



DESPINA MAVROMATI

Attorney-at-Law, Ph.D. in Law, LL.M., M.B.A.
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Dr. Despina Mavromati is a widely recognized expert in international sports law and an arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). She provides legal advice to clubs, athletes and federations in contractual, disciplinary and governance matters and assists them in recognition and enforcement proceedings of arbitral awards. Dr. Mavromati is a member of the UEFA Club Financial Control Body (Appeals Chamber) and has previously been appointed as an arbitrator to several tribunals of international federations (World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal; International Tennis Federation Independent Tribunal; Gymnastics Ethics Foundation; International Powerlifting Federation Doping Hearing Panel). She co-authored (with M. Reeb) the "Commentary on the CAS Code" (2015, Wolters Kluwer) and has been ranked as a WWL Thought Leader - Sports and Entertainment every year since 2018.



Despina Mavromati is a leading name in sports law according to market commentators, who describe her as "an amazing lawyer with immense knowledge and expertise when it comes to disputes before the CAS."

Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2023

Despina Mavromati enjoys a strong reputation as "a very well-known sports lawyer" with significant experience representing clubs and athletes in complex disputes.

Who's Who Legal Switzerland 2022

CAREER

- 2023 • UEFA CFCB Member
- SINCE 2023 • CAS Arbitrator
- SINCE 2022 • Of Counsel at BianchiSchwald
- 2017 - 2023 • UEFA Appeals Body Member
- 2017 - 2023 • Lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of Lausanne
- 2017 - 2022 • Attorney-at-Law, SportLegis Lausanne
- 2008 - 2017 • Counsel / Managing Counsel, Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
- 2007 • Dr. iur., University of Fribourg
- 2003 - 2007 • Lecturer at the Swiss Distant Learning University (insolvency law), FernStudien Schweiz & the Law Faculty of the University of Fribourg (private international law)
- 2002 - 2003 • Teaching Assistant at the Law Faculty of the University of Neuchâtel
- 2002 • European Commission, DG Internal Market

EXPERTISE

Sport | Litigation and Arbitration | European law

LANGUAGES

English, French, German, Greek

MEMBERSHIPS

- Ordre des avocats vaudois (OAV)
- Swiss Bar Association
- Thessaloniki Bar Association
- Arbitrator at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
- Member of the UEFA Club Financial Control Body (Appeals Chamber)
- Swiss Arbitration Association
- Swiss Association of Sports Law
- Sports Lawyers Association (SLA) (Board of Directors)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Former lecturer at the Law Faculty of the University of Lausanne (2017 - 2023)
- Founder / Former Board Member Women in Sports Law (WISLaw)
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- Editorial Board, LawInSport
- Ethics and Disciplinary Commission Chair, IWF (2020-2021)

CAREER

- 2002** • M.B.A., Europa-Institut, University of Saarland (Germany)
- 2001** • LL.M., European Law, Europa-Institut, University of Saarland (Germany)
- 2000** • Admitted to the Bar of Thessaloniki (ΔΣΘ)
- 1998** • Lic. iur., University of Thessaloniki



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

September 2022

- **Human Rights Panel Member**
8th LawInSport Annual Conference in London, UK

August 2022

- **Legal Aspects of the Qatar World Cup 2022**
Hamad Bin Khalifa University College of Law, Qatar

June 2022

- **A comparison of Sports Justice Systems (presentation on the Swiss legal framework)**
Webinar organized by the Milan Bar Association
- **20th Rex Sport General Assembly & Conference**
Round table discussion with Dr. Hansjörg Stutzer on the recent Swiss Federal Tribunal case law regarding the independence and impartiality of CAS arbitrators
- **Lecture (sports law) at the Temple University Beasley School of Law (invited by Prof. Kenneth Jacobsen)**
Rome, Italy

February 2022

- **Lectures to the students of the FIFA Executive Programme in Sports Arbitration**
FIFA offices in Paris, France

