

## **MVP: Latham's Charles Claypoole**

By **Emily Sawicki**

*Law360 (November 14, 2025, 4:04 PM EST)* -- Charles Claypoole, an international arbitration partner at Latham & Watkins LLP whose successful representation of German bank UniCredit Bank GmbH set a new precedent for the jurisdiction of English courts over international disputes, has earned a spot as one of the 2025 Law360 International Arbitration MVPs.

### **His biggest challenge from the past year:**

This year's most challenging case was the latest in an ongoing series of arbitrations Claypoole, based in London, has undertaken on behalf of the Ukrainian government, he told Law360.

For years, Claypoole said, he has represented the government of Ukraine in arbitrations initiated by companies associated with Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoyskyi. This latest example is "related to an airline — a Ukrainian airline — that collapsed over a decade ago," he described.

The case, which went before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, was captioned *Gilward Investments v. Ukraine*.

"We had to put together a defense, which was extremely challenging, given the fact that the country is at war," Claypoole said. The war made it difficult to obtain evidence and to contact witnesses, he described, which added to the difficulty of arbitrating a case so many years after the alleged actions occurred.

The case that Latham built — "really, with our hands tied behind our backs" — was so strong that "the claimant abandoned its claim," according to Claypoole.

"I'm particularly proud of the fact that we have an undefeated track record of our representations of the government of Ukraine," he added.

### **His proudest moment from the past year:**

When asked about his proudest moment in the past year, Claypoole said he was most proud of the work



he has done defending the government of Ukraine and those of other countries, including this year the Republic of Croatia.

In January, Claypoole won dismissal of an ICSID investment arbitration brought against the Croatian government by Israeli real estate developer Aaron Frenkel, who had brought claims on behalf of his companies, Elitech BV and Razvoj Golf DOO, against Croatia in 2021.

After those claims were dismissed, Frenkel sought to pursue new arbitration under his own name, but a tribunal determined the claims were barred by res judicata because the issues had already been decided, according to information provided by Latham.

"We do a lot of work for governments, defending governments," Claypoole noted.

"We've also got a similar track record for other state clients we've acted for," he said. "So, for example, we do a lot of work for the government of Croatia, but I'm proud of the fact that in our defense of state clients, we've got a clean track record."

#### **Why he is an international arbitration attorney:**

Claypoole's international arbitration practice is fueled by an interest in working across borders and on issues of international importance.

"What I thrive on is the international nature of arbitration," he said. "I work with colleagues from all around the world. I work for clients from all around the world, on disputes that, at times, touch on issues of global significance."

But what started it all was an opportunity to work in Paris, Claypoole said.

"I trained at a firm that had a leading public international law practice in Paris," he said. "I wanted to go and work in Paris, and I did a lot of cases before the International Court of Justice and other international tribunals with an international team in Paris."

#### **His advice for junior attorneys:**

Young attorneys should focus on following their passions, Claypoole said when asked for advice for the next generation of lawyers.

"I'd advise them to follow what they find exciting and interesting, and don't underestimate the importance of the need to work hard," he said.

*--As told to Emily Sawicki. Editing by Adam LoBelia.*

*Law360's MVPs are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 MVP winners after reviewing nearly 900 submissions.*