

**Irina Adriana PONGRACZ**  
Partner



**Leboulanger & Associés**



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#### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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- Paris (France) since 2004
- Bucharest (Romania) since 2015

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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Irina has a solid civil-law and common-law background after accomplishing legal studies both in France and the United States. Originally trained as a mechanical and aerospace engineer, she presently develops her practice in international (commercial and investment) arbitration with a particular emphasis on engineering and construction disputes.

Irina's arbitration practice covers matters conducted under the rules of numerous arbitration centres (notably ICC, LCIA, DIAC, ICSID, CRCICA, AFA, French-Arab Chamber of Commerce, the Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, etc.) and on *ad hoc* international arbitration proceedings (usually applying the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules).

Irina acts as Counsel and legal advisor in complex arbitration proceedings with high-value claims involving both international corporate clients and State entities. Her arbitration experience includes various business sectors (in particular project development, infrastructure, technology - water treatment and power plants, telecommunications, aeronautics, banking, oil and gas) with a focus on construction and industry arbitration in Central and Eastern Europe as well as the MENA region).

Irina also advises and represents - on a regular basis - international clients regarding contentious post-arbitration issues (annulment of awards, stay of the enforcement of arbitral awards, etc.).

She is a registered arbitrator with the Court of International Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Romania.

Prior to joining *Leboulanger & Associés* in 2004, she had worked within an Anglo-Saxon law firm in Paris and trained with the Secretariat of the ICC Court of International Arbitration. Irina has a technical background within the aerospace industry in Romania and the US.

## **EDUCATION**

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### France:

- University of Paris II (Panthéon-Assas), LL.M. (*DESS*) in Arbitration, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (2002)
- University of Paris II (Panthéon-Assas), Superior University Degree (*DSU*) in International Law (2000)
- University of Paris II (Panthéon-Assas), Superior University Degree (*DSU*) in European Union Institutional Law (2000)

### The United States:

- University of Missouri-Columbia, School of Law, *Juris Doctor* (1997)

### Romania:

- University Politehnica of Bucharest, Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, *Master of Science*, (M.Sc.) in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering (1986)

## **PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS**

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- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Member (*MCI Arb*)
- Registered arbitrator with the Court of International Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Romania
- ICC Romania
- Arbitral Women

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- “A procedural “*Road Map*” for the Recognition and Enforcement of foreign arbitral awards in Romania: from Article VII (1) of the New York Convention to Law 105/1992” (co- author), in 2008 *Journal of International Arbitration*, vol. 2
- “The “*Group of Companies*” Doctrine – Between Myth and Reality”, 2011 *Romanian Review of Arbitration*, vol. 2

## **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

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- “*The increasing duration of the arbitration proceedings and the techniques of controlling it*”, Annual Conference on International Arbitration, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Law, November 2014

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Missouri School of Law *Alumni*, Member

## **LANGUAGES**

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- Romanian (native speaker)
- English
- French
- German (notions)