2023, p. 291 et seqq. (co-author)
- Prozessuale Aspekte der Verantwortlichkeitsklage [Procedural aspects of director liability's claims], *HAVE* 3/2022
- Die praktischen Auswirkungen des Brexits auf die Anwendung des Lugano-Übereinkommens [Practical effects of Brexit for the application of the Lugano Convention], *ZZZ* 2021
- BGer 5A_723/2017: Das 1992 ISDA Master Agreement vor Schweizer Gerichten [Case note on BGer 5A_723/2017: The 1992 ISDA Master Agreement before Swiss Courts], *AJP* 2020, p. 133-137
- Bewilligungspflicht als Emissionshaus [Authorisation requirement for issuing houses], *GesKR* 2018, p. 379-389 (co-author)
- Auswirkungen des Brexit auf die Vollstreckung von ausländischen Urteilen [Implications of Brexit for the enforcement of foreign judgments], *AJP* 9/2018, p. 1096-1104
- The Scope of Application of the 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: Attempting to assess the potential impact of the Convention, in: *Buruiana (ed.), Recent Developments in Private International Law, Moldova* 2016
- Enforceability of International Choice of Court Agreements: Impact of the Hague Convention on the US and EU Legal System, *The Hague Yearbook of International Law* 2011, S. 95-117

Speaking Engagements

- When Crypto Assets meet Arbitration, *Luxembourg Arbitration Day*, 26 April 2024, Luxembourg
- The World of Crypto Disputes, *Disputes Decoded Podcast* by ArbTech, April 2024, available here [<https://www.arbtech.io/podcast>]
- All you need to know about Arbitration and Crypto Assets, *Paris Arbitration Week*, Paris Sorbonne University, 18 March 2024
- Developments in European insolvency – is life easier without the UK?, *Asset Recovery International*, 1 March 2024, Dublin
- A New Era: The Use of Artificial Intelligence in International Arbitration, *18th ICC Türkiye Arbitration Day*, 16 February 2024, Istanbul
- AI's Role in Shaping Arbitration's Current and Future Landscape, *Swiss Arbitration Summit*, 1 February 2024, Geneva (moderator)

- Maintaining "Leading Dispute Resolution Centre Status" Amidst Overseas Competition, Corporate Disputes 2023 – 3rd Annual Forum, 23 November 2023, London
- AI and Arbitration – Decision-Making and Predictive Analytics, ICC YAAF Seminar, 19 October 2023, Zurich
- Wenn es eilt – Emergency Arbitration, DIS40 Zurich, 28 June 2023, Zurich
- Online hearings, SAV Annual Congress, 8 June 2023, Lucerne
- A role and place for lawyers: Is the legal market prepared for the new dispute resolution constellation?, ArbMetaBlock 2023, 26 May 2023, Ghent
- Crypto Investment Disputes: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure, Crypto Arbitration Forum – Inaugural Conference, 25 May 2023, Zurich (moderator)
- Do's and Don'ts for Arbitration Counsel, Paris 64th DACH Congress, 12 May 2023, Paris
- DAO Disputes, Web3TuesDays webinar, 25 April 2023
- International Arbitration in Times of Crisis, Cambridge Arbitration Day, 15 April 2023 (moderator of commercial arbitration panel)
- Streitbeilegung in der Blockchain [Dispute resolution on the blockchain], Podcast #Zukunft, 2022 available here
[(<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5dlGZVyRkXRYCsbYzal5E6?si=4bc3b6ea28cc4f83>)]
- Challenges of litigating crypto / blockchain disputes, International Biennial Conference of the Law Faculty of the Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara, 20 October 2022, Timisoara, Romania
- BACK TO THE FUTURE – Old problems, new solutions?, ASA below 40 fall conference, Zurich, 22 October 2021 (moderator: "Fireside chat with special guests")
- Interim measures ordered by Arbitral Tribunal and Emergency Arbitrators, University of Würzburg, Germany, 16 October 2022
- Switzerland, Digital Justice in the Era of Covid-19: a Pan-European Perspective, Webinar organized by Cooke, Young & Keidan LLP, London, 24 June 2020
- The impact of Brexit on Dispute Resolution – a Swiss Perspective, AIDA Annual Conference, 3 October 2019, Lisbon
- Toolbox for your first year in practice, ELSA Arbitration Summer School, 16 July 2019, Geneva
- Separate Deposits in International Arbitration, AIJA Annual Arbitration Conference, 29 June 2019, Zurich
- Legal Framework for Counsel's Conduct in International Arbitration, DIS 40 Conference, 27 May 2019, Geneva
- Anatomy of an Arbitration Hearing, Vis Pre-Moot Conference, 1 March 2019, Riga, Latvia
- Panel discussion about the digitization of the Swiss justice system, Justitia 4.0 Kick-Off Event, 14 February 2019, Lucerne, Switzerland
- The Rise of International Commercial Courts in Europe and Asia, 2nd International Biennial Conference of the Law Faculty of the Universitatea de Vest din Timisoara, 2 November 2018, Timisoara, Romania

- The Legal Framework of Consultancy Agreements in Switzerland, AIJA Seminar, Property developers, architects, civil engineers – contractual questions, environmental challenges and current trends, 19 October 2018, Limassol, Cyprus
- Workshop on Cross-Examination in International Arbitration, Young ICCA – 10 November 2017, Stockholm
- The Arbitration Award, Recognition and Enforcement, Vis Moot School Switzerland, 3 October 2018, Zurich
- Conflict of Laws Issues with International Securities, AIJA Half-Year Conference, Securities – Enabling & Securing International Business, 24 November 2016, Verona, Italy
- The Scope of Application of the Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: Assessing the Convention's Potential Impact, Recent Developments in International Private Law, 20 October 2016, Chisinau, Moldova
- Negotiating Dispute Resolution Clauses in International Contracts, International Legal Practice and Legal Education Conference, 5. July 2016, Lucerne, Switzerland
- The 2005 Hague Convention on Choice of Court Agreements: last words before the entering into force in the EU, 9th International Private Law-Seminar, 22 May 2015, Madrid
- Dispute Resolution and Choice of Law Clauses in International Franchising Agreements, AIJA Seminar – The Art of Franchising, 2 October 2015, Frankfurt

Client / Market Feedback

- **Legal 500 – Arbitration:** Nino Sievi is totally responsive and available 24/7. His advice was practical and sound.
- **Legal 500 – Arbitration:** Nino Sievi was highly committed to familiarising himself with unfamiliar legal matters in the shortest possible time and to providing legal assessments that can be used pragmatically; spontaneously and flexibly available and also open to revisions at short notice.
- **Who's Who Legal – Arbitration:** Nino is a very talented lawyer with a particularly deep expertise in crypto arbitrations.
- **Chambers Europe & Chambers Global:** Nino Sievi's client service and general level of service is very strong. Nino's level of sophistication is very strong. His commercial vision is very strong. He is highly professional, with a clear approach.
- **Who's Who Legal – Arbitration:** He is collaborative, clever, responsive and very easy to work with.
- **Who's Who Legal – Arbitration:** He is able to quickly address complex issues with unique solutions.
- **Legal 500 – Arbitration:** 'Highly committed' Nino Sievi is entrusted by clients to advise on crypto and blockchain disputes.

Expertise

- International Arbitration
- Commercial & Corporate Litigation
- Banking & Finance Disputes
- Insolvency Disputes & Asset Recovery
- IP / IT / Media Disputes