

ArbitralWomen Newsletter



Uniting and promoting women in dispute resolution

www.arbitralwomen.org

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Inside Issue N° 55

President's Column 02

Women Leaders in Arbitration: Mariel Dimsey 04

"How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall?" The Unsung Benefits of Mock Arbitrations 08

Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners (YAWP): Meet the Arbitral Institution Series 11

ArbitralWomen's Contribution Towards Vis Moot International 13

ArbitralWomen celebrates 30 years of uniting and promoting women practitioners in ADR!

Members and supporters join us in London to mark our thirtieth year, as we launch new initiatives.

President's Column

In this late summer edition, we include a short preview of ArbitralWomen's 30th anniversary celebration on the rooftop of the fabulous International Arbitration Centre in London during London International Disputes Week on 12 May, in anticipation of extended coverage of all this year's celebrations in an upcoming special 30th anniversary issue of our Newsletter. It was a privilege and an honour to deliver the opening remarks at what was a fantastic evening of networking, celebration and planning for the future of the organization! Special thanks go to Julian Hawes and his team for the generous use of their facilities.

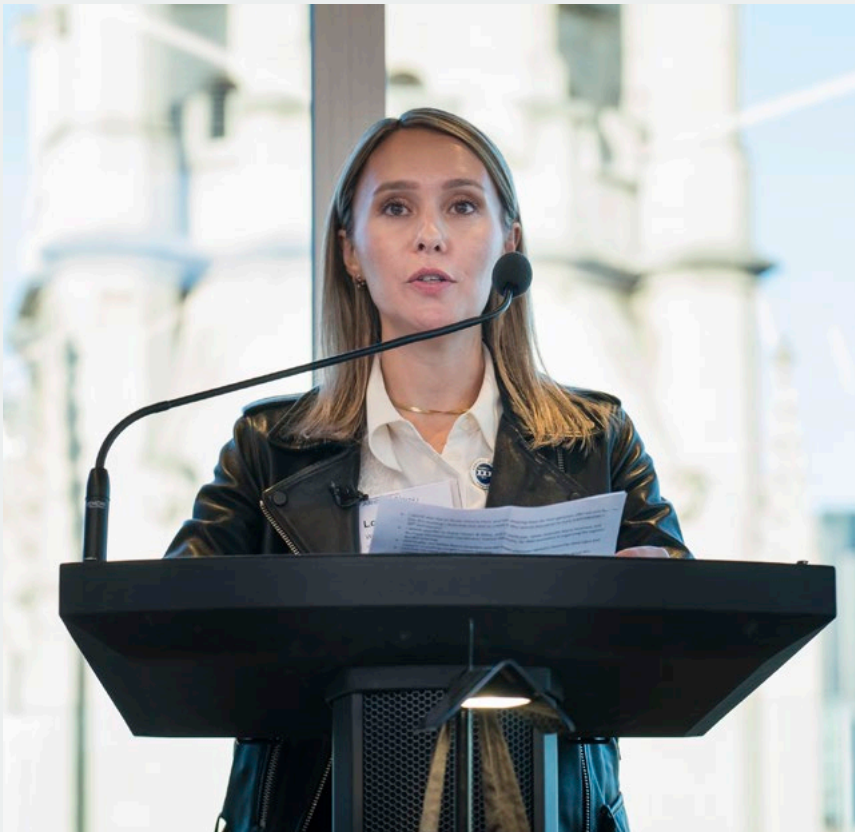
We also feature an insightful interview with Mariel Dimsey, Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and explore the advantages of mock arbitrations with former ArbitralWomen President, Dana MacGrath. We also take a closer look at YAWP's 'Meet the Arbitral Institution' series, an initiative launched last year with great success.



Also included in this edition is an article by ArbitralWomen's Educational Funding Committee describing ArbitralWomen's longtime support of the international commercial arbitration moots, Vienna's Willem C. Vis Moot and Hong Kong's Vis East Moot, on the occasion of their 30th and 20th anniversaries, respectively, and the committee's latest award initiative to provide funding for arbitration and ADR-related courses.

We hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter! With my thanks to our wonderful Newsletter Committee – Maria Beatriz Burghetto, Gisèle Stephens-Chu, Katherine Bell and Mary Thomson, and volunteer ArbitralWomen member Marie Devereux for their hard work in putting this edition together. Bonne rentrée!

*Louise Woods, Vinson & Elkins
ArbitralWomen President*



Opening remarks by ArbitralWomen's President, Louise Woods





“(...) building ArbitralWomen has not been a quiet journey, but it has been an exciting one, and perseverance has paid off... we have been through three phases: During the first phase the project was considered ridiculous (...) During the second phase, ArbitralWomen was viewed as dangerous (...) by men and women! We wonder sometimes whether discrimination is an unconscious bias, a conscious bias, or a combination of both, the latter is probably true. Over the years, as ArbitralWomen entered the third phase, our initiative became better known (...) Today, both men and women recognise that the need for ArbitralWomen was obvious”.

