
Myrna Barakat Friedman

barakatADR.com

mbarakat@mb-cap.com +1 917 213 6631

- ▷ *Commercial arbitrator, mediator and dispute prevention neutral.*
- ▷ *President and Founding Member, ACT-ADR, the Association of Commercial and Transactional ADR Professionals.*

- ▷ *Member, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (NADN).*
- ▷ *Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.*
- ▷ *CEDR-Accredited Mediator.*

Independent commercial arbitrator, mediator and attorney with over 25 years of experience executing and advising on domestic and international corporate and transactional matters with a particular focus on financial institutions and technology. Trained in both civil and common law.

Serves as a neutral on a vast range of commercial disputes involving contract interpretation, commercial transactions, M&A and post-M&A matters, valuations (business, real estate and other asset classes), JV/partnerships, construction, shareholder/investor disputes, business divorces, strategic business sales, private equity transactions, cybersecurity and data breach, insurance, information technology, telecommunications, financing and banking transactions, securities and financial structures (including SPACs), trust and estates, executive compensation, licensing agreements and other intellectual property. Focused experience with investment groups, banks and other financial institutions as well as real estate/construction, technology and cybersecurity matters.

Previously, completed transactions globally as a Wall Street M&A and securities lawyer, a lead in-house M&A lawyer for a Fortune 500 Company, a Corporate Development executive and the founder of a boutique strategic growth advisory company.

Brings to ADR practice a unique mix of legal, corporate and business experience and a firsthand commercial understanding of the operational and financial intricacies of the most complex matters. Leverages legal and business experience to dissect the facts at hand with focus, quickly identify the crux of a dispute and analyze the underlying issues with sound judgment and common sense. Adopts a structured but practical and business-minded approach, with a deep appreciation for the nuances in disputes involving multiple legal and business environments and multicultural constituents.

Dispute Resolution Experience

2021-Present

Commercial Arbitrator, Mediator and Dispute Prevention Neutral, New York, USA

Appointed as Chair, Sole Arbitrator, Co-Arbitrator, Appellate Arbitrator and Mediator to over 150 cases involving a broad range of commercial and financial matters, including matters under the AAA, ICDR, ICC, CPR and FINRA rules.

- ▷ *Member*: AAA Commercial Arbitrator and Mediator Panels (Complex Commercial, Construction and Technology), ICDR Panel of Arbitrators, CPR Arbitrator and Mediator Panels, FINRA Arbitrator Panel, Dubai International Arbitration Center Arbitrator List, Singapore International Arbitration Center Reserve Panel, Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration Arbitrator and Mediator Rosters, Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration Arbitrator Panel, Federal Court of the Eastern/Southern District of New York Mediator Panel, NY State Commercial and Surrogate's Courts Mediator Panel. Listed as an arbitrator with the ICC and LCIA.
- ▷ *President and Founding Member*, ACT-ADR, the Association of Commercial and Transactional ADR Professionals.
- ▷ *Chair*, ICC/USCIB Mediation Subcommittee; Member- Arbitration Committee.
- ▷ *Chair*, NY City Bar AI in Arbitration Subcommittee.
- ▷ *Member*, AAA-ICDR Financial Industry Advisory Committee.
- ▷ *Member*, NY International Arbitration Center (Program Committee).

Vast dispute resolution experience, includes commercial disputes involving:

- Commercial and residential real estate;
- Commercial insurance and reinsurance (including specialty insurance and D&O insurance);
- Securities, financial services and bankruptcy;
- Construction (including subcontractor, scope of work, payment, ETOs and defect disputes);
- Pharmaceuticals, life sciences and biotechnology;
- Healthcare;
- Private equity, family offices and other investment vehicles;
- Food and beverage (manufacturing, transportation and sale);
- Entertainment business (partnerships and business divorces);
- Professional services (including investment banking; accounting and audit, IT, legal and capital fundraising/placement agency);
- IT software and hardware (professional services; manufacturing; licensing);
- Technology (including data breach);
- Crypto and online exchange platforms;
- Domestic and international manufacturing, distribution, transportation and sale of goods;
- Defense and Security (including satellite infrastructure); and
- Automotive industry (manufacturing, distribution and sale).

