



## MICHAEL MCNUTT

OF COUNSEL / CO-FOUNDING PARTNER

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Michael McNutt, co-founder of Lazareff Le Bars, specialises in arbitration, recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, coordination of parallel proceedings and cross-border structuring and contracts.

Michael has acted as strategic advisor and/or Of Counsel in settlement of investment disputes and complex arbitrations for over 20 years in the World Bank (ICSID), ICC, UNCITRAL and as well as in parallel proceedings in the UK High Court, Cayman Islands & BVI, EU members States (France, Ireland, Malta, Isle of Man, Cyprus, France, Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Portugal, German, etc.), Brazil, Senegal, United States, and New Zealand courts. Michael has significant experience in relevant offshore jurisdictions, including most UK offshore, Caribbean jurisdictions, Malta and Cyprus during the same period. Relevant Investor State cases in which Michael was lead strategist together with lead counsel include *Noble Ventures v Romania*, *EDF v Romania*, *Emmis Radio v Hungary*, *Novera v Bulgaria*, *Mezzanine & Danubius v Hungary* and is the lead strategist for the pending case *Suzor v Senegal*.

A former US and EU-based investment banker as well as a manager/director based in Europe with two of the 'Big Four' accountancy firms, Michael possesses extensive knowledge and experience in the formulation of investment strategies (including PPP or other State Aid schemes), post-acquisition restructuring and its implementation, as well as accountancy (IAS, US GAAP etc.) and valuations/damages assessment. Michael also is formerly a director at Orbis Business Intelligence, a London-based intelligence consultancy.

Michael routinely assists testifying damages experts in the formulation of the damages model, collection and providing evidence to support the model collected from the client and ensuring that such evidence (including witness evidence) complements the evidence used to support the legal claim prepared by legal counsel. Michael has been particularly effective in providing valuable insight for the construction of the settlement and litigation strategy to ensure that evidence and witness collection is relevant, time efficient and cost effective for clients. His experience and understanding how transition economies developed with foreign aid and attraction of investments combined with such dispute-sensitive witness mapping and evidence collection supports the legal strategy with the strong evidentiary tools and insight into the origin of the dispute and mitigating or complicating factors.

In certain instances, Michael has acted as interim manager of the domestic legal entities and assisted court appointed receivers where contemplated or ongoing litigation and arbitration exist. Michael has also testified before courts and arbitration panels on various occasions in support of claims or in the defense against claims.

Michael is responsible for assisting clients in preparing case investment budgets, managing the execution of case investment model, and where required to assist in the payment of all 3rd party experts, administration and other expenses. Working therefore systematically with the client, support for the claiming of litigation expenses and confirmation to the client for internal or audit purposes of dispute expenditure and forecasted expenditure is possible and can greatly reduce the time that client management or in-house counsel needs to spend on such administrative matters.

## **LANGUAGES**

English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Romanian, Serbo-Croatian and working knowledge of a host of other languages.

## **EDUCATION & MEMBERSHIPS**

Masters Business Administration- Purdue University (USA) 2011

Masters Business Administration- TIAS School for Business and Society (Netherlands) 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Political Science, East Asian Language & Literature (Japanese) - Indiana University (USA) 1991

Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America (USA)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The Media War in Hungary I: Media & Power in Hungary from 1989-2009 (author Péter Gyuricza, editor Michael McNutt)- available on amazon.com

The Media War II: Evolution of the Media in Hungary 2010-2013 (authors Péter Gyuricza & Michael McNutt)- available on amazon.com