

# Can Yeginsu

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*He has the gravitas of a natural leader and possesses a giant intellect.*

- Chambers & Partners, 2019

**Can Yeginsu is a leading barrister practising in commercial litigation and international arbitration, civil fraud, professional liability, public law and human rights, and both private and public international law.**

Can is consistently ranked by Chambers Global, Chambers UK Bar, and Legal 500 as an outstanding junior in five practice areas: (i) commercial litigation; (ii) international arbitration; (iii) administrative and public law; (iv) civil liberties and human rights; and (v) public international law.

In 2019, Can was shortlisted for the '*International Arbitration Junior of the Year*' by Legal 500 and appointed to the independent High-Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, convened by the former President of the UK Supreme Court, Lord Neuberger, and the UK's Special Envoy on Media Freedom, Amal Clooney, at the request of the UK and Canadian Governments.

Frequently appearing in the Commercial Court, Administrative Court, and the Chancery Division, Can has also acted in over 30 cases in the Court of Appeal, UK Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. In addition, he has experience acting as co-counsel in proceedings before the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Federal Court of Malaysia, the Turkish Constitutional Court, and the Supreme Court of The Gambia. Can is admitted to the Bar of the DIFC Courts.

In his arbitral practice, Can is regularly instructed to act in commercial disputes under the LCIA, ICC, LMAA, and CIArb Rules, as well as in ad-hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL Rules. Can also has particular expertise in investor-state arbitration, including claims brought under the ICSID Rules and the ICSID Additional Facility Rules. He has received, and continues to accept, appointments as sole and co-arbitrator.

Can is **Adjunct Professor of Law** at Georgetown Law (Washington D.C.) and Koç University Law School (Istanbul) where he teaches investor-state arbitration. Can is also **Lecturer-in-Law** at Columbia Law School (New York) where he teaches international human rights law. He is the co-author of *The Protections for Religious Rights: Law and Practice* a leading practitioners' text, published by Oxford University Press, and **Partner Fellow** at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge.

In 2013, Can was recognised as one of ten "Stars" practising at the Commercial Bar by Legal Week Magazine where he was identified as possibly one of "*the Bar's true polymaths...able to advocate in a wide variety of legal areas, with seemingly effortless fluency*".

## Privacy Policy



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### Transparency Statement

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## Areas of Expertise

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### International Arbitration

**“Falls into the exceptional category for us. Although he is not yet in silk, he clearly operates at that level, instilling trust and confidence in all professional settings.”** *Legal 500, International Arbitration, 2021*

**“Excellent with clients”** *Chambers & Partners, International Arbitration, 2019*

**“Handles himself superbly in demanding cases”** *Legal 500, International Arbitration, 2019*

**“Very thorough and decisive as arbitrator”** *Who’s Who Legal, 2018*

**“A brilliant arbitration senior junior, equally at home dealing with commercial or investment claims. He is excellent when it comes to strategic advice. He is also highly regarded within the international arbitration community”** *Chambers & Partners, International Arbitration, 2018*

**“Very user-friendly and meticulous” “As an advocate, he’s very confident due to his awareness of his own intellectual abilities”** *Chambers & Partners, Commercial Dispute Resolution, 2018*

**“He is fiercely clever but also a true team player; he knows arbitration inside out and is a very elegant and effective advocate”** *Chambers & Partners, International Arbitration, 2017*

**“A first-class international advocate...in a class of his own”** *Chambers Global, Dispute Resolution, 2017*

**Nominated for the “*International Arbitration Junior of the Year*” award by Legal 500, Can has been recognised by the leading directories as one of the leading international arbitration juniors at the English Bar for several years.**

Can regularly appears as counsel in international commercial and investment arbitrations, both in London and abroad, and under a wide variety of laws and institutional rules, including LCIA, ICC, ICSID, LMAA, CiARB, and UNCITRAL.

Can has also developed a strong reputation as an arbitrator in international commercial disputes, with over half a dozen appointments in the period 2017-2019.

Outside of his work as counsel and arbitrator, Can teaches international arbitration as Adjunct Professor of Law at **Georgetown Law** (Washington D.C.) and **Koç University Law School** (Istanbul).

