

BERKE CELIKEL

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF BONN, Bonn, Germany

Law and Economics (LL.B.)

2022 – 2024

- Transferred from LMU Munich to pursue interdisciplinary legal studies with an economics focus
- **Thesis (with distinction):** Economic Analysis of the EU Retail Investment Strategy
- **Minor GPA (Economics):** 3.7/4.0
- **Activities:** Law Clinic participant, European Law Students' Association-Bonn e.V.

UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, Cologne, Germany

Economics Coursework

2022

- Selected for its leading economics faculty; completed one-third of the full Economics B.Sc. curriculum in one semester to meet the University of Bonn's minor requirements.
- **Focus areas:** U.S. and Latin American economies, trade, and policy
- **Activities:** Connosco e.V. (*Latin America-focused student group*), PubAffairs Bruxelles

LUDWIG MAXIMILIAN UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH, Munich, Germany

Law (First State Examination)

2019 – 2021

- Completed foundational legal studies and successfully passed the Intermediate Legal Examination (Zwischenprüfung) covering Public, Civil, and Criminal Law
- **Activities:** Refugee Law Clinic, Lawyers Without Borders

GERMAN SCHOOL OF ISTANBUL (DSI), Istanbul, Turkey

Abitur (German University Entrance Qualification)

2013 – 2018

- **Dual diploma:** German Abitur and Turkish High School Diploma (GPA equivalent: 3.7/4.0)
- C2-level German proficiency, DSD (Deutsches Sprachdiplom) – Level II
- **Activities:** Founded school-wide literature and philosophy events; competitive school archer; acted in four theatre productions; four-year MUN participant, Head of Press for two.

EXPERIENCE

METRO ISTANBUL, Istanbul, Turkey (Hybrid)

Legal Intern

Sep. 2024 – Apr. 2025

Metro Istanbul Industry and Trade Inc. (Metro Istanbul Sanayi ve Ticaret A.Ş.) is Turkey's largest urban rail operator, responsible for managing Istanbul's metro and tramway infrastructure.

- Drafted case summaries and analyzed arbitration clauses in commercial contracts to assess enforceability and jurisdictional alignment.
- Drafted legal memoranda across insurance, labor, administrative, enforcement, tort, criminal, and data protection law, with a focus on contract risk assessments, insurance claims, and regulatory compliance.

KURTULUS LAW, Istanbul, Turkey (Hybrid)

Legal Intern

Jun. 2024 – Sep 2024

Kurtulus Law Office is a boutique law firm dedicated to maritime law and international shipping disputes.

- Prepared arbitration submissions, exhibits, and legal documentation for a high-value maritime dispute seated in London.
- Conducted in-depth legal research on demurrage, charterparty liability, and maritime insurance (P&I and H&M), informing strategic case decisions.
- Participated in an on-site legal mission to Tunisia, engaging with port authorities and commercial stakeholders to successfully prevent vessel arrest.
- Supported the implementation of General Average procedures by reviewing guarantees, bond documents, and related financial records.
- Contributed to drafting legal correspondence and case materials based on findings from port inspections and authority reports.

BERKEL VENDING SERVICES, Istanbul, Turkey (Hybrid)

In-House Legal Counsel

Aug. 2023 – Jun. 2024

Berkel Vending Services Trade Inc. (Berkel Otomat Hizmetleri Ticaret A.Ş.) operates and manufactures photobooths across Turkey, exports internationally, and develops innovative products in the vending sector.

- Drafted and negotiated international contracts with EU partners, including an Italian engineering firm, for new product development, and structured both ad hoc and institutional arbitration clauses for cross-border agreements.
- Represented the company at VendItalia Expo 2024, providing legal support for international business development and facilitating new supply chain partnerships.

SAYLAM LAW, Istanbul, Turkey (Hybrid)

Legal Intern

Dec 2022 – Jun 2023

Saylam Law and Mediation Office (Saylam Hukuk ve Arabuluculuk) is a boutique Istanbul-based law firm specializing in international law, corporate and commercial matters, and cross-border transportation.

- Focused on international dispute resolution, assisting in matters involving cross-border litigation, transport law, and related corporate issues.
- Contributed to contract drafting, legal assessments, and corporate governance tasks, including support in insolvency-related procedures.

