

Stefano Bardella

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Stefano Bardella is a partner and a member of the Commercial Disputes practice group. Stefano works with leading international corporations, mid-sized enterprises, and high-growth companies active in various industries, including manufacturing, construction, logistics and transport, and information technology.

His experience extends from assisting clients on an advisory basis, with a specific focus on cross-border distribution and regulatory compliance, to representing clients in any kind of litigation and proceedings, including ADR and special procedures before the national authorities. He regularly assists clients in corporate disputes and insolvency and restructuring procedures. Stefano has accrued significant experience in domestic and international arbitration, also working in cross-border teams.

In addition to the above, Stefano has also gained a strong experience in art law, in particular advising auction houses, art advisors, and private collectors, primarily in dispute resolution, negotiations of sale contracts, and in specific projects.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Stefano practiced at other international law firms in Milan and Rome. He completed an internship at Howard Kennedy Solicitors in London (2003).

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised in *The Best Lawyers in Italy*™ for Transportation Law, 2025
- Recognised by *The Legal 500 EMEA* as a Recommended Lawyer for Dispute resolution in Italy, 2023-2025
- Ranked by *Leaders League* for Dispute resolution - Commercial litigation, 2022

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, “The new Code of the business crisis: responsibilities of directors and auditors,” Workshop organized together with Endeavor, 26 January 2023

EDUCATION

- Law Degree, University of Milan Law School (Italy), 2000

ADMISSIONS

- Italian Court of Cassation
- Milan Bar

LANGUAGES

- English
- German
- Italian

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 25 February 2026, Italian Construction and Infrastructure Projects: Legal Risks and Mandatory Rules Impacting Foreign Operators
- 23 February 2026, Insurability of Financial Penalties for Personal Data Breaches: Overview of Leading European Jurisdictions
- 8 April 2022, The Italian Reform of Transport and Freight Forwarding Contracts
- 5 November 2021, The Impact of the Law Decree "Decreto Sostegni Bis" (DL n. 73/2021) on Raw Materials Price Contracts and Public Tenders
- 17 April 2020, COVID-19: Possible Consequences on Lease Agreements
- 1 April 2020, COVID-19: COVID-19 and the Cura Italia Decree

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Real Estate Litigation Guide 2025, *Law and Practice*, Italy chapter, Chambers and Partners
- "*L'abuso di posizione dominante nei contratti di fornitura*" in Affari & Mercati, edited by Il Sole24 Ore;
- Articles published in Nuovo Diritto Societario (NDS) edited by IPSOA:
  - "*controlli e bilanci nelle S.r.l. Accordi tra soci con più trasparenza*"
  - "*assemblee e decisioni nelle S.r.l. I patti parasociali entrano nel codice civile*"
  - "*quotate in società di persone. Maggiori garanzie per creditori e fornitori*"

- "*l'assemblea delle S.p.A. Più spazio alle richieste delle minoranze*".

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 March 2026, In-House Counsel Ask the Questions: Infrastructure Arbitration Worldwide, Hosted by Paris Arbitration Week
- 22 June 2023, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Throughout Europe Recognized in 2024 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 2 March 2018, K&L Gates Names 34 New Partners Across Global Platform

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- International Arbitration

INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Goods and Services
- Fine Art and Cultural Property
- Manufacturing
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

CONSUMER

- Assisted the client, an Italian medical center, in verifying the regulatory requirements for performing medical and cosmetic activities.
- Assisted the client, an Italian meat producer, in arbitration proceedings before the Arbitration Chamber of Piedemont (Turin) commenced by a partner for the alleged breach of a joint venture contract and its unlawful termination.
- Assisted our client, an Italian company that operates in the distribution of footwear, in examining the existing distribution agreement and providing with a memo on key-points.
- Assisted the client, an Italian backpack & accessories company, in the drafting and negotiation of a sponsorship agreement.

- Assisted in drafting certain IP agreements on a very confidential nature for an Italian and international independent insurance and reinsurance broker.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Assisting the client, a British asset management company, in a potential dispute against a logistic and supply chain company.
- Assisted a loan and property management service in a contentious action against the bankruptcy of a construction company for the assessment of a significant credit within the liabilities of the bankruptcy.
- Represented an investment company as respondent before the Milan Chamber of Arbitration to allegations our client breached the provisions of two share and purchase agreements concerning earn-out clauses.

FINE ART

- Assisted the Italian branch of an international auction house in managing a claim against an Italian collector who purchased an artwork for more than €8 billion during an auction held in Hong Kong and refused to pay.

HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS

- Assisted the CEO of an Italian company operating in the field of app-based mobility services in a potential major corporate dispute between the parties.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Assisted our client, an Italian information technology company, in dispute and potential litigation relating to damages allegedly caused by the malfunctions of a software provided by our client to a fast food company, which is our client's contractual party with reference to software license and maintenance agreements.
- Assisted an Italian information technology company in numbers of disputes against its daughter company as well as in disputes between shareholders.
- Assisted the client, an Italian information technology company, in judicial proceedings commenced by a construction fair against a company active in the biomedical research sector in respect of alleged breach of a contract of supply of technology services.
- Assisted an Italian start-up, part of the advertising and marketing services industry, in connection with the execution of a development agreement relating to a website and app and, specifically, in relation to the alleged defects claimed by the society and relevant dispute on due amounts.
- Assisted a producer of mobile apps dedicated to remote working in relation to the complex negotiation and finalisation of a strategic agreement for the transfer of an innovative and high-value software asset to a leading player in the skincare industry.
- Assisted an Italy-based provider of IT services and consulting in the definition and drafting of its new license agreements templates in order to better support the protection and monetization of its IP.

MANUFACTURING

- Assisted a primary Italian company active in the small-caliber ammunition sector in the termination of a Framework Agreement for the manufacturing of shell cases and related issues.
- Assisted our client, an Italy-based manufacturer of cardboard, on implementation of an Antitrust Policy.
- Assisted our client, an Italy-based manufacturer of cardboard, in the evaluation of possible action against an asset management company for recovery of debt.
- Assisted the clients, the former directors of a company operating in the hand tools sector, in judicial proceedings for liability of directors launched by the receiver of the company against directors and auditors before the Milan Court.
- Assisted an Italian manufacturer of fittings for ropes and chains, electric, telephone and railways lines, in a complex dispute against a German manufacturer of chain systems and components for hoisting, pulling, driving, and conveying applications, for unfair competition. The dispute is now pending before the Court of Appeal of Milan, but an interim decision has been appealed before the Italian Supreme Court.
- Assisted an Italian manufacturing company in relation to a dispute before the Administrative Courts regarding a challenge of a public tender for the supply of industrial components to the Italian railway infrastructure manager.
- Assisted a French manufacturer of cardboard packaging products in judicial proceedings launched before the Rome Court for liability of directors and stockholders of an Italian company which used to be a supplier of our client.
- Assisted a multinational manufacturer of moisturizing, anti-aging, general cosmetic, and skincare products in litigation against its former distributor for infringement of our client's registered trademark, unfair competition, and using a domain name that entirely reproduces our client's trademark without any valid title or consent.
- Assisted a manufacturer of composite insulators in challenging its exclusion from a tender process by the Italian railway infrastructure manager.
- Assisted a provider of vehicle engineering and prototyping solutions for the automotive industry in various ADR and judicial proceedings promoted by a family of a car driver who died in a competition rally in Ireland.

REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION

- Assisted the client, a European leader in shopping centers, in evaluating a possible claim for defamation against an Italian journalist.
- Assisted our client, an Italian engineering company, acting as general contractor, in a long and complex dispute against a construction company, with regard to the construction of a major energy plant based in the South of Italy.
- Assisted a French facility management services provider in handling various litigation proceedings arising from an early termination of a service contract by our client against two subcontractors.
- Assisted an Austrian developer/servicer of industrial plants in a dispute against a leading Italian engineering company acting as general contractor in the construction of an energy plant in Croatia.

- Assisted a construction company in a claim raised regarding a construction contract to renew a prestigious building.
- Assisted a real estate client in launching an action for eviction against a hotelier for breach of contract in order to repossess the asset.
- Assisted a client in the potential sale of a monumental complex in the Municipality of Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy.
- Assisted an Italian engineering company in handling claims against a leading German company which was in late in supplying two industrial pumps to be provided and installed by our client at the end-user company in Singapore.

TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS

- Assisted our client, an international shipping company, in non-adverse commercial corporate law issues, in reviewing and drafting of commercial contracts.
- Assisted an Italian airline in numerous passenger and baggage litigation claims and regulatory and consumer issues before the competent aviation authorities and public agencies in Brazil.
- Assisted an Italian operator of healthcare supply chains in judicial proceedings before various courts against our client and its suppliers, subcontractors, and general business partners.
- Assisted a healthcare logistics company in the drafting of a settlement and separation agreement with a top manager and relevant negotiation.
- Provided corporate, employment, tax, intellectual property and public law advice to a leading Vietnamese airline on the launch of direct flights from Vietnam to Italy (Milan).