Can is a member of the LCIA, ICC, ICCA, the Swiss Arbitration Association, and the **Investment Treaty Forum** (ITF) at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law.

### Cases

- LCIA Arbitration (Co-Arbitrator, Singapore Law)



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Singapore law, London seat, LCIA arbitration of a dispute relating to a licence agreement (co-arbitrator on a panel of three).

- **SECE ?n?aat ve Ticaret A.? v. Turkmenistan (Counsel)**  
Lead counsel in US \$55+ ICSID claim brought against Turkmenistan (ICSID Case No. ARB/18/34). Instructed by Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan (London), leading Anthony Jones.
- **LCIA Arbitration (Co-Arbitrator)**  
English law, London seat, LCIA arbitration of a substantial dispute relating to a contract for the supply of submarines (co-arbitrator on a panel of three).
- **ICC Arbitration (Energy)(Counsel)**  
Lead counsel in a Swiss seated US \$23 million ICC arbitration in relation to one of Nigeria's largest electricity distributors in the context of a joint venture dispute.
- **LCIA Arbitration (Co-Arbitrator)**  
English law, London seat, LCIA arbitration of a substantial dispute relating to a contract for the supply of submarines (co-arbitrator on a panel of three).
- **Arbitration (UNCITRAL Rules)(Sole Arbitrator)**  
Sole Arbitrator (UNCITRAL Rules, LCIA Administered) in commodities dispute, seated in London.
- **ICSID Arbitration (Counsel)**  
Lead counsel in US \$100+ potential ICSID claim against Central Asian State relating to substantial investments in the construction sector. Instructed by Jenner & Block (Washington, D.C.).
- **LCIA Arbitration (Co-Arbitrator)**  
English law, London seat, LCIA arbitration of substantial dispute relating to defence contract (co-arbitrator on panel of three).
- **ICC Arbitration (Counsel)**  
Lead counsel in an ICC Arbitration seated in London, involving a dispute concerning the alleged sale and purchase of cement clinker between two foreign companies. Leading Peter Morcos, instructed by Withers LLP (London).
- **ICSID Arbitration (Counsel)**  
Acting for a foreign investor in a \$100m+ claim relating to investments in textile sector against a Central Asian State. Instructed by Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan (London).
- **Confidential ICC Arbitration (Telecoms)(Counsel)**  
Lead counsel for a national telecommunications operator in USD \$85 million ICC arbitration (foreign law).
- **Ad Hoc Arbitration (Counsel)**  
Acting as sole counsel for a European commodity distributor in an ad hoc arbitration seated in England against a European steel supplier.
- **Confidential LCIA arbitration**  
Acting for an investment company in a US \$80 million LCIA arbitration under the terms of a shareholders' agreement in a dispute relating to the operation of an oil terminal connected to the CPC pipeline. Instructed by Covington & Burling (London).
- **Investor State Arbitration (Counsel)**  
Acting for and advising an investor in arbitration proceedings against a Eurasian State (with Roger Stewart QC). Instructed by Penningtons Manches (London).
- **Confidential ICC Arbitration**  
Acting as counsel in an ICC arbitration relating to the alleged breach of a US \$60 million project finance agreement for a cement plant in Asia.

- **LCIA Arbitration (Jet Engines)(Counsel)**  
Acting and advising in a substantial LCIA arbitration relating to contracts for the purchase of aircraft jet engines.
- **Confidential LCIA arbitration**  
Advising in relation to a dispute to be referred to an LCIA arbitration for damages of some £40 million, in connection with foreign construction projects in Central Asia. Instructed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (London).
- **Confidential ICC arbitration**  
Advising on enforcement issues relating to a US \$60 million ICC Award against a State. Instructed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (London).
- **LMAA Arbitration (Counsel)**  
Advising in relation to an LMAA arbitration in a dispute regarding contracts to build super yachts. Instructed by Peters & Peters (London).
- **Arbitration on Aggregation Issues**  
Acting with Roger Stewart Q.C. in a major insurance coverage arbitration concerning cross-border property transactions.