— Louise Barrington and
Mirèze Philippe

Left to right: ArbitralWomen’s co-founders Louise Barrington and Mirèze Philippe



Attendees to ArbitralWomen’s 30th-anniversary celebration

Women Leaders in Arbitration

Mariel Dimsey

ArbitralWomen member Marie Devereux recently had the opportunity to interview Dr **Mariel Dimsey**, who assumed the role of Secretary-General of the **Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)** [↗](#) in August 2022.

Dr Mariel Dimsey is the epitome of an international lawyer, with a legal career spanning three continents, extensive experience handling common law and civil law disputes and the ability to operate fluently in both English and German. With over 15 years of experience in

international arbitration, Mariel began her career practising law in Frankfurt and Cologne in Germany, with a stint as counsel in the Secretariat of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris, before moving to Hong Kong in 2016. Most recently, before joining the HKIAC, Mariel was Partner at CMS and Co-Head of the global CMS International Arbitration Group, and held numerous leadership positions in Hong Kong's legal community as past co-chair of the **HK45 Committee** [↗](#) and a member of the **Women in Law Hong Kong** [↗](#) Advisory Board.

Mariel, you were an international arbitration lawyer in Germany before moving to Hong Kong. Did you discover any unexpected challenges or insights practising international arbitration in Hong Kong compared to Germany?

Yes, I did, in several ways. When I first arrived in Hong Kong, I underestimated the cultural importance of saving face in Asia. I directly addressed a colleague who had not done something by a deadline, and put my foot in it! In terms of arbitration practice, I found the market in Hong Kong to be much more dynamic and international than what I was expecting and what I had experienced in Europe. Hiring barristers to do advocacy was also new for me: in Europe I did all of my own advocacy.

You have had an incredibly successful career in private practice, becoming co-head of the International Arbitration group in an international law firm. What made you decide to take on the role of Secretary-General at the HKIAC, and how have you found the transition?

I decided to take on the role because I thought it would be a unique opportunity. I was very happy in private practice but law firm skills are often confined to 'legal skills' and I thought the role of Secretary-General would be more like running a business (which it is).

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I still operate within a legal context with my fill of procedural issues throughout the week but it's a very different environment. After so many years in private practice, it's been refreshing to view the market through a different perspective. There is a lot of opportunity in Hong Kong, particularly for parties seeking to engage in arbitration with Chinese parties, and that was something I was keen to be a part of.

The transition has been a shock, in the best possible way. In private practice I was set on my ways in how things needed to be done which sometimes involved knuckling down for days to finish a memorial or prepare for a cross-examination. The exciting part of this job is that you never really know what a day is going to look like. I will come into the office some mornings thinking I am going to do X, Y, and Z and then A, B, and C will crop up unexpectedly and I will have to deal with that instead. Also if I'm in the office I have to be prepared that someone may want to drop by and see me. So it is never boring!

It has been nearly a year since you were announced as the incoming Secretary-General for the HKIAC. What have been the highlights so far?





Mariel at her inaugural speech at HKIAC

There are small highlights every day. Recently I participated in a panel where some audience questions were quite critical of Hong Kong, and I managed to answer the questions in such a way that they went away feeling like I had taught them something about Hong Kong or changed their view on Hong Kong. That's always a good experience. Another highlight recently was getting the ICCA website up and running (*Editor's note: in preparation for Hong Kong hosting the ICCA Congress in 2024*). When I came into this role, Hong Kong still had hotel quarantine for incoming arrivals and strict Covid measures. It was difficult to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but it's well and truly here now.

Can you share with us your vision for the HKIAC and some of the specific goals you have in mind for the next few years?

Of course. ICCA is one of our most immediate goals, it's only a year away and it's the largest arbitration conference in the world. When we bid for it back in 2018, it was a very different time for the market. But the timing now is perfect.

I am a firm believer in healthy competition as this means you have to be on your game.

You have to react to change: you can't be resting on your laurels.

It will be a wonderful show of the arbitration market, in Hong Kong, China and for the whole region. Next on the agenda is the HKIAC Rules revision. We are hoping to issue our next edition of the Administered Arbitration Rules next year in 2024. The process is being led by the Rules Revision Committee, which is a very experienced group of individuals who have first-hand experience with respect to how particular parts of our rules have been addressed and interpreted and what, if anything, needs to be 'tweaked'. Other points to look at include arbitrator remuneration and considering how to enhance diversity and ESG in international arbitration. Of course, the proposed revisions will be put out to public consultation in due course before being finalised.

The 2021 Queen Mary University of London/White & Case International Arbitration Survey [revealed](#) that the HKIAC was the third-most preferred arbitral institution in the world. SIAC was number two and CIETAC entered the top five for the first time. Does the rising popularity of other Asian arbitral institutions (e.g. SIAC and CIETAC) reflect the increasing size of the arbitration pie in Asia, or does it signal more competition (or both)?

