Slaughter and May’s ‘lawyers are first-rate’.

International Arbitration, Legal 500, 2014
We handle the full range of domestic and international arbitrations involving English and foreign law.

Our clients look to us for technical excellence in the law, a capacity for innovative thought and a positive commercial approach. We train our lawyers to be multi-specialists, with a broad skills base, so that they offer not only a depth of legal expertise, but also a breadth of experience and sound commercial judgment.
We have an extensive international arbitration practice and act in a wide range of complex, high value arbitrations involving English and foreign law all round the world - from Europe to the Middle East, Asia and India, to the US, South America and Africa.

We advise across the full range of domestic and cross-border arbitral proceedings including ICSID, LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL, Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, and SIAC arbitrations, as well as those conducted under the auspices of various trade associations or ad hoc arrangements. Our Hong Kong office handles arbitrations under the CIETAC Rules in Beijing.

We are regularly involved in advising on interdependent arbitration provisions and issues arising from cross-border agreements, as well as the strategic implications of the deployment of arbitration and dispute resolution provisions. Our many years’ experience mean we are familiar with dealing with applications to Court in connection with arbitral proceedings.

We are also practised at making the right judgment call for clients when choosing arbitrators, determining which points will appeal to a particular tribunal, and deciding when to battle on and when to compromise.
Integrated teams

We are firmly client focused. This means our practice groups work closely together, when required, to form integrated teams of lawyers who are well informed about all aspects of our clients’ businesses. Where appropriate, work is handled in conjunction with specialist lawyers from other groups within the firm, for instance on tax, EU and domestic competition, pensions and employment, and technology, media and telecoms matters.

Similarly, we have developed close working relationships with leading independent law firms around the world which enable us to provide seamless first-class advice worldwide.

Our main office in London covers the full range of business legal services and a diverse range of industry sectors. Our main practice areas are Mergers and Acquisitions, Corporate and Commercial, Financing, Tax, Competition and Regulatory, Dispute Resolution, Commercial Real Estate, Pensions and Employment, Financial Regulation, Intellectual Property and Information Technology.

“Every point is beautifully researched and it’s all done brilliantly.”

Chambers UK, 2014
Our offices

We have offices in London, Brussels, Hong Kong and Beijing.

Brussels
Our Brussels office advises on all aspects of EU and UK competition law. Our relationships with competition practices in national jurisdictions across Europe and globally mean that we are exceptionally well placed to deal with cross-border cases and issues raised by the increased co-operation between competition authorities.

Hong Kong and Beijing
We have a long-standing presence in Asia and opened our offices in Hong Kong in 1974 and in Beijing in 2009. Building on the extensive track record of our Hong Kong office, our practice in Beijing focuses on M&A and outbound investment from China, as well as inbound investment and other projects involving China. We practise English and Hong Kong law and work closely with leading Chinese law firms to provide top-quality, seamless advice.
Our experience - highlights

Advising:

- **RWE Aktiengesellschaft**, a leading European utility group, in its successful defence of a US$1.4 billion damages claim, subject to LCIA arbitration, brought by the Russian Sintez Group owned by Senator Leonid Lebedev. The claim arose out of RWE’s withdrawal from negotiations for a joint venture to buy a controlling interest in one of Russia’s regional power generation companies, TGK-2. We also advised on related litigation in multiple jurisdictions.

- A **Russian state-owned gas distribution service**, on a US$100 million dispute, subject to LCIA arbitration, with an American investor under multiple contracts. The dispute related to emissions reductions and credits arising under the Kyoto Protocol and related UN provisions.

- An **Eastern European state-owned energy company** in a high value dispute between its wholly-owned subsidiary and a US contractor in relation to a turnkey contract for the repowering of two major power plants. The dispute, subject to UNCITRAL arbitration, involved a very significant number of disputed factual and expert issues and raised complex matters of delay analysis in the context of late completion of power projects. Arbitral awards were provided on liability, quantum and costs.

- A **leading European utility company** in its defence of a multi-billion dollar claim, subject to LCIA arbitration, brought by two Middle Eastern oil and gas exploration companies, in relation to the issue of quantum of damages based on a loss, or diminution, of chance in the Claimants’ ability to exploit two major gas fields in the Middle East in order to achieve gas export.

- **Sociedade de Fomento Industrial Pvt Ltd (SFI)**, a major Indian exporter of iron ore, in relation to a dispute with the counterparty to a long-term supply agreement, Pakistan Steel Mills Corporation (Pvt) Ltd, a Pakistan state-owned steel mill. The dispute was subject to ICC arbitration with its seat in London, and was governed by English law. An award was received in our client’s favour and we helped SFI on its enforcement in Canada. The arbitration raised challenging economic and political issues, especially in relation to jurisdiction and enforcement.

- **Alliance Bank JSC**, a Kazakh state-owned bank, in relation to a claim against Metropol (Cyprus) Limited for its alleged part in the wrongful diversion and embezzlement from Alliance of in excess of US$500 million worth of US Treasury STRIPS by Alliance’s former shareholders and other related parties.

- A **significant European financial institution** in relation to LCIA arbitration proceedings (and simultaneous expert determination) against Ukrainian and Cypriot defendants, claiming losses in the region of US$100 million arising under a sale and purchase agreement. The matter was concluded following implementation of a complex settlement and restructuring program, on which we also advised.

