

## Eleni Polycarpou

PARTNER | LONDON

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Eleni is a partner in the litigation and arbitration team and focuses on international arbitration.

She specialises in international commercial disputes both in litigation and arbitration. Eleni is co-head of the international arbitration team and also head of the UK art law team. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Eleni is a member of the Middle East group and has worked with clients and on cases with connections particularly with Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Saudi Arabia for many years.

Eleni acts for high net worth individuals and their companies often advising on shareholder and joint venture disputes and contractual disputes in a variety of fields including banking, oil and technology. She has a specialist practice advising on art related disputes and leads the UK art team advising collectors, galleries, museums, auction houses on all art-related matters.

Eleni is also well versed in mediation and has a track record of achieving a successful settlement of disputes via this method.

Eleni lives in London and is a dual national (Cyprus and UK). She speaks fluent Greek, English and Italian often acting for clients from those jurisdictions and from CIS who hold companies in Cyprus.

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# Track record

## NRC

Acting for NRC (a Cypriot company) in relation to fraud proceedings issued in London and in Cyprus against a former business associate (AAD) and companies controlled by him. In London Eleni and her team obtained a default judgment in the sum of £5 million. Their attempts to enforce this Judgment by obtaining a charging order over a property in West London legally owned by a BVI company, ended in a 3 day trial in the High Court in which the BVI Company vigorously defended the claim for the final charging order. Eleni and her team won at that trial and the Judge found that the Property is beneficially owned by AAD and that therefore NRC could proceed to enforce its default judgment.

## Dexia Crediop SpA and Provincia

Dexia Crediop SpA and Provincia di Brescia and Deutsche Bank AG London and Provincia di Brescia: Acting for an Italian local authority in two misselling of swaps claims against two banks and related Italian proceedings

## LCIA arbitration

LCIA Arbitration - acting for a company in fraud proceedings over the alleged alienation of a Russia based asset; proceedings brought in the LCIA and in parallel proceedings taking place in Russia, Cyprus and in the BVI and involving resisting freezing order applications in all the jurisdictions

## Joint venture dispute

Acting for a high net worth London based banker/financier in a joint venture dispute involving an investment in an oil storage vessel held through a Mauritius Company. This is a claim for fraud involving London, Mauritius and the Seychelles

## Art disputes

Acting for a number of art collectors in disputes with art galleries and auction houses

## LCIA Arbitration

LCIA Arbitration - acting for a high net worth Russian individual in a joint venture dispute involving, apart from substantial LCIA proceedings, freezing orders applications and claims in Cyprus, BVI and Russia

## Dispute with former associate

Marc Newson International Limited v Stuart Parr and Parr Studios Inc: Acting for a well known industrial designer in a dispute with a former associate.

## Wainford Holdings Limited v RBS

Wainford Holdings Limited v RBS: Acting for a property developer in a swap misselling dispute with Royal Bank of Scotland PLC

## LCIA Arbitration

LCIA Arbitration - acting in a family dispute over the ownership of a Monet painting

## Ad-Hoc Arbitration

Ad-Hoc Arbitration - acting for an Italian fashion brand in a dispute with a distributor

## Ad-Hoc Arbitration

Ad-Hoc Arbitration - acting for a charity in dispute with a joint venture partner

## BVI proceedings

BVI proceedings - acting for a high net worth Russian entrepreneur in a shareholder dispute over Russian assets held through Cyprus and BVI companies

## Title dispute

Acting for an artist over a title dispute with an auction house

## Italian fashion brand

Acting for a well-known Italian fashion brand in a dispute with its UK franchisee

## Premiership football club

Acting for a premiership football club in a number of disputes with former directors

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## External publications

*'The Art Market Adjusts: Managing contractual obligations in uncertain times - US and UK'*, Withers article - April 17, 2020, co-author

*'Proposed EU regulations on the import of non EU-cultural goods'*, Withers article - 19 February 2019, co-author

*'UK: Tough legislation to be introduced for dealers in elephant ivory'*, Withers article - 14 August 2018, co-author

'AI survey briefing report', special AIJA report, May 2017

'Respect for the artist', Arts Professional - February 2017

'The age of arbitration - A bright future or bygone era?', London, February 2017

## Admissions

England and Wales, 2005

British Virgin Islands, 2013

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## Education

Durham University, BA (Hons) Social Sciences and MA Politics

College of Law (London)

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## Languages

English

Greek

Italian

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## Memberships

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb),

Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA),

British Italian Law Association (BILA),

British Russian Law Association (BRLA),

Russia and CIS Arbitration Network (RCAN),

Hellenic Law Association of London

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## Key dates

Year joined: 2003

Year became partner: 2017

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