

Susan Ahern

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Qualifications: LL.B, LL.M, BL, FCIArb, CEDR Mediator
Nationality: Irish

INDEPENDENT BARRISTER & ARBITRATOR

THE BAR OF IRELAND

Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator

Profile: <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/members/susan-ahern-bl/>

I have a regulatory, civil and commercial practice at the Bar of Ireland, which sits alongside my international arbitration practice as an independent arbitrator (primarily in the areas of sport, contractual & commercial disputes, broadcasting and intellectual property) and mediator. I previously had a 20-year career in financial services and international sport and was General Counsel of an International Sports Federation operating under English law. I have been called to the Bar of Northern Ireland.

33 BEDFORD ROW – LONDON CHAMBERS

Arbitrator / Mediator

Door Tenant

Profile: <https://www.33bedfordrow.co.uk/people/ahern-susan#content/introduction>

ARBITRATION – PANEL MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 - **The Law Society of Ireland Arbitration Panel**
- 2022 - **European Commission DG TRADE** – Arbitrator Member of the Disputes Settlement Panel under trade agreements between the EU and third countries.
- Arbitration Ireland** – Secretary. Executive Committee Member since 2017
Entity which promotes International Arbitration in Ireland and by Irish practitioners internationally. Profile: <https://arbitrationireland.com/executive-committee/>
- 2020 - **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**
Appointed by the Government of Ireland to the Conciliator Panel. Term to January 2026.
- ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC)**
Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in a number of international commercial disputes
- Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI)**
Re-appointed to the arbitration Panel. I have had numerous Sole Arbitrator and Mediator appointments from this Irish national sports dispute resolution body
- 2018 - **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**
Arbitrator appointment in January 2018. I have had over 35 appointments as co-arbitrator sole arbitrator and Panel President. I am a Member of the Anti-Doping Panel and the Panel of Presidents. Ad hoc panel appointments include:
2023: Ad Hoc Anti-Doping Panel for the European Olympic Games
2021: Ad Hoc Anti-Doping Panel for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
- 2017 **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ireland)** – *ad hoc* appointments to domestic arbitration disputes as nominated by the CIARB Ireland President
- 2020 - 2021 **Eligibility Determination Panel Member** – Appointed by Sports Resolutions UK to assess the eligibility of election candidates of an International Sports Federation
- 2019 **International Tennis Federation - Davis Cup Finals, Madrid**
Appointed by Sports Resolutions UK to the ITF Ad Hoc Independent Tribunal

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- 2017 - 2023 **Sports Resolutions UK - International Panel of Arbitrators**
Panel President & Arbitrator in commercial and sports disciplinary matters
- 2008 – 2012 **Chair of the Olympic Federation of Ireland Judicial Committee**
For all Irish eligibility cases for the Beijing 2008 & London 2012 Olympic Games

TRIBUNAL & REGULATORY BODIES – MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

- 2023 - **British Horseracing Authority – Judicial Panel Member (Appeal Board Chair Pool)**
Institute & Faculty of Actuaries – Disciplinary Panel Member
World Athletics Selection Panel – Screening body of the WA Vetting Panel
EU Expert (Sport) - EU Commission appointment (EX2017D310797)
Erasmus+ Sport Programme 2023; 2022; 2021 and 2020
- 2022 - **Insurance Ireland Membership Appeal Panel** – Member
Approved Housing Regulatory Authority Appeals Panel – Member
Appointed by the Irish Minister for Housing
- 2021 - **Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board Appeals Body** – Independent Deputy Chairman
- 2020 - **Bookmakers Appeal Committee (Horse Racing Ireland)** - Member
Re-appointed to this statutory body by the Irish Minister for Agriculture to 2026
National Childcare Scheme (POBAL) - Independent Appeals Officer
Appointed by the Irish Minister for Children & Youth Affairs. I sit regularly in this capacity
World Wheelchair Rugby - Independent Judicial Chair
Appointed first independent judicial chair. I made the inaugural panel appointments to the new Independent Appeal Panel for the Paralympic Games, Tokyo 2020
- 2019 - **Health & Social Care Professionals Council Professional Conduct Committee** -
Independent Tribunal Chair. Decisions require confirmation of the High Court of Ireland
Residential Tenancies Board (Ireland) - Decision Maker
Decisions require confirmation of the Circuit Court of Ireland
- 2018 - **Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) Professional Practice Committee**
Independent Tribunal Member – adjudicating on professional conduct matters. Decisions require confirmation of the High Court of Ireland

CURRENT INDEPENDENT DIRECTORSHIPS

- 2022 **Irish Cycling Federation CLG T/A Cycling Ireland** – (National Sports Federation)
 - Chair of the Audit Finance & Risk Committee
- 2021 **Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ)** – (National Broadcaster of Ireland)
 - Appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht & Sport
 - Chair of the Audience Council
 - Member of the Audit & Risk Committee
- 2020 **2023 Cycling World Championships Limited (Scotland)** – (Host Organisation)
 - Senior Independent Director (2022)
 - Vice Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee (former Interim Chair 2021)

