LOUIS THIBIERGE

Independent Arbitrator | Professor of Private Law
Avocat at the Paris Bar

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Professor Louis Thibierge is a Paris-based independent arbitrator with more than twenty years' experience in international arbitration and complex cross-border commercial disputes. He sits as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator and tribunal president in ICC, CMAP, Chambre arbitrale de Paris and ad hoc proceedings. His practice spans construction, corporate, energy, defence, industrial, distribution and media disputes. A Full Professor of Private Law (Agrégé des Facultés de Droit) at Aix-Marseille University, where he heads the Department of Private Law and Criminal Sciences, he combines academic authority with extensive practice as former Senior Counsel and Avocat à la Cour in leading international law firms. He regularly acts as an expert on French law before foreign courts and arbitral tribunals, and is a qualified English-language translator: he pleads, drafts and deliberates in English.

AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

- International commercial arbitration (ICC, CMAP, Chambre arbitrale de Paris, ad hoc)
- Construction and infrastructure disputes
- Corporate and shareholders' disputes
- Energy, defence and industrial projects
- Distribution, commercial agency and termination of established commercial relationships
- Sale of goods, hidden defects and product liability
- Hardship, force majeure and contract adaptation
- Post-award proceedings (set-aside and enforcement)
- Expert evidence on French law

ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

- Appointed sole arbitrator by the Chambre arbitrale de Paris.
- Appointed president of *ad hoc* arbitral tribunals.
- Appointed co-arbitrator in ICC and ad hoc arbitrations.
- Listed on the ICC, CMAP, CIAM (Cour Internationale d'Arbitrage Méditerranée) and VIAC (Vienna International Arbitral Centre) arbitrator rosters.
- Counsel in numerous commercial arbitrations since 2005 — construction, corporate, distribution, energy, defence, sale of goods, industry, film production.
- Counsel in post-award proceedings (set-aside actions and enforcement).
- Expert witness on French law in international arbitrations (France, United States, United Kingdom, Tunisia).
- Coach and arbitrator, Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vienna).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Since 2026 LT Avocats - Cabinet du Professeur Louis Thibierge, Paris — Independent arbitrator and consultant.
Since 2026 Member of the Strategic Orientation Board, Paris Place de Droit Association.
Since 2017 Full Professor (Agrégé), Aix-Marseille University (First class).
2019–2026 De Pardieu Brocas Maffei, Paris — Avocat à la Cour; member of the firm's Scientific Committee.
2022–2023 École des Hautes Études Appliquées du Droit (HEAD) — Professor.

2021–2023 Institut Supérieur d'Interprétation et de Traduction (ISIT) — Associate Professor.
2016–2019 Advant Altana, Paris — Avocat à la Cour.
2010–2017 Associate Professor (Maître de conférences), Université Paris Ouest Nanterre.
2005–2016 Gide Loyrette Nouel, Paris — Senior Counsel, International Arbitration; member of the firm's Scientific Committee.

ACADEMIC AND INSTITUTIONAL ROLES

• Head of the Department of Private Law and Criminal Sciences, Aix-Marseille University.
• Director, Master 2 in Advanced Business Law (Droit des affaires approfondi).
• Director, DESU Economic Law — English-taught programme with faculty from the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and Poland.
• Chair, Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Course.
• Head of the Aix-Marseille preparation for the national agrégation in private law and criminal sciences.
• Supervisor of doctoral theses, habilitations and Master 2 dissertations; member of professorial selection committees.
• Continuing legal education for avocats (EFB, Aix-Marseille Bar), in-house counsel (AFJE) and judges (Aix-en-Provence Court of Appeal).

RECOGNITION

• "Best Lawyer" 2026 — Litigation.
• "Best Lawyer" 2025 — Litigation.
• "Best Lawyer" 2024 — Litigation.
• Décideurs / Leaders League 2025 — "Forte notoriété" (strong reputation) as arbitration counsel.
• Décideurs / Leaders League 2025 — "Pratique réputée" (renowned practice) as arbitrator.

PROFESSIONAL AND LEARNED SOCIETIES

Association Henri Capitant; Society of Construction Law; Association Droit & Commerce; Comité français de l'arbitrage; Paris Place d'Arbitrage; Paris Place du Droit; Cercle K2; Club des Métiers du Droit.

