

# ARMESTO & ASOCIADOS

ÁRBITROS

**Mélanie Riofrio Piché**  
([mrp@jfarmesto.com](mailto:mrp@jfarmesto.com))

Mélanie Riofrio Piché is a Canadian-Ecuadorean national. She is a lawyer specialized in international arbitration.

## **Experience in Arbitration**

In 2012 Mélanie joined Armesto & Asociados Árbitros to work in a team with founding partner Juan Fernández-Armesto in Madrid.

Mélanie acts as arbitrator in national and international proceedings governed by ICC and Corte de Arbitraje de Madrid.

She also participates as secretary to arbitral tribunals in commercial and investment proceedings governed by ICC, ICSID, VIAC, DIAC as well as subject to the UNCITRAL Rules.

## **Professional Memberships**

- ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (YAF) European Representative
- Chair of the International Arbitration Seminars & Courses (IASC)
- Member of Foro de abogados de la República del Ecuador.
- Member of Spanish Arbitration Association (*Club Español del Arbitraje*).
- Member of Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners (YCAP).
- Member of Young ICSID.

## **Professional Experience**

Before joining Armesto & Asociados, Mélanie worked at Serrano Puig Abogados in Quito, Ecuador, Peñaherrera, Ponce & Salvador in Quito, Ecuador, and Fasken Martineau Dumoulin in Montreal, Canada. She also did an internship at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague and at the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris.

## **Academic Experience**

Mélanie teaches at ESADE Business and Law School and at IE Business School, and she is the Chair of the International Arbitration Seminars & Courses (IASC).

## **Education**

Mélanie holds a Law Degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador. She obtained a master's degree (LL.M). in *Droit des Affaires et Commerce International* at



Université de Montréal and she holds a *Certificat en Droit Français et Européen des affaires* at Université Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas.

### **Languages**

French, Spanish and English.

### **Speaking engagements**

- “A set of Rules for Secretaries to Tribunals: do we need one and what should be stated there?” (moderator), ICC YAF Europe Regional Conference, Lisbon, June 2018.
- “How, when and why are Party Appointed Experts necessary/useful in Arbitration?”, Third Co-Chairs’ Circle Global Conference, Rome, May 2018.
- “Cómo escoger la sede arbitral: una comparativa entre Colombia, España, Francia y México”, CEA-40, Madrid, April 2018.
- “How to break into International Arbitration”, Young ICSID, Mexico City, June 2017.
- “Around the World in 80-ish Minutes”, Rapporteur, 6th ICC YAF Global Conference, New York, June 2017.
- “Persuasion Techniques in International Arbitration”, ICC YAF, Madrid, April 2017.
- “Emergency Relief and Third Party Funding in International Arbitration Emerging Issues”, ICDR Young & International y CIDS, Geneva, January 2017.
- “¿Cómo reducir los costos en el arbitraje comercial?” moderator, Spanish Arbitration Club (Under 40), Madrid, June, 2016,
- “Arbitraje y Estado”, moderator, IX Conferencia de Arbitraje Internacional Centro de Arbitraje y Mediación de la Cámara de Comercio Ecuatoriano – Americana y el Instituto Ecuatoriano de Arbitraje, Quito, April 2016.
- “De Freud a Redfern: filosofía y práctica del arbitraje internacional”, ICC YAF, Quito, April, 2016.
- “Arbitrators and Party Representatives, Close Friends or Forbidden Friends?”, ICC YAF and the Institute of International Arbitration at University of Miami, Miami, October 2015.
- “Investment Arbitration and WTO Litigation at a Crossroads”, Madrid Arbitration Day, Universidad de Comillas and Club Español del Arbitraje, Madrid, May 2015.
- “Arbitrator Independence and Impartiality: Is it getting stricter?”, ICC YAF-YAAP Joint Conference: Young approaches to arbitration, Vienna, March 2015.



- “Ética en Arbitraje Internacional”, ICC YAF, Santa Cruz, August 8, 2014.
- “Cálculo de daños en arbitraje internacional”, ICC YAF, Quito, March 2014.
- “Les différentes facettes de l’arbitrage: perspectives canadienne et internationale”, Université de Montréal and OHADA-Canada, Montreal, 2011.

### **Publications**

- *Investment Treaty Arbitration - Ecuador*, Know-How Global Arbitration Review – GAR, March 2015.
- “L’évolution du droit québécois de l’arbitrage conventionnel”, *Revue d’arbitrage et de médiation / Journal of Arbitration and Mediation* 3(1), 2013.
- “La Denuncia del Convenio CIADI por parte de Ecuador”, *Revista de Arbitraje Ecuatoriana*, co-author Iñigo Salvador Crespo, 2011.

### **Awards**

- FTI Award for best reasoned quantum in the Young Arbitrators Match, Paris Very Young Arbitration Practitioners – PVYAP, September 2014.
- Honourable Mention in the Werner Melis Award for best memorandum for Respondent, Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, February 2012.
- Award for best essay on Arbitration: Canadian and International Perspectives, BLSA and Research Center of Business Law and International Commerce at Université de Montréal, March 2011.
- Scholarship Centro de Investigaciones de Derecho Internacional at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador for the 2008-2009 academic semester.