



## Our World Trade Organization (WTO) practice

**“This is one of the few law firms I’ve encountered that has a better grasp of the WTO than even the government.”**

**Chambers**

### Serving corporate and government clients

Nations negotiate and enforce the rules of the multilateral trading system at the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland. The Geneva office of White & Case provides critical advice to corporate and sovereign clients on the myriad of complex WTO rules that govern trade in goods, services and intellectual property. Our WTO practice is broad, encompassing areas that include:

- Advice to governments and corporate clients on the WTO-consistency of regulatory measures and policies.
- Litigation and advocacy services to WTO Member States and private industry throughout all stages of the WTO dispute settlement process.
- Strategic advice for WTO negotiations, as well as the negotiation and enforcement of free trade agreements (FTAs).
- International energy trade issues, involving trade in energy goods and services, and the trade-related implications of climate change mitigation efforts worldwide.
- Regulatory issues under the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) and the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement).
- Trade remedies cases.
- Trade in services.

WTO rules must be interpreted in the context of WTO jurisprudence, which our lawyers have helped create through their advocacy before WTO panels and the Appellate Body. The expertise of our lawyers in the substantive and procedural aspects of the WTO dispute settlement system is internationally-recognized and forms one of the unique strengths of the Geneva office.

### Why choose us

- A global law firm with an internationally-respected WTO practice based in Geneva, dedicated exclusively to WTO and related trade issues.
- An interdisciplinary, full-service global trade practice with lawyers and trade professionals operating in more than 10 offices across Europe, North America, and Asia.
- A wealth of experience handling trade issues on behalf of sovereign and private-sector clients, trade associations, manufacturers, exporters, importers and end-users.
- A highly attentive and client-focused approach to legal services, assisting clients in all aspects of international trade and investment, including anti-dumping and anti-subsidy matters, tariffs, economic sanctions and other trade issues.

# Our Professionals

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## **Brendan McGivern**

**Partner, Geneva**

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Brendan McGivern is the Executive Partner of the Geneva office of White & Case.

He practices international trade law, particularly the law of the WTO. He advises companies, industry associations and sovereign governments on the full range of WTO disciplines, including anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures, technical barriers to trade and SPS issues.

He represents WTO Member States in dispute settlement proceedings before panels and the Appellate Body. He counsels sovereign governments on the negotiation of bilateral and regional free trade agreements. He also has extensive experience in international energy trade law issues.

*Chambers Global* states that: "McGivern is deemed an 'excellent practitioner across the board' by market sources, who say he is 'one of the go-to guys in Geneva' due to his 'immense WTO experience, highly articulate manner and superb communications skills.'"

Brendan is a regular public commentator on WTO matters. He has been quoted on WTO dispute settlement issues by numerous media, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Reuters*, *Bloomberg News*, *Agence France Press*, *BNA International Trade Daily*, and *Inside US Trade*.



## **David Hartridge CMG**

**Senior WTO Counsellor, Geneva**

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David Hartridge is a Senior WTO Counsellor. He advises clients on the progress and implications of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, implementation and compliance with the WTO agreements, WTO accession negotiations, WTO dispute settlement proceedings, and government relations.

Prior to joining the Firm, David served for 20 years in the GATT/WTO Secretariat, including eight years as Director of the WTO's Trade in Services Division. In that position, he carried principal responsibility in the WTO Secretariat for the completion and implementation of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), the governing agreement for market access issues in industries such as financial services and telecommunications.

Earlier in his career, David was *Chef de Cabinet* of the Director General of GATT, and also served as acting Director General of the WTO from May to September of 1999.



**Saskia Seeger**  
**Associate, Geneva**

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Saskia specializes in international trade law. She has extensive experience in advising companies and governments on a wide range of WTO law issues, including compliance with WTO agreements and market access for goods and services. Saskia also assists clients in dispute settlement proceedings and in multilateral and regional trade negotiations. Her sectoral priorities include trade in energy.

In 2011, Saskia received a Pro Bono Award for outstanding services to Médecins Sans Frontières.



**Vincent Subilia**  
**Associate, Geneva**

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Vincent provides advisory and advocacy services to both corporate and sovereign clients on a broad range of WTO issues, such as energy trade, trade in services including financial services, and trade remedies. Prior to joining White & Case, Vincent worked as Vice President and in-house counsel with a major global financial institution based in Geneva, where he was responsible for a wide array of corporate and banking law matters. He is a graduate from the Universities of Lausanne and Brussels, as well as the Graduate Institute in Geneva.



**Konstantina K. Athanasakou**  
**Associate, Geneva**

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Konstantina practices primarily in the area of international trade law. She works on various issues related to energy trade, including market access, environment, anti-dumping and subsidies, compliance and the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Konstantina also advises clients on G20 matters. She has experience in US trade policy, including trade agreements, trade remedy matters, particularly in relation to trade litigation and appeals in the US Court of International Trade and the WTO Appellate Body, as well as corporate, antitrust and intellectual property matters.



**Davida L. Connon**  
**Associate, Geneva**

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Davida focuses mainly on WTO law, advising companies and sovereign governments on matters regulated by the WTO Agreements, including trade in energy and natural resources, intellectual property, anti-dumping, and subsidies issues. She also assists in the representation of sovereigns within the WTO dispute settlement system, and advises clients on WTO negotiations. Before joining White & Case, Davida gained experience in the field of international trade both in private practice and through internships with the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat and the European Commission's Legal Service. She worked on several high-profile WTO disputes during this time.



**Gisele Kapterian**  
**Independent Associate**

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Gisele practices in the area of international trade law, particularly the law of the WTO. She advises companies and sovereign governments on all matters regulated by the WTO Agreements, as well as the current WTO negotiations. Gisele has represented clients in WTO dispute settlement proceedings, both at the panel and Appellate Body stages. She also advises on the negotiation and implementation of free trade agreements, and counsels on the drafting, use and implications of domestic regulatory instruments that affect trade. Her previous trade law experience includes an internship at the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat.

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