Both. I am a firm believer in healthy competition as this means you have to be on your game. You have to react to change: you can't be resting on your laurels. Having said that, there is so much that goes into the choice of an arbitral institution from a contractual negotiation standpoint



Mariel giving closing remarks for Hong Kong Arbitration Week 2022

and it's incredibly important for users to have choice in a region as diverse as Asia. You have common law seats like Hong Kong and Singapore, and civil law seats such as Korea, and numerous mainland China institutions in particular. The pie will get bigger overall which is a great opportunity for all the institutions in Asia.

Is mentorship important to you and if so, to what extent has mentorship played a role in your career, and in your success?

In my opinion, mentorship is an incredibly important part of any person's career. One of the things that I've learned as I've become more senior is that this sort of relationship is always a two-way street. As a young lawyer, you always need the guidance of others and even as you get more senior, that process doesn't stop. These days, I mentor more people than the other way around, but I still seek out conversations in which I am definitely the mentee! Actually, mentorship is rarely about seniority. It's about finding people who have a different perspective

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who can provide you with a sound check and an honest opinion. To me, the most important part of mentorship is finding someone whose opinion you respect and value and forming a relationship with them.

There are mentorship programmes (*Editor's note: like those of [Women in Law Hong Kong](#), [HKIAC Women in Arbitration \(WIA\)](#) and [ArbitralWomen](#)*) which may be helpful to find a mentor you connect with, but even if you aren't enrolled in a programme, you can still seek out people who can assist you and guide you.

Wise words indeed. On that note, could you please share a significant or particularly satisfying highlight in your career so far?

I can think of a few but three in particular come to mind. The first one happened very early on in my career. I started at Lovells (as it was back then) in 2007. Six weeks later I

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was on a plane to Thailand about to inspect a toll road, in a huge investment arbitration. I was so out of my depth, but it was thrilling! The second one was when I received my first arbitrator appointment in 2008. At the time, I think I was the youngest appointee by the ICC, and while I was pleased with myself, I was again, absolutely terrified. The third was taking on this role. I was delighted with the fact I had gotten the role but the leap into the unknown came with a healthy dose of fear and respect!

Each of these highlights came accompanied by a flash of terror as I have realised the responsibilities that come with each step, but it has been a terrific journey so far.

Is there any issue in international arbitration that you feel does not get discussed enough but which deserves more attention?

This is a very good question. One aspect of arbitration which does not get discussed enough is the quality of work needed to produce an award. A lot of discussions on awards tend only to focus on due process or efficiency. It is not just that. The award needs to be clear, and it needs to be well-reasoned. The parties expect this and the parties need to get what they paid for or bargained for.

This also goes to a wider point on career progression and becoming an arbitrator. Many people want to become arbitrators, but it's important for practitioners on the junior end to understand that it is a lot of hard work, and to have a realistic view of what is required of them. As arbitrator, you need a certain amount of experience to make judgment calls, to deal with party antics, to work out what is going on in a case and why parties might be behaving the way they are. If a party realises

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you are not experienced, they may take advantage by playing silly games. It's important to be ready for your first appointment because you will not have a second chance at making a good first impression. You therefore need to make sure you are ready before taking on the role of arbitrator.

Speaking of arbitrators, I understand the HKIAC has been active in supporting diversity initiatives in arbitration. Have there been any developments in the Hong Kong market over the past few years, and do you see the market moving in any direction?

In a place as diverse as Hong Kong, one of my main focuses since coming into the role has been to increase diversity in the arbitral appointment process through expanding the pool of people able to be appointed as arbitrator. This of course applies to gender diversity, but also to many other aspects of diversity. I see as one of the primary goals of an institution like HKIAC to be offering a good, diverse pool of competent arbitrators available for appointment. In my opinion, this is not only part of our role as an institution, but also meets the expectations of our users. I am extremely pleased that our statistics of female arbitrator appointees have increased significantly since last year. At the end of 2022, we had appointed 27% female arbitrators during that year. Our statistics now stand at 40% female appointees for 2023 to date. It has been hard work getting to that percentage, and it will be even harder work to maintain it for the remainder of the year, but I am so proud of the efforts of the team in moving the dial in this regard.

And now for a more fun question. What is a book you have read recently that you would recommend to others?

One book I enjoyed recently was 'The Dream of Europe: Travels in the Twenty-First Century' by Geert Mak, a Dutch journalist. The book was written before the pandemic and the current geopolitical tensions but touches on issues such as tensions on the Russian-Finnish border and aspects of health policy in Europe which people might find all the more interesting and insightful with the benefit of hindsight from major world events. I found it particularly interesting because while some issues in recent years appear to have come out of nowhere, the book made me realise that issues, actually, rarely come out of nowhere and are probably the result of things which have been brewing for a long time.

Another book I am still reading (and my husband will laugh as I have been trying to finish this book for five years) is 'My Name is Red' by Orhan Pamuk. It's a Turkish novel which has been translated into English and has a wonderful style of writing. This is my escapist holiday book, which probably explains why I haven't finished it yet!

