

Contentious cross-border investments in the changing global economy

Special event for the [International Investment Law and Arbitration course](#)

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Foreign investment has long been recognized as one of the pillars of the global economy, but the rising activities of state entities in cross-border M&A – such as government agencies and sovereign investors (e.g. sovereign wealth funds or SWFs) – have also led to tightened cross-border regulations, high profile legal battles, and even geopolitical tensions.

Meanwhile, the related litigation and arbitration process, including jurisdictional issues, the structure of arbitration proceedings, the relationship between contract and treaty claims, and enforcement of awards, typically involve additional complexities. However, jurisprudence in this field is still at an early stage and many cases remain confidential. In a changing world, the global markets are witnessing the rapid development of transnational regulation and dispute resolution involving sovereign entities.

Speakers:

Frances Bivens

Head of the International Arbitration Practice at Davis Polk & Wardwell

Winston Ma, CFA

Former Managing Director of CIC (China Investment Corp), NYU School of Law
Adjunct Professor (DPW '98-'01)

Conveners:

Robert Howse, NYU School of Law Professor

International Arbitration Club and International Law Society,
NYU School of Law

7:30–8:30 p.m.

When Global Transactions Meet Sovereign Entities Seminar

Venue

Vanderbilt Hall, Smart Classroom 204

40 Washington Square South, New York, NY, 10012

Speaker Bios:



Frances Bivens is a high stakes commercial litigator who regularly serves as lead counsel in international commercial and investor-state arbitrations. Her practice has included cross-border disputes arising out of the United Kingdom, India, China, Korea, Hungary, France, Switzerland, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Papua New Guinea. Frances has an electrical engineering degree and she specializes in Energy, Power and Infrastructure disputes as well as complex financial matters.

Crain's New York Business has named Frances among its "Notable Women in Law" and *Benchmark Litigation* lists her among the "Top 250 Women in Litigation." She is recognized by Chambers USA for her work in international arbitration. She is the former chair of the International Commercial Disputes Committee of the New York City Bar and is currently the second vice-chair of the New York International Arbitration Center.

Panel: When global transactions meet sovereign entities



Winston Ma, CFA, is an investor, attorney, author, and adjunct professor in the global digital economy. He is a partner of Dragon Global, an AI-focused family office (founding member: Dragon.AI) and the board Chairman of Nasdaq-listed MCAA (announced its merger with the digital media unit of FCB Football Club Barcelona in August 2023), an advisory board member of Capgemini, and an Adjunct Professor at NYU Law School.

Most recently for 10 years, he was Managing Director and Head of North America Office for China Investment Corporation (CIC), China's sovereign wealth fund. Prior to that, Mr. Ma served as the deputy head of equity capital markets at Barclays Capital, a vice president at J.P. Morgan investment banking, and a corporate lawyer at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. A nationally certified Software Programmer as early as 1994, A nationally certified Software Programmer as early as 1994, Mr. Ma is the author of more than 10 books on SWF funds, China, and global digital economy. He was selected a 2013 Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum (WEF), and in 2014 he received the NYU Distinguished Alumni Award.