Professional Experience

2009-2022

Founder and Managing Director, MB Corporate Advisory Partners S.A.R.L.

Provide strategic growth advisory services (strategy formulation and execution) on acquisitions, partnerships, financing and investments, to companies, financial institutions, high growth companies and investors.

Mandates include:

- ▷ Sourcing acquisition targets, joint venture and other business combination partners;
- ▷ Structuring and negotiating deal terms;
- ▷ Formulating market penetration and growth strategies;
- ▷ Leading fundraising initiatives; and
- ▷ Advising on general corporate matters in connection with strategic growth initiatives.

2005-2008

Managing Director/SVP, Corporate Development, CIT Group Inc.

- ▷ Formulated CIT Group's global M&A strategy and sourced, evaluated and initiated contact with acquisition targets and strategic partners across CIT's five business units.
- ▷ Initially, served as Chief Counsel-M&A, responsible for the structuring, review and completion of all acquisitions, divestitures and other strategic transactions considered by CIT Group.
 - Member of the Legal Executive Committee (responsible for the management of the CIT Group Legal Department).

1998-2005

Associate (Corporate Finance, M&A and Financial Institutions), Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

- ▷ Managed a broad array of strategic and cross border transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, JVs, IPOs and spin-offs for US and international clients (financial institutions focus).
- ▷ Advised domestic and foreign banks, asset managers, insurers, reinsurers and other financial institutions on US domestic regulatory and transactional matters.
- ▷ Led legal teams advising on strategic transactions in Europe, Australia, Latin America and Asia.
- ▷ Led public/private securities offerings, inc. convertible, high yield and tax structured securities.
- ▷ At the request of client Allianz AG, agreed a 6-month leave of absence from Sullivan & Cromwell to join Allianz as interim in-house M&A counsel in Munich, Germany; oversaw M&A/strategic transactions globally and recruited and trained M&A counsel (2000).

1997-1998

Associate (Corporate), Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP

- ▷ Managed and completed M&A transactions, leveraged leases and bank commercial paper facilities.

Professional Activities & Memberships

Professional Memberships

- ▷ *Chair*- Mediation Privilege Subcommittee, NY City Bar Association- Arbitration Committee.
- ▷ *Co-Chair*- Dispute Prevention Committee, NY State Bar Association- Dispute Resolution Section (2023-2025).
- ▷ *Member*, American Bar Association - Section of Dispute Resolution.
- ▷ *Member*, NY State Bar Association - Dispute Resolution Section, Insurance Disputes Committee, Securities Disputes Committee and Cannabis Law Section.
- ▷ *Member*, NY City Bar Association – Arbitration, Mediation and International Commercial Disputes Committees.
- ▷ *Member*, International Bar Association- Arbitration Committee.
- ▷ *Member*, International Arbitration Club of New York; Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Center.

Adjunct Professor

- ▷ St. John's University School of Law, "Negotiation," "Contract Drafting," Fall 2023.
- ▷ Joint Notre-Dame University /Bordeaux Management School- France Executive MBA Program (Lebanon), "Mergers, Acquisitions & Strategic Alliances," Winter 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Dispute Resolution Qualifications, Education, Bar Admission & Languages

Member, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (NADN).

Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

CEDR-Accredited Mediator.

New York State Part 146 *Certified Mediator*.