“How Do You Get to Carnegie Hall?” The Unsung Benefits of Mock Arbitrations

by **Dana MacGrath** - FCI Arb, former ArbitralWomen President,
Independent arbitrator, New York City, NY, USA

Mock arbitrations are an excellent way for clients and counsel to refine their hearing presentation and prepare witnesses to testify so the key arguments, evidence and themes resonate with the tribunal. Having served as both mock arbitrator and counsel in mock arbitrations, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that mock arbitrations can have on a party's arbitration and/or settlement strategy. I have also observed that the counsel teams involved in mock arbitrations are increasingly diverse, with women playing a more substantial role in recent years, which is consistent with the increased representation of women generally as arbitrators and lead counsel.

Little has been written about mock arbitrations,

in large part because confidentiality is a key feature of mocks. In my view, ways to maximize the usefulness of mock arbitrations are worthy of more discussion, while, of course, not revealing confidential information. It should be noted at the onset that when contemplating whether and how to plan a mock arbitration, it is important to first ensure that any of the potential mock components envisioned by counsel for a given case are permissible under applicable law. For example, in some jurisdictions there are limitations on the manner or extent of witness preparation. Mock arbitrations should be planned and conducted in a way that will not contravene such restrictions.

Some of key benefits of mock arbitrations, or partial mock arbitrations, include:

Preparing effective opening statements

A mock arbitration is an opportunity for counsel to refine the key themes of their case, test the efficacy of the demonstratives and PowerPoint slides used in the opening, and – where two or more advocates will participate in the opening – ensure continuity and reduce duplication among the portions covered by each advocate. The opening statement at the merits hearing will be more concise and persuasive when counsel has had the opportunity to do a “dry run” before a mock tribunal and receive feedback from experienced arbitrators serving that role in the mock.

Preparing key witnesses for examination

A mock practice cross-examination and redirect can be very helpful to witnesses, especially those who have never testified before and to an unfamiliar audience (the mock tribunal), with the possibility of immediate feedback. Depending on the person, testifying can be far more stressful for witnesses than some counsel may appreciate; after a practice examination, one can do a second dry run incorporating the feedback of the mock tribunal. This can make a witness more comfortable testifying and best positioned to effectively present evidence. It is also a good opportunity for witnesses to practice being examined on certain key exhibits. It is common for arbitrators, as well as opposing counsel, to ask witnesses about key documents, so preparation for this is time well spent. Of course, as mentioned above, counsel’s approach to preparing witnesses must be in accordance with applicable law; mocks are not “one size fits all” in arbitration or litigation.

Preparing expert witnesses for examination

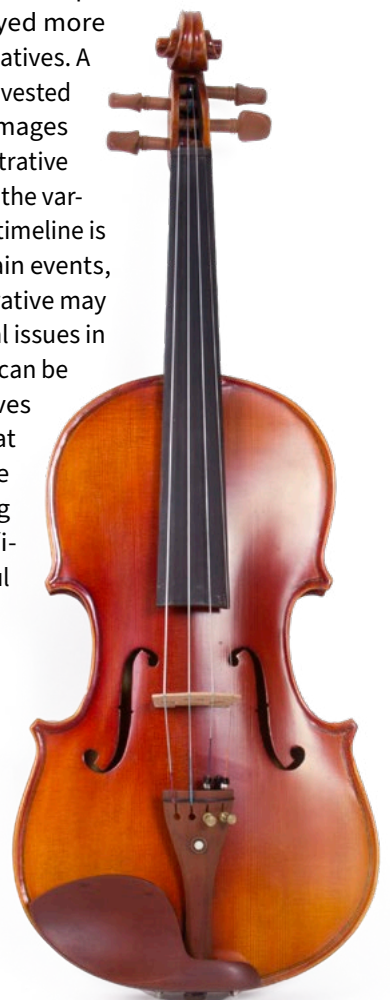
Unlike most fact witnesses in international arbitration, experts are often permitted or affirmatively asked by the arbitral tribunal to deliver a short “direct” presentation summarizing their analysis and findings that are often memorialized in lengthy expert reports with numerous exhibits. A dry run of an expert’s presentation, followed by feedback from the mock tribunal and follow-up discussion, can improve the expert’s direct testimony and refine the demonstratives and exhibits used for the expert’s presentation. Also, a dry run of an aggressive cross-examination can help prepare the expert to best handle the most difficult areas of their testimony. Finally, a practice redirect on areas likely to come up on cross-examination and to be fair game for questions on redirect is useful, particularly on the more difficult aspects of the expert analysis. Again, as mentioned above, counsel’s approach to preparing expert witnesses must be in accordance with applicable law.