BILGEÇ LAW, Istanbul, Turkey (Hybrid)

Legal Intern

Apr 2022 – Sep 2022

Bilgeç Law & Consulting (Bilgeç Hukuk & Danışmanlık) is a boutique firm focused on insurance arbitration, debt collection, and enforcement, representing banks in matters involving pledges, mortgages, and securities.

- Assisted with insurance arbitration cases before the Insurance Arbitration Commission, including claims involving AXA Insurance Group and recourse proceedings with the Turkish Treasury's Guarantee Account.
- Supported enforcement and debt collection litigation, and reviewed financial security documentation - including pledges, mortgages, and negotiable instruments - for banks and financial institutions.

KURTULUS LAW, Istanbul, Turkey (Hybrid)

Legal Intern

Aug. 2021 – Feb 2022

Kurtuluş Law Office is a boutique law firm dedicated to maritime law and international shipping disputes.

- Supported the drafting and review of maritime contracts and legal documents, and conducted research on marine insurance, international conventions, and shipping regulations.
- Assisted in preparing case files and dispute resolution materials, and observed client meetings and proceedings involving maritime claims and regulatory matters.

JETTMANN, Munich, Germany

Legal Advisor

Apr. 2020 – Jul. 2021

Jettmann Expat Consulting is a relocation services firm assisting students and professionals from Turkey with university placement, job search, visa support, and housing across Germany and the EU.

- Managed end-to-end support for visa applications, residence permits, and compliance with German immigration procedures.
- Supported the firm's expansion of services to the Netherlands.

N.Y. LAW, Izmir, Turkey (Hybrid)

Legal Intern

Nov. 2019 – Jan. 2020

Nedim Yilmaz Law Office is a general practice law firm based in Izmir, providing legal services across areas such as labor, corporate, family, and inheritance law.

- Completed mandatory legal internship as part of the Zwischenprüfung (Intermediate Legal Examination), gaining experience in foreclosure, labor, corporate, family, and inheritance law.
- Assisted with case preparation, client communication, and procedural filings.

ALAN TURING INSTITUTE, The Hague, Netherlands

Research Assistant

Aug. 2018 – Jan. 2019

- Contributed to the Misinformed-Citizen-Project with Leiden University, researching U.S. political and legal news content for factual accuracy and conducting data labeling and trend analysis using SPSS and MS Excel.
- Completed one semester of Political Science coursework at Leiden University with a 4.0/4.0 GPA.

LANGUAGES

Turkish – Native

German – C2 (YDS: 97.5/100, Abitur diploma)

English – C1/C2 (IELTS: 8.0)

Spanish – Actively progressing toward B1/B2

RESEARCH & WRITING

- **University of Bonn** – *Economic Analysis of the EU Retail Investment Strategy*
- **LMU Munich** – *Economic Analysis of German Collateral Security Law*
- **University of Cologne** – *An Analysis of Key Institutions in the U.S. Banking System*

CERTIFICATES

- **Leiden University** – *International Law in Action: The Arbitration of International Disputes*
- **UNCITRAL** – *International Commercial Arbitration*
- **UNCITRAL** – *Introduction to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law*
- **HCCH** – *International Commercial Arbitration and Judicial Cooperation in Civil Matters*
- **ELSA Frankfurt** – *Dispute Resolution in Sports Law*
- **University of Wrocław** – *Intellectual Property and AI Law*
- **IBM** – *Data Analyst Professional Certificate*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- **DIS40** – Member, Young Arbitration Practitioners of the German Arbitration Institute (DIS)
- **ISTAAC** – Member, Istanbul Arbitration Centre Youth Platform

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & VOLUNTEER WORK

- **Student Delegate**, Selected through an inter-school competition to represent Turkey as a fully funded student delegate at the **8th WTO Ministerial Conference (2011)**, with a focus on global trade policy and the Hunger in Africa agenda.
- **Founder & Author**, berkecelikel.com/blog/ (2024–present) – Write and publish commentary on developments in international arbitration and commercial law for a professional and academic audience.
- **Professional Archer**, (2009–present) Achieved multiple first-place finishes and set records in national and international competitions.
- **Certified CMAS Diver**, Trained in underwater diving, rescue, and safety techniques.
- **Volunteer**, Turkish Red Crescent (2017–present) – Assisted in humanitarian efforts and community support initiatives.
- **Volunteer**, Dreams Academy Istanbul (2013–2018) – Supported children with disabilities through arts-based and recreational programs.