

Dr. Despina Mavromati, LL.M., M.B.A., FCIArb

Valfor Attorneys-at-law Av. Charles Ferdinand Ramuz 80, 1009 Pully, Switzerland

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Professional Summary

Swiss and Greek Attorney-at-law specializing in international sports arbitration, with over 15 years of experience in legal counsel- and arbitrator roles in a multilingual environment and across various jurisdictions. Member of the [Bar Association of the Canton of Vaud \(OAV\)](#) and the Thessaloniki Bar Association (ΔΣΘ). Recognized as a leading expert in sports law and dispute resolution, having being involved in over 100 high-profile sports arbitrations. Arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and member of UEFA Club Financial Control Body, with extensive knowledge of tribunal mechanics and contractual / disciplinary and doping proceedings. Fluent in English, French, German, and Greek.

Experience as an Arbitrator and Attorney-at-law

Ongoing Sports Arbitration Mandates

- **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)** (2023 - Present): Arbitrator in contractual and disciplinary disputes. Experience as party-appointed, Panel Chair or Sole Arbitrator in numerous CAS procedures
- **UEFA Club Financial Control Body (CFCB)** (2023 – Present): Member (Appeals Chamber)

Past Arbitration Roles

- **Doping Hearing Panel of the International Powerlifting Federation** (2017 – 2023)
- **Independent Tribunal of the International Tennis Federation** (2017 – 2023)
- **Disciplinary Tribunal of World Athletics (formerly IAAF)** (2018 – 2023)
- **Sport Resolutions (UK) Panel of Arbitrators** (2017 – 2023)
- **Chair of the Ethics & Disciplinary Commission of the International Weightlifting Federation** (2020-2021)
- **UEFA Appeals Body Member** (2018 – 2023)

Attorney-at-law | SportLegis Lausanne & Valfor Attorneys (2017 - Present)

- Independent attorney specializing in international sports law and arbitration (2017 – Present)
- Of Counsel at Valfor Attorneys-at-Law (previously BianchiSchwald LLC) (2022 – Present)
- Experience as counsel, co-counsel, and expert witness in numerous high-profile sports arbitrations
- Proven expertise in regulatory drafting and in negotiating complex commercial agreements, including sponsorship deals, image and media rights, agency partnerships, and player transfers

Counsel | Managing Counsel | CAS, Lausanne (2008 - 2017)

- Drafted legal opinions and orders; proofread arbitral awards
- Managed CAS mediation procedures
- Responsible for legal research & other academic and knowledge-sharing activities
- Representation of CAS at international conferences, including regional forums with the IOC

Academic Activities

- **Lecturer, University of Fribourg** (2023- Present): Teaches 'sports contracts'
- **Lecturer, Swiss School of Business Management Geneva** (2021- Present): Teaches 'human rights in sports'
- **Lecturer, University of Lausanne** (2017 - 2022): Taught 'sports arbitration' and 'sports contracts'
- **Visiting Professor, University of Western Ontario** (2017): Co-taught 'sports law' with Prof. Richard McLaren

Education and Professional Training

- **Harvard Law School** (2016): Program on Negotiation – Semester training and Diploma in alternative dispute resolution and crisis management
- **Fletcher School, Tufts University** (2015-2016): Visiting Scholar in sports governance and arbitration
- **University of Fribourg, Switzerland**(2007): Dr. Iur. in Law – Ph.D. thesis on EU law ('The Law of Payment Services in the EU')
- **University of Saarland, Germany** (2002): Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- **University of Saarland, Germany** (2001): Europa-Institut, LL.M. in European Law
- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece** (1998): Lic. Iur. in Law

Board Positions, Memberships and Affiliations

- **Fellow**, [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators \(FCIArb\)](#)
- **Founder and former Board Member**, [Women in Sports Law \(WISLaw\)](#)
- **Board of Directors**, [Sports Lawyers Association \(SLA\)](#)
- **Member**, [Swiss Association of Sports Lawyers \(ASDS\)](#)
- **Member**, [Association Suisse de l'Arbitrage \(ASA\)](#)

Selected Published Books and Articles

- **Books:**
 - Commentary on the CAS Code (with Matthieu Reeb, 2015; 2nd ed. forthcoming in 2025)
 - The Law of Payment Services in the EU (Kluwer Law International, 2008)
- **Selected Articles:**
 - Applicability of Swiss Law in Doping Cases, Yearbook of Int. Sports Arbitration (2017)
 - Procedural Issues in Caster Semenya Judgment, International Sports Law Blog (2020)
 - Review of AC Milan v. UEFA Decision, LawInSport (2018)
 - Governance of International Sports Federations through the Lens of Global Administrative Law, Marquette Sports Law Review' (2023)
 - The Appeal Procedure before the CAS: Key Insights and Practical Tips (ASA Bulletin 2023)
- **Blog:**
 - www.sportlegis.com, with notes on the jurisprudence of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court (SFT) related to sports-related cases

Languages and Key Skills

- Fluent in English, French, German, and Greek / advanced in Spanish
- Dispute resolution in various jurisdictions
- Multilingual communication and problem solving in complex legal contexts
- Teaching and public speaking on sports arbitration