Refining demonstratives to be most effective at the evidentiary hearing

Most high-stakes arbitrations involve complicated facts and issues that are conveyed more efficiently and persuasively by demonstratives. A substantial amount of time and effort is invested in preparing graphics and tables and images that convey key facts of a case. A demonstrative may illustrate visually the relationship of the various entities in the project. Sometimes a timeline is useful to highlight the sequence of certain events, or the time between events. A demonstrative may provide a high-level visual of the financial issues in the case. Site photos and other evidence can be used to create composite demonstratives that demonstrate more completely what could be discerned from review of the many individual photos or underlying source evidence alone. Testing the efficacy of hearing demonstratives is a useful aspect of mock arbitrations.

Allowing in-house counsel to partner more collaboratively with external counsel

Often the helpful involvement and added value of in-house counsel is overlooked when a case goes to the merits hearing. The relationship between in-house counsel and external



It is important to have each section of the “arbitration orchestra” fully prepared for the evidentiary hearing.

law firm counsel can be strained, given some of the roles in-house counsel may perform. For example, in-house counsel often act as intermediaries between the company witnesses and external counsel, which can be awkward depending on the circumstances, juggle multiple cases and therefore ask to receive draft submissions earlier than outside counsel would prefer to provide them, and deliver the collective comments of the client team on draft submissions, not all of which may be well-received by external counsel. If there are two firms partnering to represent the client, in-house counsel may be involved in managing the co-counsel relationship. These are just a few of the circumstances that can cause tension between in-house counsel and the outside lawyers who will be presenting the case at the merits hearing.

However, mock arbitrations can facilitate a better unified team relationship between in-house counsel and the lawyers trying the case at a critical time just before the merits hearing. Mock arbitrations are most useful for high-stakes disputes once the evidence is fully developed. In-house counsel can pose questions to the mock arbitrators and open conversation on points that are important to the broader business of the client, as to which external counsel may be less familiar. In-house lawyers can observe the mock examinations and provide input. Together in-house counsel and external can process the “fresh eyes” impressions and feedback from the mock tribunal; together they can decide how to refine the case presentation in light of the feedback and follow up discussions. This ultimately can yield a more unified team approach to the evidentiary hearing and help foster a positive team spirit among counsel, client and witnesses. It also may foster the chances of a settlement or refine what would be appropriate settlement terms, depending on the mock arbitral tribunal’s feedback and follow-up discussions. Ultimately,

a mock arbitration can enable the entire team to develop a cohesive strategy for presenting the key themes, addressing the issues as to which of the facts or law are not great for the client’s position, and tackling how to convey the most complicated aspects to make them comprehensible to the arbitral tribunal. Mocks may also make it easier for in-house counsel to report internally to management on the strengths and weaknesses of a case when contemplating settlement possibilities.

In short, a successful arbitration evidentiary hearing is a complicated symphony performance that often calls for precise coordination of the counsel team, client representatives, fact witnesses, documentary evidence, experts, demonstratives, and more. Having served as a mock arbitrator, it is rewarding to be able to provide feedback that assists the team in perfecting their symphony performance, helps witnesses feel more at ease in testifying, and ideally fosters a closer relationship between the client and external counsel.

As a long-time faculty coach of student moot teams, I have learned how important it is to try to convey feedback in a constructive way that builds team unity and performance. Like a moot team, the entire arbitration team’s success may be compromised by one or more underperforming participants. It is important to have each section of the “arbitration orchestra” fully prepared for the evidentiary hearing. Mock arbitrations are opportunities to improve and refine the performance of all who have a role in the hearing. Mocks also may facilitate strategic choices as to what arguments and evidence to feature at the hearing as distinguished from arguments and evidence that may be better presented or explained more granularly in written submissions after the hearing. Mock arbitrations focus on making the most of oral advocacy, testimony, and documentary evidence at the hearing so that the orchestra performs optimally.

This article was first published on Kluwer Arbitration Blog on 1st June 2023.



photo: Manuel Nägele | Unsplash

Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners (YAWP): Meet the Arbitral Institution Series, March to June 2023, Online



Top to bottom, left to right: Lara Rodriguez Mulet, Elizabeth Chan and others

In spring 2023, Young ArbitralWomen Practitioners (YAWP) launched the innovative Meet the Arbitral Institution Series, an initiative to benefit its young female members who want to further their careers as arbitrators in international arbitration.

The series was a great success, featuring 35 virtual sessions between March and June 2023 with representatives of 35 international arbitration institutions and 120 ArbitralWomen registrants and other attendees participating.

The majority of arbitral institutions are committed to increasing gender diversity and actively look for female arbitrators when they are called or required to make appointments. These efforts are reflected in recent statistics. According to a [2022 report by the International Council for Commercial Arbitration \(the “2022 ICCA Report”\)](#), women comprised 26.1% of arbitrators appointed in 2021 (a marked improvement over prior years, with 12.6% in 2015). Women comprised a higher proportion of arbitrators appointed directly by the institutions (37.9% in 2021), with women appointed by co-arbitrators and by parties comprising, respectively, 27.1% and 17.9% of appointments made by each group.