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GOVERNANCE & FORMER NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIPS

2019 – 2023	Ballymun Youth Action Project CLG – Independent Director
2019 – 2022	Chair of the Sports Law Bar Association of Ireland (SLBA)
2019 - 2022	The Irish Cricket Union CLG (Cricket Ireland) – Independent Director
2018 – 2019	World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) International Standard for Testing and Investigations 2020 (ISDI) - Lead Drafter of this global standard
2014 – 2019	Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland – Board Member & Director
2017 – 2019	Volleyball Ireland Governance Review Group - Chair
2016 – 2019	World Athletics Legal Commission – Member
2009 – 2014	Sport Ireland – Council Member - Appointed by the Minister for Arts, Culture & Sport
2004 – 2014	Olympic Federation of Ireland - Executive Committee Member & Director
1999 – 2004	Volleyball Ireland – President & Director

CAREER HISTORY

2016	THE BAR OF IRELAND	Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator
	Past Chair of the Sports Law Bar Association. Member of the Bar of Ireland Arbitration & ADR Committee. Past member of the Professional Practices Committee & Member of the Drafting Sub-Group of the Bar of Ireland Code of Conduct (2021)	
2020	33 BEDFORD ROW – London Chambers	Arbitrator / Mediator
2009 – 2016	WORLD RUGBY RUGBY WORLD CUP LIMITED	Head of Legal & Legislative Affairs General Counsel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for the management of the global legal risk of World Rugby• Primary legal advisor to the CEO, Council, Executive Committee and Executive team• Advisor on all matters of litigation and managing international external counsel• Primary legal advisor in corporate and commercial matters, strategy, brand and reputation management, intellectual property and regulation• Responsible for directing the framework, regulatory content and drafting of all regulations• Enforcement of the Regulations & Code of Conduct before Independent Judicial Tribunals• Oversaw successful delivery of the legal & regulatory aspects of Rugby World Cup 2011 & 2015• Established the World Rugby Integrity Unit	
2001 – 2009	WORLD RUGBY	Senior Legal Counsel
2000 – 2001	NATIONAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	Legal Counsel
1998 – 2000	ARTESIA IRELAND LIMITED (BACOB BANK)	Legal Counsel
1996 – 1998	BANK OF IRELAND CORPORATE BANKING	Account Officer

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Law Library of Ireland; Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR); Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb); Arbitration Ireland; Arbitral Women

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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications: LL.B, LL.M, BL, FCI Arb, CEDR Mediator

2021-2024	MA Ethics: Corporate Responsibility (Candidate) – Dublin City University
2023	The Honorable Society of the Inn of Court of Norther Ireland – Barrister-at-Law
2020	Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Accredited Mediator
2019	The Honorable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin - Advanced Diploma in Medical Law
2017	Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Fellow (FCI Arb)
1996-1998	The Honorable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin - Barrister-at-Law (BL)
1995-1996	Queen’s University Belfast - Master of Laws: Computers & Law (LL.M)
1990-1994	University of Dublin, Trinity College - Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lecturing:	Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - Member of the Approved Faculty List (Ireland) Law Society of Ireland – External Examiner & lecturer - Diploma in Sports Law University College Dublin Law School - Visiting Lecturer Sports Law BCL Degree
Publications:	The Bar Review – Editorial Board Member (2018 - 2022) The MENA Business Law Review – Q2 2021 - ‘Getting the Most Out of Expedited Sports Arbitration’ Business Post – Legal Comment (23 Oct 2020): ‘Gender Diversity in Arbitration leads to better decisions and better business’. https://www.businesspost.ie/legal/comment-gender-diversity-in-arbitration-leads-to-better-decisions-and-better-business-1dc80e71 The MENA Business Law Review – Q2 2020 - “The Unforgiveable ADR Error” Lexis® Middle East Law - “Sports Arbitration in the Gulf” Sports Law Administration & Practice October 2017 Vol.24 No.5 “Trade Mark Protection – A New Approach?”
Speaking:	I present frequently at international conferences and seminars on the subjects of arbitration, mediation, sports law & integrity, disciplinary processes, including:
2023	‘ESG Issues in Arbitration’ - Dublin International Arbitration Day 2023 – Moderator Society of Construction Law – Dublin Conference 9 November – Moderator of Keynote Address by Jeremy Gauntlett SC KC ‘Fifty Faces Podcast Series’ – Interviewed by Aoifinn Devitt https://www.fiftyfaceshub.com/susan-ahern-arbitrator-the-sporting-life-the-changing-world-of-sports-law/ ‘From Front Square to the Olympics’ – Inspiring Ideas @ Trinity Webinar Series, May 2023 – Interviewer of Trinity Olympians https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KymYnXuK3D8 ‘Advocacy Doesn’t Travel? Lessons learned appearing before courts & tribunals away from home’ – Society of Construction Law Webinar 15 February – Moderator
Sport:	Represented Ireland in Volleyball at Senior and Junior level from 1989 to 2000
Awards:	Trinity Alumni Award 2022