

Dechert promotes in London

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Tim Lindsay

Dechert has promoted London-based lawyer Timothy Lindsay, who is currently defending Ecuador in an ICSID dispute brought by an Anglo-French oil company, to the firm's partnership.

Lindsay, 31, joined Dechert in 2010 as a senior associate from Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr.

He works on commercial and investment arbitration, with a focus on ICC, LCIA and ICSID disputes arising out of BRIC countries and emerging markets. One of the matters he is currently working on is the ICSID arbitration brought by Anglo-French oil company Perenco against Ecuador, in which Dechert is representing the state. His other briefs include acting on a number of Russia-related disputes seated in London and an ICC arbitration concerning the Middle East.

His promotion is effective from 1 January.

Daniel Gal, the leader of Dechert's international arbitration practice in London, says Lindsay was "an obvious candidate" for promotion. "He is one of those rare individuals who not only have great substantive skills but who, through force of personality and a determination to add value, is capable of generating new client relationships and expanding existing ones," Gal notes.

He adds that Lindsay's promotion to partner, along with that of **José Manuel García Represa** in Paris in July 2011 and the hire of **Dmitry Kurochkin** from Herbert Smith Freehills in Moscow in June, reflect the firm's commitment to, and investment in, its international arbitration practice.

For his part, Lindsay says he feels proud and privileged to join the Dechert partnership.

"I have been very fortunate to have had exceptional mentors at Dechert, in particular Daniel Gal. A real highlight of practising at the firm is the opportunity to work day-in-day-out alongside an exceptionally accomplished and dedicated group of partners and associates, across offices, date lines, legal systems and practice areas. It has also been fantastic to play an (albeit small) role in the tremendous growth of Dechert's London disputes practice over the past few years," he says.

Lindsay adds that he has worked closely with Dechert's international offices in Moscow, Dubai and Tbilisi among others.

Toby Landau QC of Essex Court Chambers in London worked with Lindsay in a recent dispute and describes him as “a first class practitioner who combines great charm and skill with extraordinary tenacity”.

“Whatever the volume of documentation dumped on his desk; whatever the demands of the clients; whatever the delays of his instructed counsel (me) – in fact, whatever the immediate crisis might have been, Tim remained at all times undaunted,” says Landau. “He was a delight to work with, whether or not he had spent the previous night drafting, which he usually had. His promotion is richly deserved and I’m sure that he will be a real asset to the Dechert partnership.”

During his time at WilmerHale, Lindsay worked as part of the team led by **Gary Born** and **Wendy Miles** that represented the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in a dispute with north Sudan at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague over the oil-rich Abyei region (the SPLM controlled the autonomous region of south Sudan before it split from the north to become an independent country following a referendum in 2011). A 2009 award that was welcomed by both sides re-drew the boundaries of Abyei in preparation for a separate referendum for residents of the region on whether it should be part of Sudan or South Sudan in the wake of the split.

In addition to working on the Abyei dispute, Lindsay also represented Deutsche Telekom in its dispute with Vivendi and Elektrim for the control of Polish telecoms company PTC.

Before joining WilmerHale in 2008, Lindsay practised commercial and public law litigation and arbitration as a barrister and solicitor in his native New Zealand. He became interested in international arbitration after acting on an ICC dispute, and working with Auckland-based arbitrators **David Williams QC** and **Sir Ian Barker QC**.

He is qualified in New Zealand and in the UK, and is currently an alternate New Zealand Representative to the ICC Commission on International Arbitration. He is also a member of the British Branch International Law Association’s law and arbitration committee.

Lindsay’s promotion was one of 12 at Dechert this January, spanning the corporate, finance, real estate, financial services, IP and disputes groups.

Dechert now has 10 partners, an of counsel and an international counsel focused on international arbitration. The team is also working increasingly closely with the firm’s EU trade and EU government affairs practice, which is led by **Miriam Gonzalez**.