The Meet the Arbitral Institution Series was developed and spearheaded

by **Dilber Devitre** (YAWP Steering Committee member, Associate, Homberger, Zurich) and **Olga Sendetska** (YAWP Steering Committee member, Associate, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Frankfurt).

The idea for the series came to Dilber DeVitre following a conversation with a representative of an arbitral institution, during which the representative highlighted their desire to appoint aspiring / new arbitrators, particularly in harder-to-fill arbitrator seats such as those on lower value disputes. As Dilber DeVitre recounts, ArbitralWomen has ‘such a fantastic young female membership base, who I know from first-hand experience would be interested in sitting as arbitrators, so I thought, “let’s start a program to put the two together”’.

Olga Sendetska explains that they wanted to create ‘a safe space’ and give participants ‘a “no regrets” opportunity to ask the institutions any questions’, noting that ‘many women may be hesitant to send their profile to institutions through unsolicited emails, but if a representative of an institution tells them directly that that’s what they should do, they will start believing the stories about how becoming an arbitrator could work’.

Participating institutions were also interested to meet up-and-coming arbitrators. **Raffaella Isepponi**

(Legal Counsel, SCC Arbitration Institution, Stockholm) shared that the SCC Arbitration Institution (‘SCC’) was involved because the SCC ‘supports all efforts that strive to achieve equal representation in arbitration’ and that its goal for its session ‘was to break down barriers, make sure that the participants could ask questions they otherwise might not dare to ask and ultimately get to know potential arbitrators’.

During the Meet the Arbitral Institution Series, representatives of different arbitral institutions worldwide shared:

- their process to be considered for an appointment with the concerned institution;
- what skills and qualifications the institution is looking for in an arbitrator; and
- how to make one’s profile stand out with the concerned institution.

Elizabeth Chan (ArbitralWomen Board member; YAWP Director; Registered Foreign Lawyer, Tanner De Witt, Hong Kong) moderated and attended several sessions. She recalls: ‘One thing that stood out is that while each institution has its own way of doing things, they generally pick arbitrators based on how well-suited they are for



Top to bottom, left to right: Kevin Nash, Elizabeth Chan and others

the case at hand. Most are open to working with first-time arbitrators, but they did mention that finding the right fit for newcomers can be tricky’.

Raffaella Isepponi elaborated that arbitrator appointments are dependent on the specifics of a case, and that the SCC seeks to appoint arbitrators with not just the relevant industry expertise, but also the required jurisdictional qualification(s) and language skills. She further offered the following advice to aspiring arbitrators: ‘increase your visibility’ and find opportunities for the institution to get to know you, such as by (if available) getting on the institution’s [arbitrator registry](#) and attending the institution’s events and/or trainings.

Indeed, the 2022 ICCA Report noted: ‘[l]imited access to information about qualified women candidates’ as a barrier to the selection of women arbitrators.

Other ways to raise one’s profile with an institution include:

- keeping public profiles up to date (e.g., law firm websites, [ArbitralWomen’s member directory](#));
- reaching out to the Secretariat of an institution to let them know you are interested in appointments (e.g., emailing the Secretariat directly);
- looking for opportunities to get to know individuals on the institution’s appointing board;
- having a strong track record working as counsel in the concerned institution’s arbitrations; and
- thought leadership (e.g., publications, public speaking).

Angelina M. Petti (Partner, von Segesser Law Offices AG, Zurich) attended several sessions and noted, ‘[t]he series was very informative and provided a unique opportunity to speak directly with the experts at these institutions. Although I have received multiple appointments as arbitrator and am quite

familiar with many of the institutions, there was plenty of new information that I learned by participating in this helpful interview series.’ Another participant, **Roopa Matthews** (Associate, LALIVE, Zurich), similarly highlighted that the series ‘was a unique opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of arbitral institutions and their appointment processes for arbitrators’.

Elizabeth Chan reflects that ‘[t]he ‘Meet the Arbitral Institutions’ series was a valuable experience. For me, the best part was meeting people from different institutions. It was great to make connections and talk about how we can work together in the future’.

Submitted by Sanaa Babaa, YAWP Steering Committee member, Director, Ernst & Young, London, UK, with special thanks to the participating arbitral institutions and session moderators.

PARTICIPATING ARBITRAL INSTITUTIONS

Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) • Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) • Beihai Asia International Arbitration Centre (BAIAC) • Camera Arbitrale di Milano (CAM) • Cayman International Mediation and Arbitration Centre Ltd (CI-MAC) • Center for Arbitration and Mediation of the Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC) • Centro Internacional Arbitraje de Madrid (CIAM) • Centro Internacional de Conciliación y Arbitraje (CICA) • China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission – Hong Kong Arbitration Centre (CIETAK) • Delos Dispute Resolution • Deutsche Institution für Schiedsgerichtsbarkeit (DIS) • Finland Arbitration Institute (FAI) • Georgian International Arbitration Centre (GIAC) • Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) • International Arbitration and Mediation Centre Hyderabad (IAMCH) • International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) • International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) • International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR) • Istanbul Arbitration Centre (ISTAC) • JAMS • KCAB International • Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre (LACIAC) • London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) • Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) • Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) • SCC Arbitration Institute • Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center (SVAMC) • Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) • Swiss Arbitration Centre • Tanzania Institute of Arbitrators (TIArb) • Tashkent International Arbitration Centre (TIAC) • Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC) • Vancouver International Arbitration Centre (VanIAC) • Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) • World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

