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## David W. Rivkin

### Partner

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*[View short biography >>](#)*

### Areas of Practice

**Litigation**

International Dispute Resolution; Class Actions

### Experience

David W. Rivkin is a litigation partner in the New York and London offices of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. He has had broad experience in the fields of international litigation and arbitration. He has handled international arbitrations throughout the world and before virtually every major arbitration institution, including the ICC, AAA, LCIA, ICSID, IACAC and the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. Subjects of these arbitrations have included long-term energy concessions, joint venture agreements, insurance coverage, construction contracts, distribution agreements and intellectual property, among others. Mr. Rivkin also represents various European, Latin American and Asian companies in litigation in the United States involving disputes over the enforcement of arbitral awards and arbitration agreements, as well as other transnational disputes. Mr. Rivkin has also represented many clients, including broker-dealers, accounting firms, investment advisers and industrial companies, in securities litigation and SEC enforcement proceedings.

Mr. Rivkin's recent matters include:

- Successful representation of *Occidental Petroleum Corporation* in winning US\$75 million in damages resulting from Ecuador's failure to refund VAT payments to Occidental through 2003.

- Successfully represented *Kenneth Dart and EM Ltd.* against the government of Argentina over defaulted bonds and successfully secured a US \$700 million judgment on their behalf.
- Won or favorably settled arbitrations or litigation matters on behalf of *General Electric, ExxonMobil, IDT, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Philip Morris* and *Fluor Corp.*, among others.

Mr. Rivkin is the only American in the Most Highly Regarded Individuals–Global category for international arbitration in *Who's Who Legal* (2005) and one of the top five international arbitration practitioners in the U.S. in *Chambers USA* (2005). *PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook 2005* lists him in their top tier for dispute resolution and *Global Counsel-Dispute Resolution Handbook* (2004-2005) ranks Mr. Rivkin as a leading arbitration lawyer. He is included in *Euromoney's Best of the Best* for both arbitration and litigation.

Mr. Rivkin is active in many professional organizations. Among others, he is on the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association, where he is Chair of the Law Committee and where he has also headed task forces to revise the Association's international and commercial arbitration rules and has served as Chair of the International Section of the Arbitration Law Committee; Vice Chair of the Legal Practice Division of the *International Bar Association*, where he served for four years as Chair of the Committee on Arbitration and ADR (Committee D); a Task Force Co-Chair of the *ABA's Litigation Section*, where he has served in many capacities, including for five years as Co-Chair of the International Litigation Committee and a member of the Section's Council and its Director of Divisions; Vice President of the Court of the *LCIA* and Vice President of its North American Users' Council; a former member of the *ICC Commission on International Arbitration*; an Adviser to the *American Law Institute* project on Transnational Rules of Civil Procedure; a Fellow of the London-based *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators*; a Fellow of the *College of Commercial Arbitrators* and a member of the *Association of the Bar of the City of New York*. Mr. Rivkin is a member of the *Council on Foreign Relations*. He was appointed by the U.S. State and Commerce Departments to be a founding member of the *NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes*, and he is also a member of the *U.S. Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law*. He is a member of many arbitration panels, including the AAA, LCIA, WIPO, CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Chinese International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), the Cairo Regional Arbitration Centre, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). In August 2004, Mr. Rivkin served as a member of the Ad Hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which heard disputes at the Summer Olympic Games in Athens. He previously served on the panel for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Mr. Rivkin graduated from Yale University in 1977 with a B.A. *magna cum laude* in history, and received a J.D. degree from Yale in 1980. From 1980-81, he served as law clerk to Judge Luther M. Swygert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He has been with Debevoise ever since.

Mr. Rivkin can be reached in our New York office by telephone at +1 212 909 6671 and fax at +1 212 909 6836; in the London office by telephone at +44 20 7786 9171 and fax at +44 20 7588 4180; and by e-mail at [dwrivkin@debevoise.com](mailto:dwrivkin@debevoise.com).

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## Publications

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- [International Commercial Arbitration: A Primer for U.S. Litigators](#)  
ABA 2005
- [The Impact of Parallel and Successive Proceedings on the Enforcement of Arbitral Awards](#)  
ICC 2005
- [A Growing Challenge for Ethics in International Arbitration](#)  
ICC 2005

## Bar Admissions

New York

## Education

Yale University, 1977, B.A.  
Yale Law School, 1980, J.D.