## Qualifications & Memberships

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### Memberships & Committee Positions

- Investment Treaty Forum, British Institute of International and Comparative Law.
- Vice Chairman, British Turkish Lawyers' Association.
- Bar Liaison Committee, International Committee, and Library Committee, Inner Temple.
- Co-Editor-in-Chief, The Turkish Commercial Law Review.
- Memberships: IBA, COMBAR, LCIA, ICC, ICCA, ASA, BICCL, ALBA, ILI, IPBA, and Lawyers for Liberty.

### Education, Qualifications & Prizes

- **University College, Oxford:** Double First Class B.A. in English Language and Literature; College Scholar, Master's Scholar, and the Stephen Boyd Memorial Prize recipient for the top First in Finals.
- **Princeton University:** Jane Eliza Procter Fellow.
- **City University, University of London:** First Class LL.B. (1st in year).
- **Harvard Law School:** LL.M. and Cravath International Scholar.
- **Inner Temple:** Treasurer's Prize, Major Scholar, and Princess Royal Scholar.

**Languages:** Turkish (native speaker), French (working knowledge)

## Insights

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### GCHQ, encrypted chats and IPA 2016

18 July 2019

This article was first published on Lexis@PSL on 8 July 2019. Corporate Crime analysis: An open letter signed by over 50 organisations, including Apple, WhatsApp, Liberty and Privacy International, recently called on the UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) to abandon a proposal to eavesdrop on encrypted chats. Can Yeginsu and Anthony Jones, barristers at 4 New Square Chambers, explain the background to the proposal and consider some of the related legislation in this area.

### Covered Investment in International Investment Law – Chapter in Investment Treaty Arbitration Review (Ed. Barton Legum, 2019)



1 July 2019

Can Yeginsu (4 New Square Chambers) and Ceyda Knoebel (Gibson Dunn) examine the definition of “investment”, often a critical threshold question of jurisdiction in investor state arbitration.

### **Criminalizing Speech to Protect Religious Peace?**

28 November 2018

Can Yeginsu and John Williams analyse the recent decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *E.S. v. Austrian* an article for Just Security.

### **Covered Investment in International Investment Law – Chapter in Investment Treaty Arbitration Review (Ed. Barton Legum, 2018)**

5 October 2018

Can Yeginsu (4 New Square Chambers) and Ceyda Knoebel (Gibson Dunn) examine the definition of “investment”, often a critical threshold question of jurisdiction in investor state arbitration.

### **The emerging human rights liability of banks? - B.J.I.B. & F.L. 2016, 31(6), 353-355**

1 June 2016

Discusses potential risks and liabilities facing banks regarding their involvement in breaches of human rights. Notes the report "Banks and Human Rights: A Legal Analysis" produced by the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative and law firm Foley Hoag LLP in December 2015. Considers examples of circumstances in which banks might be subject to criminal prosecutions or civil claims regarding human rights violations.

### **Book: Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability (Sweet & Maxwell, 6th, 7th, 8th editions)**

13 December 2016

The definitive text on professional liability and a comprehensive guide for every practitioner. Can edits the Litigation Chapter (Group Actions and Expert Evidence) with Jonathan Hough QC.

### **Book: The Protections for Religious Rights: Law and Practice (Oxford University Press)**

31 October 2013

The first practitioner work to offer a full and systematic treatment of the law as it pertains to religious rights in the UK and abroad. A practical working aid to a sensitive and important area of increasing litigation and public debate, this text examines the applicable legal instruments, considers the current state of the law, and reviews domestic, comparative, and international case law to provide a comprehensive reference resource that informs on all matters of significance in this area.

### **Londongrad calling: jurisdiction battles in the English courts - D.R.I. 2014, May, 25-36**

10 May 2014

Examines the circumstances when the English courts may accept jurisdiction over a commercial dispute served from outside the jurisdiction against a defendant who is not domiciled in the EU. Outlines the applicable principles. Discusses the Court of Appeal judgment in *Cherney v Deripaska*, and subsequent case law, on whether England could be found to be the appropriate forum for the dispute even when the applicant had conceded that it was not the natural forum.

### **Cross-border challenges**

5 August 2013

Explores the reasons behind the continuing popularity of England as a forum for the resolution of commercial disputes between foreign parties.