MODERATORS

Dr Annekathrin Schmoll • Alessa Pang • Allison Torline • Camille Ramos-Klee • Cherine Foty • Dilber Devitre • Edith Michael Mtweve • Elizabeth Chan • Guilia Menegon • Jae Hee Suh • Dr Johanna Büstgens • Juhi Gupta • Krystle Baptista Serna • Manini Brar • Nadja Al Kanawati • Nata Ghibradze • Nivvy Venkatraman • Olesya Prantyuk • Olga Sendetska • Sarah Lemoine • Shreya Jain • Tope Adeyemi • Dr Vanina Sucharitul, FCI Arb

ArbitralWomen's Contribution Towards Vis International Commercial Moots on their 30th Anniversary (Vienna) and 20th Anniversary (Hong Kong)



National University of Lesotho team

ArbitralWomen started supporting the Willem C. Vis Moot [\[link\]](#) (Vienna) and the Vis East Moot [\[link\]](#) (Hong Kong) competitions, founded in 1993 and 2003, respectively, with its Mooting Award Programme, created in 2009. Two special AW Newsletter issues have covered both these moot competitions with interviews, historical reports, reports from ‘mooties’ and professionals who took part in them (see [issue n°3](#) [\[link\]](#), dated 11 May 2011 and [issue n°14](#) [\[link\]](#), dated 25 May 2015). And other ArbitralWomen Newsletter issues feature many other reports on these competitions, including testimonials from teams supported by AW (see, for example, [issues n°5](#) [\[link\]](#), [41](#) [\[link\]](#) and [46](#) [\[link\]](#)).

According to **Louise Barrington**, Vis East Moot’s Director, co-Founder and current ArbitralWomen Board member, ‘[t]he ArbitralWomen Awards originated as a result of frequent requests from Vis East Moot teams for a waiver of the registration fee to attend. Since the Vis East depends heavily on teams’ regis-

tration fees in order to operate, it has never been possible to waive them. I suggested that teams made up of all or mostly women might approach ArbitralWomen for assistance’.

In the initial years, ArbitralWomen assisted two or three teams out of its own funds to pay their registration fees. As demand grew, AW members asked their firms and colleagues to sponsor the registration fees for one team. With time, more and more teams applied to ArbitralWomen for funding, so ArbitralWomen’s Board formalised the ArbitralWomen Awards and created what is now known as the Educational Funding Committee (currently made up of Board members **Mary Thomson**, Louise Barrington and **Sally El Sawah**). The Committee administers the awards and other financial assistance provided to women by ArbitralWomen. Today, ArbitralWomen is financially able to encourage many talented women in need of financial support to attend the Vis Moot competitions in person,

provided their team comprises at least 50% women attending to compete in the oral arguments.

According to **Patricia Shaughnessy**, newly appointed President of the Willem C. Vis Moot ‘[t]he Vis Moot grew steadily from the first moot and 20 years ago ArbitralWomen founder Louise Barrington launched the Vis Moot East, which allowed for greater participation of teams and “arbitrators”, particularly from Asia’.

ArbitralWomen has been an important supporter of the Vis Moot, contributing to the crucial goal of facilitating the inclusion of teams from all over the world, many of whom lack resources to participate, by providing financial assistance with registration fees to teams in need, provided that at least 50% of the team members are women.

Many ArbitralWomen members have participated in the Vis Moot as ‘mooties’ when they were students and now as ‘arbitrators’. The Vis Moot welcomes ArbitralWomen members to

participate as arbitrators and seeks to increase the number of women arbitrators. Through the active participation of ArbitralWomen members and through the financial support provided to teams, the Vis Moot can provide a platform for the development of young women to join the arbitration community and to learn from the established women practitioners who serve as role models and supporters.

In the early years of both the Willem C. Vis Moot and the Vis East Moot, all-women teams were rare. Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see oral arguments where both speakers on both teams are women.

To commemorate ArbitralWomen's 30th anniversary (coincidentally, the Willem C. Vis Moot also celebrates its 30th anniversary), ArbitralWomen awarded a record number 26 teams with registration fees to compete at the recent Vis Moot competitions in Vienna and Hong Kong. In addition to paying their registration fees, ArbitralWomen has also granted Special Awards to four teams (of universities located in

Kathmandu, Isfahan/Iran, Lesotho and Tanzania) to help them with the cost of travel, accommodation, visa and subsistence at their chosen moot competition. Unfortunately, one of the Special Awardees could not use their award as the team was unable to secure visas for their chosen moot competition.

