

Volterra Fietta recruits Freshfields counsel

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Giorgio Mandelli

London public international law boutique Volterra Fietta has hired investment arbitration practitioner **Giorgio Mandelli** from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in New York.

Mandelli, who takes up his new role as counsel in London today, began his career at Freshfields as a trainee in 1998 (where he worked with then-associate **Robert Volterra**) before joining **Gary Born**'s team at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in 2002.

He rejoined Freshfields in 2007 and became part of the team acting for ConocoPhillips in an ICSID claim against Venezuela, as well as in an ICC arbitration against the state's national oil company, PDVSA. A tribunal in the ICSID case held the state liable under an investment treaty last year but has yet to rule on damages.

Mandelli has been heavily involved in Freshfields' Latin American ICSID work in recent years. He was part of the team that helped French oil company Total win unspecified damages against Argentina in an ICSID claim that concluded in December.

He has also contributed to the firm's work for Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics and Crystallex in separate claims against Venezuela at ICSID.

Freshfields promoted Mandelli to counsel in January this year along with fellow international arbitration practitioners **Elizabeth Snodgrass** and **Sami Tannous**. The firm declined to comment on his decision to leave.

Mandelli studied at Princeton and Oxford, and took an LLM (International Legal Studies) from New York University in 2006-2007. His practice encompasses energy, natural resources, telecoms, joint ventures and insurance disputes, and he has acted as counsel in institutional and ad hoc arbitrations under ICSID, ICSID Additional Facility, ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL rules.

"I am extremely excited to be joining Volterra Fietta," he tells GAR. "The firm is widely acclaimed for its public international law work, and I look forward to being in a position to contribute to this thriving and growing practice."

His arrival takes the number of full-time fee earners at Volterra Fietta to 20, compared with just four lawyers when it opened its doors three years ago. Volterra says the firm is "thrilled Giorgio has joined us." He adds, "Client demand has seen our team grow by 500 per cent over the past three years and there is no sign of it letting up."

"Giorgio's experience and credentials are exactly the right fit for us and we are confident he will play a big part in helping us expand even further," Volterra tells GAR.

The firm recruited Patricio Grané in April last year, marking its first partnership hire, and went on to add Graham Coop, former general counsel of the Energy Charter Secretariat, as another partner a month later.