June 2021

- **UEFA Appeals Body Member present on-site at the UEFA Euro 2020**
London, UK

April 2021

- **Lecture at the UEFA Football Law Program (case law of the Swiss Federal Tribunal)**

December 2020

- **Bosman at 25: Contemporary issues in EU sports law (panelist discussing the EU General Court ISU v EU Commission Decision – T-93/18)**
Webinar hosted by the Edge Hill University
- **High-level policy dialogue on sports governance and EU law**
organised by the School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute

October 2020

- **VII Annual Seminar on Sports Arbitration of the Spanish Arbitration Association**
with Profs. Ulrich Haas, Massimo Coccia, Luigi Fumagalli; Clifford Hendel, Lucas Ferrer et al.

June 2020

- **Comparing approaches in dispute resolution in football (Panel Chair)**
LawInSport Webinar

May 2020

- **Working Group assessing the impact of Covid-19 on procedures in sports dispute resolution**
with Nick DeMarco QC, Murray Rosen QC, Jeff Benz, Steven Flynn, Kendrah Potts, Roberto Barracco et al.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (continuation)

January 2020

- **Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution Conference**
(speaker on the International Sports Disputes panel with Jeff Benz, Louise Reilly, Kenneth Shropshire and Ray Anderson), Phoenix (AZ), USA

November 2019

- **The Future of Sports Law and Business Conference (speaker)**
Etihad Stadium, Manchester UK

June 2019

- **Think Sport Conference organized by the University of Lausanne**
Round table on the future of sports law and sports governance, with a key lecture by the IOC President Thomas Bach

May 2019

- **Round Table discussion at the 45 Sports Lawyers Annual Conference (speaker)**
Phoenix (AZ), USA
- **Presentation on the UNESCO Anti-Doping Convention**
at the IX St. Petersburg Legal Forum
- **Presentation on eSports and Doping at the RexSport Congress**
Madrid, Spain

April 2019

- **Round Table on the Protection of clean Athletes at the PCC Conference**
(with Brent Nowicki, Adolpho Birch, Mike Morgan & Travis Tygard), London, UK
- **FIFA Master class on sports dispute resolution**
University of Neuchâtel

March 2019

- **WISLaw Talk on jurisdictional issues related to football disputes**
hosted by the Hellenic Football Federation in Athens, Greece

October 2018

- **Presentation at the 29th Annual National Sports Law Institute Conference**
Milwaukee (AZ), USA
- **Harvard Law Talk on the Challenges when Drafting Sports Regulations: From Doping to Gender Classification**
(with Paul Greene), Harvard Law School, Cambridge (MA), USA
- **Presentation on the standard and burden of proof in CAS proceedings at the 2nd International Sports Law Journal Annual Conference**
at the Asser Institute in The Hague
- **Lunch talk on the Pechstein Judgment (with Prof. Margareta Baddeley) at the 2nd International Sports Law Journal Annual Conference**
at the Asser Institute in The Hague

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (continuation)

September 2018

- 2nd WISLaw Conference at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne
(panel chair at a dispute resolution round table discussion with Michael Beloff QC, Philippe Sands QC & Catherine Pitre).
- UEFA Disciplinary Workshop in Cyprus, Speaker on “The Review of Disciplinary Sanctions in Football Matters and the Question of Proportionality”

May 2018

- Round Table on Anti-Doping matters (with Michael Beloff QC, Nick Steward QC, Yury Ganus et al.)
at the XIII Legal Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia

March 2018

- Sports Law and Business Conference, (Panelist with Mark Hovell, Samantha Hilar, Gareth Farrelly & Kevin Carpenter)
Etihad Stadium, Manchester (UK)

February 2018

- Presentation to the Members of the Disciplinary Tribunal of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) on Due Process in CAS proceedings
Lausanne

November 2017

- Presentation on “Contractual Penalties in Football” at the CEDIDAC Sports Law Conference
University of Lausanne

