



## Easy Access to Swiss Arbitration Law

**Swiss arbitration law is concise and easy to read:** International arbitration proceedings with their seat in Switzerland are governed by [Chapter 12 of Switzerland's Private International Law Act \(PILA\)](#), a stand-alone chapter containing only 19 concise articles. Official versions of the PILA are available in [German](#), [French](#) and [Italian](#). A non-official English translation can be found [here](#).

**Swiss arbitration case law is available online:** Decisions of the Swiss Supreme Court – the sole instance with jurisdiction to hear challenges to arbitral awards – are rendered in German, French or Italian, depending on the language in which the challenge is filed. These decisions are available free of charge from the [Supreme Court website](#), which also includes a search function. Given their international importance, the decisions of the Swiss Supreme Court in the field of international arbitration are frequently translated into English. Such translations are available online free of charge at [Swiss International Arbitration Decisions](#) or in hard copy via subscription to the [Swiss International Arbitration Law Reports](#).

While the decisions of arbitral tribunals in commercial disputes are notoriously difficult to come by, a number of arbitral awards or procedural orders are (partly) published in an anonymized form in the [ASA Bulletin](#), a quarterly journal published by the [Swiss Arbitration Association](#). The ASA Bulletin also contains summaries of the major Swiss Supreme Court decisions on challenges to arbitral awards and is also available online on [Kluwer Arbitration](#).

**There are several English-language treatises on arbitration in Switzerland:** A number of publications relating to arbitration in Switzerland have been written and are published in English. These include treatises on arbitration in Switzerland as well as legal commentaries of the PILA and of numerous rules of arbitration as they apply to international arbitration in Switzerland, such as the ICC Rules, Swiss Rules, and Code of Sports-related Arbitration ([CAS Code](#)).

**Swiss arbitration counsel are experienced in international matters:** Switzerland has a highly specialised pool of experienced arbitration counsel from which to draw, trained in Switzerland as well as abroad. In addition, many Swiss lawyers speak fluent English and have worked or studied abroad, very often by earning an LL.M. degree at a US or UK university. Arbitration users from all parts of the world can thus expect to find experienced arbitration specialists in Switzerland who are sufficiently acquainted with their culture and legal system.