

---

Portfolio Media, Inc. | 860 Broadway, 6th Floor | New York, NY 10003 | [www.law360.com](http://www.law360.com)  
Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | [customerservice@law360.com](mailto:customerservice@law360.com)

---

## Q&A With Roig's Francis Sexton

Law360, New York (April 28, 2016, 11:51 AM ET) -- Francis X. (Frank) Sexton Jr. is a partner in the Miami office of Roig Lawyers. He concentrates his practice in complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts. Sexton began his legal career in New York City where he spent over seven years working at a mid-sized Manhattan law firm before transitioning to Florida. He focuses his practice in business disputes, real estate (commercial and residential), business torts, professional liability, premises liability, fraud, intracorporate and partnership disputes, trademark infringement, shipping disputes, banking disputes, money wire disputes, and debtor/creditor problems. He has tried cases in both state and federal courts, jury and nonjury.



Francis X. Sexton

As an arbitrator of more than 20 years, Sexton has served either as a single arbitrator or on panels of arbitrators, in both U.S.-based and international disputes. He also represents clients in arbitrations, domestic and international. Either as an advocate representing clients or as an arbitrator, he has participated in hundreds of arbitrations. Sexton is a circuit and county court mediator.

### **Q: What attracted you to international arbitration work?**

A: It's so interesting! I've always been fascinated by the things international business people get involved in; especially here in Miami, where that is just about everybody in business! I cannot remember an international case that I would call "boring." Plus, it is such an enriching experience to meet people from places that a boy from North White Plains, New York could only dream of.

### **Q: What are two trends you see that are affecting the practice of international arbitration?**

A: One good, one bad. The bad, lawyers are trying their hardest, I think because of pure instinct and maybe some fear, to make arbitration more like federal litigation: too much discovery, too much motion practice, too much time and too much expense, which are trends that threaten to destroy the whole concept of arbitration. Regrettably, many corporations have turned against international arbitration for these reasons, and it has become slower and more expensive. The good, arbitrators are aware of this trend and are doing their darndest to curb these practices to make arbitration what it was meant to be, cheaper than litigation and more expedient.

### **Q: What is the most challenging case you worked on and why?**

A: As an arbitrator, when there was a claim for fraud in connection with the sale of a business, where the claimant neglected to offer any evidence as to a pre-fraud value of the business, despite obvious liability on the part of the respondent. While there was clear

liability, the evidence of damages was very paltry. The award was minimal as a result. As a litigant, I have had a couple of arbitrations representing clients from South America who had difficulty understanding and having patience with, the whole process. To those objections I have responded, at least you're not in court!

**Q: What advice would you give to an attorney considering a career in international arbitration?**

A: Go for it! It is a booming field, but obtain as much business litigation experience as possible because you will need it for the sophisticated issues you will see. Also very importantly: learn a second language, preferably Spanish. The amount of international business being done now in the U.S. is unbelievable. It helps to be able to talk to your clients in their language, whether you are litigating for them or sitting on arbitration panels. It is one of my biggest regrets.

**Q: Outside of your firm, name and attorney was impressed and tell us why.**

A: In the international arbitration community, Eduardo Palmer, of Coral Gables, Florida, who specializes in international arbitration. He has assisted in the writing of Florida's arbitration code and the setting up of an arbitration division in our local court; and he has lobbied in favor of international law issues in the Florida Legislature. I have had the privilege to have served with him on panels and have always found him to be insightful and diligent. Next would be arbitrator Richard DeWitt of Coral Gables, one of the most able and organized arbitrators I have ever seen.

*The opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the firm, its clients, or Portfolio Media Inc., or any of its or their respective affiliates. This article is for general information purposes and is not intended to be and should not be taken as legal advice.*

---

All Content © 2003-2016, Portfolio Media, Inc.