October 2017

- Harvard Talk on Arbitration and Athletes’ Rights (with Paul Greene)
Harvard Law School, Cambridge (MA), USA
- WISLaw Seminar on Sports Arbitration hosted by the Canadian Olympic Committee (“Corruption cases and the Court of Arbitration for Sport: Jurisdiction, Scope and Limits”, with Janie Soublière and Prof. Richard McLaren)
Montreal (Canada)
- Intensive course on sports arbitration (with Prof. Richard McLaren)
at the University of Western Ontario (Canada)
- 1st International Sports Law Journal Annual Conference (panelist with Howard Jacobs, Lindsay Brandon et al.)

September 2017

- LawInSport Annual conference, Panelist, Best Practices in Sports Arbitration
with Nick de Marco QC, John Mehazard QC, Jon Taylor QC, Nina Goolamali QC et al.
- Womens’ Career Panel at the New York University, Tisch Institute of Sports Management
(organized by Prof. Cameron Myler OLY)

March 2017

- Tackling Doping in Sport – Presentation “Swiss Law in Doping Cases: why does it matter?”
(with Prof. Antonio Rigozzi), London, UK
- Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Istanbul Conference – Presentation on the functioning and the mechanics of the Court of Arbitration for Sport
(with Dr Fabrice Robert-Tissot, Ms Carole Mallinvaud and Prof. Antonio Rigozzi), London, UK

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (continuation)

May 2016

- Sports Lawyers Annual Conference, Presentation on the Leading Disciplinary and Governance Procedures before the Court of Arbitration for Sport
Los Angeles (CA), USA

March 2016

- Lecture on the “Consensual” Nature of CAS Arbitration
Harvard Law School, Cambridge (MA), USA
- Lecture on the Dispute Resolution at the Olympics, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (with Michael Lenard)
TUFTS University, Medford (MA), USA
- Harvard Round Table on Olympic Sports and Doping (with Jeff Benz, Paul Greene and Mary McCagg)
Harvard Law School, Cambridge (MA) USA.
- Lecture on the Good Governance and the Rule of Law, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy
TUFTS University, Medford (MA), USA

February 2016

- Presentation on the CAS jurisprudence in Disciplinary Matters at the CAS Seminar
Vancouver (Canada)

October 2015

- Presentation on Sports Mediation at the American Bar Association Fall Seminar (with Prof. Richard McLaren)
Montreal (Canada)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

2023

- The Judicial System of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), in Colucci / Coccia (eds.) International and Comparative Sports Justice

2022

- CAS through the Lens of the European Court of Human Rights and other Tribunals, in Nafziger / Ross (eds.), International Handbook on Sports Law, Edward Elgar Publishing
- International Football Disputes and the CAS (co-authored with Mark Hovell), in Nick de Marco (ed.), Football and the Law, Bloomberg

2015

- The Court of Arbitration for Sport: Commentary, Cases and Materials, Kluwer Law International, 2015 (with Matthieu Reeb), (2nd edition forthcoming – 2022-2023)

2008

- The Law of Payment Services in the EU, Kluwer Law International, European Law Series

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (continuation)

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

2022

- The Court of Swiss Federal Tribunal judgment 4A_486/2019, Trabzonspor et al. v. Turkish Football Federation (TFF), Fenerbahçe and FIFA, in Rigozzi/ Duval (eds.), Yearbook of International Sports Arbitration 2019-2020, Asser Press

2017

- Applicability of Swiss law in Doping cases, in Rigozzi/ Duval (eds.), Yearbook of International Sports Arbitration 2016, Asser Press

2015

- Jurisprudence of the Swiss Federal Tribunal in Appeals against CAS Awards, in M. Bernasconi (ed.), Arbitrating Disputes in a Modern Sports World, 5th Conference CAS & FSA / SAV Lausanne 2014, Weblaw 2015

2014

- National disputes before CAS, in M. Bernasconi (ed.), International Sports Law and Jurisprudence of the CAS, 4th CAS & SAV/FSA Conference Lausanne 2012, Weblaw 2014

SELECTED ARTICLES AND CASE NOTES IN JOURNALS

February 2023

- Governance of International Sports Federations through the Lens of Global Administrative Law, Marquette Sports Law Review, (accepted for publication, Vol 2/2023).