- A **global telecommunications provider** in relation to a dispute, subject to ICC arbitration in Paris and governed by Dutch law, with a joint venture party arising out of contracts for the provision of mobile telephony components.
• **Cable & Wireless** in a substantial ICC arbitration under a foreign law over the applicable interconnection rates due under the applicable contractual and regulatory regime

• a **Middle Eastern telecoms regulator** as respondent to a statutory arbitration brought by the incumbent telecoms provider

• **two leading commodity companies** in separate arbitrations under the Refined and Raw Sugar Association rules respectively

• **a major grain importer in China** in an arbitration in London under the FOSFA rules pertaining to the supply of substantial quantities of grain from Brazil to China

• **an English subsidiary of an Indian parent company** regarding ICC arbitration proceedings under a shareholders’ agreement in relation to a dispute between a minority and a majority shareholder arising out of an Indian power project

• **a government-owned company in Oman** in connection with various disputes, subject to ICC arbitration in London, arising under a 20-year concession agreement for the operation and maintenance of a major power plant

• **an international oil exploration and production company** in relation to a number of disputes, subject to ICSID and ICC arbitration, regarding the exploitation and enjoyment of certain interests in offshore oilfields in Africa, including advising on related petroleum agreements and oil rig and contractor contracts

• a **US oil company** in a variety of major disputes in Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea and South Africa

• a **major Middle Eastern property developer** in relation to a substantial dispute subject to ICC arbitration arising out of the construction and lease of commercial premises for an important financial centre in the Middle East

• a **leading European producer of refinery technologies** in relation to a dispute, subject to ICC arbitration, with an Eastern European counterparty arising out of a contract for the design and supply of catalysts and proprietary technology

• **a global corporate in the household and personal care sector** in relation to a dispute subject to LCIA arbitration with an Iranian manufacturer

• a **Sri Lankan subsidiary of a major US corporation** in relation to contractual disputes and potential claims arising in connection with the construction of a power plant in Sri Lanka with arbitrations in Sri Lanka and Singapore

• **a major grain importer in China** in an arbitration in London under the FOSFA rules pertaining to the supply of substantial quantities of grain from Brazil to China

• a **French telecoms company** in an LCIA arbitration in London in relation to an Indian joint venture; the award, in our client’s favour, was enforced with our help through the Indian courts

• **two leading commodity companies** in separate arbitrations under the Refined and Raw Sugar Association rules; in both cases, awards were made in our client’s favour.
Nick Gray

Nick has extensive experience in major arbitration and litigation, both domestic and international, handling complex and substantial disputes and seeking their effective and efficient resolution in whatever way is in the best interests of the client. His work includes disputes arising out of banking transactions, share and asset sale and purchase agreements, oil and gas industry agreements, insurance disputes, IT and outsourcing disputes, pensions, joint ventures, and in proceedings before the Commissioners of HM Revenue & Customs.

A large proportion of Nick’s work, whether in the arbitration or litigation field, is international in nature. He deals with complex jurisdictional issues as well as coordinating litigation in different parts of the world including France, Italy, India, Russia and a number of countries in the Middle East and Africa.

His recent work includes advising:

• a Russian pipe manufacturer in a multi-million pound dispute with a German Steel manufacturer in an ICC arbitration

• SEB Trygg Liv on a highly complex £40 million Stockholm Chamber of Commerce arbitration arising out of the purchase of a life assurance company and the mis-selling of pensions, and the satellite High Court and Court of Appeal litigation it generated

• a major German industrial company in a £300 million dispute with a Finnish company arising out of a telecommunications dispute in Norway

• a significant German industrial company against an Indian company on an ICC arbitration with its seat in Singapore.

Nick is named as a leading individual in the Dispute Resolution section of Chambers UK, 2016. He is also recommended for International Arbitration in The Legal 500, 2015.

Nick is a member of the London Solicitors Litigation Association Committee and of the London Court of International Arbitration. He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Scene & Heard.
James Stacey

James has successfully conducted arbitrations under the rules of all the major arbitral institutions, including ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL.

James advises clients from a wide variety of business sectors, for example in the infrastructure, energy and nuclear power fields, as well as major financial institutions. He frequently represents clients in relation to proceedings involving multiple jurisdictions.

His recent work includes advising:

• a contractor in a major dispute with a Middle Eastern state arising out of an airport construction project

• a state owned bank in relation to arbitral proceedings against a Cypriot bank for its part in the wrongful diversion and embezzlement of US$500 million by the bank’s former shareholders and other related parties, and the international enforcement of the successfully obtained arbitration award

• an Eastern European state-owned energy company in a high value dispute, subject to UNCITRAL arbitration, between its wholly-owned subsidiary and a US contractor in relation to a turnkey contract for the repowering of two major power plants

• a major South American company in respect of an ICC arbitration in relation to its LPG operations, including challenges to, and enforcement of, the award

• a leading European producer of refinery technologies in a contract dispute, subject to ICC arbitration, with an Eastern European counterparty.

James is recommended for Banking Litigation, International Arbitration and Tax and Investigations in The Legal 500, 2015.