### **The first successful judicial review on Cart principles: R. (Kuteh) v Upper Tribunal - J.R. 2013, 18(1), 134-139**

14 January 2013

Discusses the Administrative Court ruling in *R. (on the application of Kuteh) v Upper Tribunal* (Administrative Appeals Chamber) on whether the refusal of permission to appeal the First-tier Tribunal decision upholding the inclusion of a nurse on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults lists was amenable to judicial review as: (1) the First-tier Tribunal had committed a serious



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procedural irregularity in ignoring evidence supporting the applicant's claim that he had assaulted a patient in self defence; and (2) the threat to his career was a "compelling reason" to allow the challenge.

## **Inquests and the "detachable" article 2 obligation: In Re McCaughey - J.R. 2011, 16(3), 290-296**

12 September 2011

Discusses the Supreme Court judgment in Re McCaughey's Application for Judicial Review on whether the House of Lords decision in Re McKerr's Application for Judicial Review, ruling that an inquest into deaths occurring before the Human Rights Act 1998 entered into force need not meet the procedural requirements of the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 art.2, should be overruled as a consequence of the European Court of Human Rights ruling in Silih v Slovenia (71463/01) that, in certain circumstances, art.2 imposed freestanding procedural obligations.

## **The business of sport after the Bribery Act 2010 - S.L.A. & P. 2011**

1 August 2011

Discusses the implications for sport of the coming into force of the Bribery Act 2010 on July 1, 2011. Outlines the key provisions of the Act and comments on its scope. Provides a comparison between the Act and the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act 1977. Provides illustrative case examples of the Act's potential significance in terms of awarding the rights to stage events and corporate hospitality and entertainment at sporting events. Advises on steps that can be taken to minimise the risk of incurring liability.

## **Conditional fee agreements and human rights: MGN Limited v United Kingdom - J.R. 2011, 16(2), 151-155**

15 March 2011

Comments on the European Court of Human Rights judgment in MGN Ltd v United Kingdom (39401/04) on whether: (1) the award of damages to the model Naomi Campbell for breach of confidence, following a newspaper's publication of details and photographs relating to her treatment for drug addiction, was a disproportionate interference with the applicant's rights under the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 art.10; and (2) the success fees claimed by Ms Campbell's solicitors and counsel on top of their base costs under the terms of a conditional fee agreement breached art.10.

## **Smith (Oxfordshire Coroner) in the Supreme Court - J.R. 2010, 15(4), 356-365**

10 December 2010

Comments on the Supreme Court judgment in R. (on the application of Smith) v Oxfordshire Assistant Deputy Coroner on whether British service personnel serving overseas remained within the UK's jurisdiction for the purpose of determining if they retained the rights conferred by the European Convention on Human Rights 1950. Considers whether the death of a soldier should have been made subject to an inquest satisfying the procedural and investigative standards implicitly required by art.2 of the Convention.

## **Turkey Packs the Court - The New York Review of Books**

22 September 2010

Discusses the 12 September 2010 constitutional referendum in Turkey.

## **Storm in a teacup: domestic and international conservatism from the Corner House case - J.R. 2008, 13(4), 267-272**

12 December 2008

Considers the House of Lords decision in R. (on the application of Corner House Research) v Director of Serious Fraud Office on whether the respondent's submission to the threat that Saudi Arabia would no longer assist the UK with counter-terrorism intelligence if a corruption investigation was not discontinued had been unlawful on the ground that it had not shown that there had been no alternative. Discusses whether this standard unduly restricted the respondent's discretion. Assesses the court's jurisdiction to consider whether the decision complied with the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions 1997 art.5.

## **Religious Liberty in British Courts: A Critique and Some Guidance - 49 HARV. INT'L L.J. 28 (2008)**

11 April 2008



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For centuries, religious liberty in Britain existed as a broad-ranging but principally negative freedom at common law. Individuals were permitted to do as they pleased in matters of faith, unless the law stated otherwise. Religious liberty, thus conceived, was more passive toleration of religion than any active promotion of religious freedom as a fundamental right. All that changed on October 2, 2000...

## **Deep in the texture: The trials of Orhan Pamuk and of Turkey - The Times Literary Supplement**

3 February 2006

Willingly or not, Orhan Pamuk has become as much a political symbol as a man of letters. February 7, next week, was the date set for Turkey to try its foremost novelist for the crime of “publicly denigrating Turkishness”...