

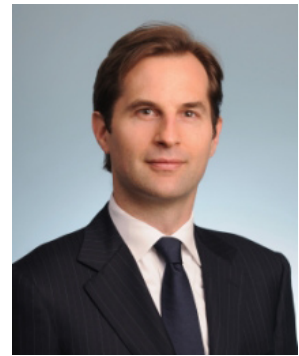
## VERHOOSSEL NAMED CO-CHAIR AT COVINGTON & BURLING

David Elward  
Friday, 11 March 2011

Covington & Burling has named Gaëtan Verhoosel in London as the third co-chair of its international arbitration practice.

Belgian national Verhoosel, 37, tells GAR that he is “excited” about his new leadership position that takes effect this week and considers it a sign that the “closely knit” firm is “strongly committed” to the continued growth of its European arbitration practice. He joined the firm in 2009 from Debevoise & Plimpton to help develop the arbitration practice in London alongside senior of counsel Stephen Bond.

The other two co-chairs Allan B Moore and O Thomas Johnson Jr are both based in Washington, DC. Moore says: “In addition to being a first-class lawyer, Gaëtan has brought great energy and commitment to our practice. I could not be more pleased with his agreement to serve in this important role.”



*Gaëtan Verhoosel*

“Anyone who has faced Gaëtan across a hearing room will know how effective he can be,” says Constantine Partasides, head of the London international arbitration group at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in London. US arbitrator Charles N Brower of 20 Essex Court Chambers in London has also seen Verhoosel in action and describes him as “one of the most promising younger international arbitration advocates”.

DLA Piper partner Michael Ostrove worked with Verhoosel at Debevoise & Plimpton, and says the appointment is “fitting recognition” of his “intelligence, insight and diligence”. The co-head of the international disputes practice at Debevoise, Donald Donovan, adds: “Gaëtan is a first-rate practitioner with a first-rate intellect, and he’s a great colleague as well. My colleagues and I are pleased to see that he has so quickly made his mark at Covington.”

Verhoosel’s practice concentrates on commercial and investment treaty arbitrations, and he spends much of his time working on disputes in the energy sector, with a focus on eastern Europe, Russia, former CIS states and Latin America.

With lawyers from Debevoise & Plimpton, he is counsel to the Anglo-French oil group Perenco and US oil company Occidental in their separate ICSID claims against Ecuador. Senior assistant general counsel at Occidental Petroleum Corporation Laura Abrahamson says, “We think Covington could not have made a better choice. Gaëtan has been a key player in our international arbitration efforts for the last ten years.”

Verhoosel is currently also representing a petrochemicals company in a US\$150 million commercial ad hoc arbitration in eastern Europe, and has sat as sole arbitrator in several ICC arbitrations.

Verhoosel can conduct proceedings in Dutch, English, Spanish and French. He is a member of the Paris and Madrid bars.

During his seven years at Debevoise & Plimpton, he spent time in the New York, Paris and London offices. Before that he was a legal adviser at the World Trade Organization in Geneva for two years.