McGill University, Faculty of Law, Montreal, Canada 1997 (Dual Qualification)

Juris Doctor

Bachelor of Civil Law

Graduated with Distinction, Top 10% of Graduating Class

McGill University, Faculty of Management, Montreal, Canada 1993

B. Commerce (Economics and Finance)

Graduated with Great Distinction, Dean's Honor List

Bar Admission: New York (1998)

Languages: Fluent in English, French and Arabic; Proficient in Spanish

Publications and Professional Engagements

Recent Representative Publications

- ▷ “The Mediator's Role in Cross-Border Commercial Disputes: Navigating Three Dimensions of Culture,” *NY Law Journal* (October 2025).
- ▷ “Artificial Wisdom or Automated Folly? Practical Considerations for Arbitration Practitioners to Address the AI Conundrum,” *NY Law Journal* (January 2025).
- ▷ “Arbitration: The Solution to the Cannabis Industry Regulatory Morass,” *NY Law Journal* (March 2024).
- ▷ “Dispute Resolution Through the Lens of the Tech and Finance Sectors,” *NY Law Journal* (October 2023).
- ▷ “Arbitrating Crypto, NFTs and Other New Technologies: Demystifying the Landscape,” *NY Law Journal* (April 2023).
- ▷ “The Pitfalls of Conflicting Judicial Outcomes in International Arbitration,” *NY Law Journal* (April 2022).
- ▷ “Drafting an Arbitration Agreement in 2022,” *NY Law Journal*, four-part series: “2021 Considerations” (December 2021); “The Drafter’s Perspective” (January 2022); “The Litigator’s Perspective” (January 2022); “The Arbitrator’s Perspective” (January 2022).
- ▷ “Testing the Scope of Article V(1)d of the New York Convention on Enforcement of Arbitration Awards Following the Dubai Arbitration Venue Combination,” *NY Law Journal* (October 2021).
- ▷ “Dispute Prevention and Resolution Options That Can Save Start-Ups From Failure,” *NY Law Journal* (June 2021).
- ▷ “The Covid-19 Case for ADR Provisions in M&A Agreements,” *NY Law Journal* (April 2021).

Recent Representative Engagements

- ▷ Panelist, “The International Mediation Lifecycle: Transactional and Disputes Counsel’s Role: From Drafting to Settlement,” ICC/USCIB Chicago (January 2026).
- ▷ Panelist, “Mastering Court Administered Mediations: Effective Client Representation,” New York City Bar (December 2025).
- ▷ Panel Chair, “Rethinking Arbitration for the Contemporary Commercial Landscape: Enhancing Efficiency, Adaptability and Results,” New York Arbitration Week ACT-ADR, Jus Mundi, PwC, ACC-Westchester/SCT Program (November 2025).
- ▷ Program Chair, “Ethical Considerations in Disclosure of Mediation Information,” NY City Bar Association (March 2025).
- ▷ Chair, “Drafting International Arbitration Agreements: Reflecting on Current Trends,” Practising Law Institute (December 2024).
- ▷ Chair, “Drafting Arbitration Agreements: AI and Current Trends,” Practising Law Institute (November 2024).
- ▷ Representative, Chartered Instituted of Arbitrators, UNCITRAL Working Group II (Dispute Settlement), New York Sessions (February 2024, February 2023).
- ▷ Panelist, “Contract Drafting and International Arbitration,” Oslo Center for Commercial Law/New York University (February 2024).
- ▷ Chair, “Four-Part Series: Drafting and Arbitration Agreement in 2023: Beyond Basics, Reflecting Current Trends and Events,” Practising Law Institute (August 2023).
- ▷ Faculty, “ABA International Arbitration Masterclass, Panel Chair,” American Bar Association (June 2023).

- ▷ Panelist, “Grounds for Vacatur of an Arbitration Award- Leggett v. Wells Fargo and Other Recent Decisions,” NY State Bar Association- Arbitration Committee (May 2022).
- ▷ Panel Chair, “Exploring ADR Processes As Tools To Avoid Start-Up And Young Company Failures,” 2022 Annual ABA Dispute Resolution Conference (April 2022).
- ▷ Panelist, “Cross Border Investment,” The M&A Advisor Global Corporate Growth Summit (New York 2019).

Please refer to BarakatADR.com for a complete list of publications and engagements.