January 2023

- The Appeal Proceedings before the CAS: Key Insights and Practical Tips, ASA Bulletin, Vol. 1 / 2023, pp. 145-167.

September 2020

- Selected procedural issues –and questions– arising out the Caster Semenya Judgment of the Swiss Federal Tribunal, International Sports Law Blog

January 2020

- Riza v Turkey: European Court of Human Rights gives further guidance on establishing independent arbitral tribunals, LawInSport

November 2018

- A review of the CAS Panel's Decision in AC Milan v. UEFA – the Devil is in the (procedural) Detail, LawInSport

October 2018

- The validity of FIFA's arbitration clause and the independence of the CAS: A detailed review of the RFC Seraing cases, LawInSport

March 2017

- The Swiss Federal Tribunal and its impact on CAS arbitration, ABA Special Issue on the CAS and the Olympics

March 2017

- The rules of the CAS Anti-Doping Division and the CAS Ad Hoc Division at the Olympic Games – A commentary, International Sports Law Review (ISLR), Issue 1/2017, Thomson Reuters UK

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (continuation)

2016

- Application of the 2015 WADA Code through the example of a recent CAS Award (Sharapova v. ITF), CAS Bulletin 2/2016
- How CAS deals with Excessive Contractual Penalties in Football, LawInSport
- The Legality of the Arbitration Agreement in favour of CAS under German Civil and Competition Law, CAS Bulletin 1/2016, pp. 27-41

2015

- Mediation of sports-related disputes: facts, statistics and prospects for CAS mediation procedures, Football Legal Vol 4 / December 2015, pp. 93-99
- Res judicata in sports disputes and decisions rendered by sports federations in Switzerland, CAS Bulletin 1/2015, pp. 40-52

2014

- Autonomy and Good Governance in Light of the Case Law Rendered by the CAS, International Sports Law Review (ISLR), Issue 4/ 2014, Thomson Reuters UK, pp. 71-79
- The Panel's right to exclude evidence based on Article R57 para. 3 CAS Code: a limit to CAS' full power of review?, CAS Bulletin 1/2014, pp. 48-57
- Indirect detection methods for doping from a legal perspective: the case of the Athlete Biological Passport, International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics Vol. 6, 2/2014, Routledge (Taylor & Francis), pp. 241-258
- Recent Jurisprudence of the Swiss Federal Tribunal on Motions to Set Aside CAS Awards: Some Lessons to be Drawn, ISLR, Issue 1/2014, Sweet & Maxwell 2014, pp. 3-11

2013

- Article R57 of the CAS Code: A Purely Procedural Provision?, ISLR, Issue 2/2013, Sweet & Maxwell (with Pauline Pellaux), pp. 36-44
- Les délais dans le Code de l'Arbitrage en matière de sport, CAS Bulletin, 1/2013, pp. 2-12

2012

- Language of procedure before CAS: practice, criteria and impact of the language on the outcome of the case, CAS Bulletin, 1/2012, pp. 39-48

2011

- Jurisprudence of the SFT in Appeals Against CAS Awards – Issues related to jurisdiction, ISLR, Issue 2/2011, Sweet & Maxwell, pp. 37-48
- Status of the Player and Training Compensation, CAS Bulletin, 1/2011, pp. 21-30

2009

- The Revised Lugano Convention from a Swiss Perspective, European Business Law Review, Vol. 20, Issue 4/2009 (with Prof. Rodrigo Rodriguez), pp. 579-590