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Since 2026 Co-Editor, Revue Contrats, Responsabilité, Immobilier.
Since 2025 Editor-in-Chief, Encyclopédie Lexbase de droit des contrats.
Since 2022 Co-author of the "Contrats spéciaux" case-law column, Revue des contrats.
Since 2020 Co-author of the "Data Law" column, La Semaine juridique (JCP E.), with Matthieu Bourgeois.
Since 2019 Editorial Board Member, International Business Law Journal / Revue de droit des affaires internationales (RDAI).
Since 2015 Co-editor of the arbitration case-law column, International Business Law Journal (RDAI).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

• *Le contrat face à l'imprévu*, Économica, coll. "Recherches juridiques", preface by L. Aynès (monograph).
• "Point de départ de la prescription : le probable n'est pas certain", *Defrénois*, 23 July 2026.
• "De Boot Shop à Artemis : la responsabilité du contractant à l'égard des tiers", *RJDA*, July 2026.
• "Caducité, rentabilité, imprévision : et un, et deux, et trois… zéro", *Revue Contrats, Responsabilité, Immobilier*, May 2026.
• "Le rôle du tribunal arbitral en présence d'une clause de rééquilibrage ou d'adaptation", *Revue de l'arbitrage* 1-2025 (Comité français de l'arbitrage annual conference).
• "Can Monsieur Jourdain act as amiable compositeur unwittingly?", *ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin*, 2023, no. 2, p. 15.
• "The law applicable to the arbitration agreement: the Channel of division", *Revista Brasileira de Arbitragem*, Issue 69, vol. 18, 2021.
• Chapter on "Dispute Boards", in *Dictionnaire des modes alternatifs de règlement des différends*, LGDJ, V. Egéa (ed.), 2024.

• “Le non-arbitre”, closing report of the conference co-directed with W. Ben Hamida, Th. Clay, M. de Fontmichel and D. Mouralis, PUAM, 2025.

• “La force majeure et ses conséquences”, *International Business Law Journal* (RDAI) 2017/4.

• “L’obligation de minimiser son préjudice”, *International Business Law Journal* (RDAI) 2016, no. 4.

• “Arbitrage et volonté”, *Droit et patrimoine*, no. 215, p. 36, 2012.

Regular contributor to Revue des contrats, Revue de l’arbitrage, IBLJ/RDAI, JCP (G and E), Lexbase, Recueil Dalloz, ICC Dispute Resolution Bulletin, RJDA and Defrénois.

SELECTED CONFERENCES

May 2026 Transatlantic judicial dialogue on civil procedure, Tribunal judiciaire d’Aix-en-Provence, at the invitation of President Hélène Judes.

Apr. 2026 The duty to inform in business contracts, conference of the Master 2 in Advanced Business Law, Aix-Marseille University.

Mar. 2026 Termination of established commercial relationships: a French-Italian perspective — Paris Bar (International Trade Commission) and ACE.

Mar. 2026 The new Article 1254 of the Civil Code, conference of the Master 2 in Contract Engineering, Paris.

Feb. 2026 Reform of the law of obligations: ten years on — conference directed by Prof. Louis Thibierge, Aix-en-Provence.

Feb. 2026 Willem C. Vis Moot, London Pre-Moot: inaugural conference at the London International Dispute Resolution Centre; coach of the Aix-Marseille University team.

Nov. 2025 Judicial powers and loss of chance — Rencontres aixoises of the Cour de cassation.

May 2025 Termination of contract: current issues and international perspectives — Paris Bar, co-chaired with Vincent Vigneau, President of the Commercial Chamber of the Cour de cassation.

Dec. 2024 Liability, compensation and proportionality — inter-university conference co-directed with J.-S. Borghetti, M. Mekki and Y. Pagnerre, Aix-en-Provence.

Nov. 2024 Arbitration and the adaptation of long-term contracts — Comité français de l’arbitrage.

May 2024 The non-arbitrator — inter-university conference co-directed with W. Ben Hamida, Th. Clay, M. de Fontmichel and D. Mouralis.

Dec. 2023 Current Trends in Dispute Boards — Solidarity Arbitration and Mediation Days for Ukraine, Warsaw.

Oct. 2018 Employer’s Role and Obligations to the Contractor — International Construction Law Association (ICLA) annual summit, Moscow.

TEACHING

Lectures and seminars at Aix-Marseille University in contract law, security interests, special contracts, Contract Law (in English), international trade law, selective distribution, arbitration law, competition law, international contract negotiation, dispute boards and mediation. LL.M. seminars in international arbitration law, taught in English. DJCE seminars in international contract law.

EDUCATION

2017 Agrégation in private law and criminal sciences (ranked 12th nationally).

2009 PhD in Private Law — highest honours with the congratulations of the jury; nominated for a thesis prize.

2005 DEA (Master of Research) in contract and property law, Université Paris I — Panthéon-Sorbonne (first in class).

2004 LL.M. in International Business Law, University of Exeter (UK) — Merit.

2003 Bar examination (CRFPA, Versailles). Maîtrise in private law, Université Paris XI — Sceaux. Graduate of the Institut Supérieur d’Interprétation et de Traduction (ISIT) — Distinction.

LANGUAGES

• English — qualified translator; drafts, pleads, files and sits as arbitrator in English.

• French — native.