In the words of one member of the National University of Lesotho team, 'It was an exceptional experience for the students, which would not have been possible without AW's support!'

The University of Mzumbe, Tanzania team has also provided its testimonial: 'We would like to take this opportunity to thank ArbitralWomen who worked hand in hand with Mzumbe University for giving us the opportunity to attend and (...) experience such an amazing event (...)'.

ArbitralWomen Educational Funding Committee will continue to help moot teams with at least 50% women members who are in need of financial assistance to further ArbitralWomen's goal to promote the participation of women in dispute resolution. The Committee

has also been receiving applications for funding towards arbitration and ADR-related courses, usually from individuals. The ArbitralWomen Board has approved the Committee's mandate beyond Moots, so that we are able to approve payment of registration/tuition fees for such courses in deserving cases, particularly from women applicants.

In the meantime, the deadline for applications for **the New Initiative Award has closed** (see the article on this Award published in [Issue N°54 of this Newsletter](#)) **and the Committee will be considering the applications received. So watch this space for an update!**

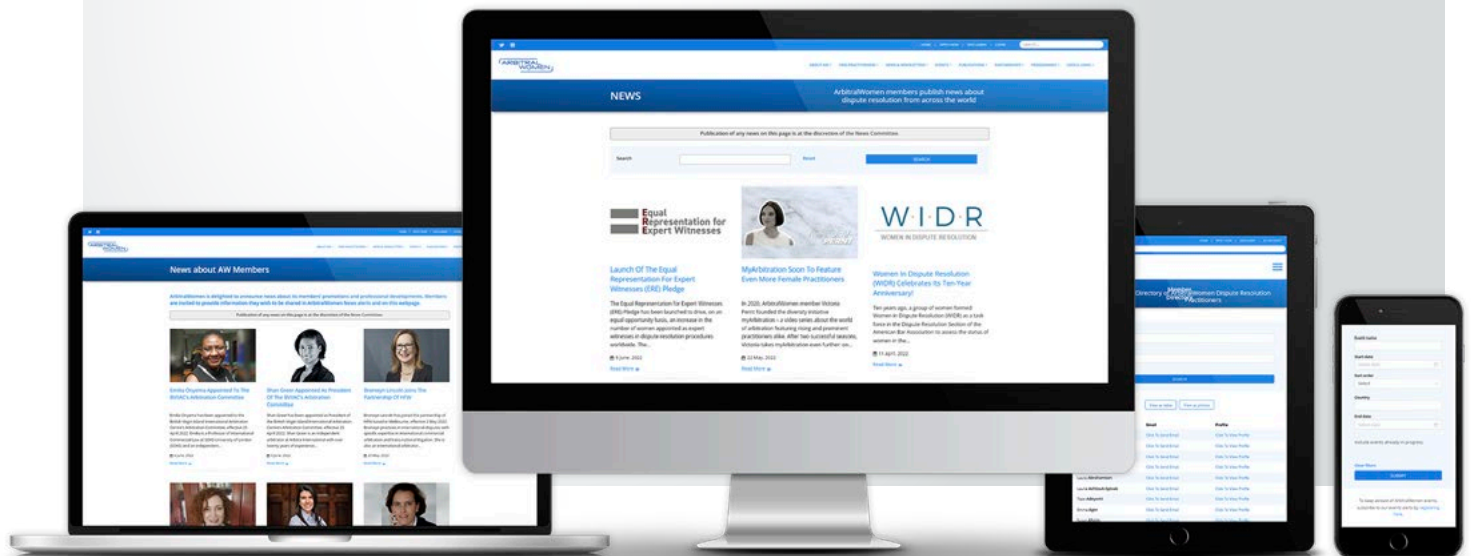
Submitted by the members of ArbitralWomen Board's Educational Funding Committee, Louise Barrington, ArbitralWomen Co-Founder, International Arbitrator, Hong Kong, Mary Thomson, International Arbitrator & Mediator, Pacific Chambers Hong Kong, 36 Stone, London, UK & Singapore and Sally El Sawah, Founding Partner Principal El Sawah Law



Tanzania team

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ArbitralWomen & Kluwer Arbitration Blog

ArbitralWomen has a long-standing collaboration with Kluwer Arbitration Blog, the leading publication of its kind presenting a high-quality examination of hot topics and latest developments in international arbitration, with an impressive global readership of 120,000 views per post.

As part of this collaboration, ArbitralWomen liaises with Kluwer Arbitration Blog to ensure priority publication of articles submitted by its members. Published contributions

will also feature on the [AW website](#).

We strongly encourage our members to make use of this great opportunity! Please send your article or idea for a topic to the AW-Kluwer Arbitration Blog Committee, consisting of ArbitralWomen Board Members Katherine Bell and Alina Leoveanu, at kluwer@arbitralwomen.org.

We kindly ask you to take note of the Kluwer Arbitration Blog [editorial guidelines](#).

We look forward to receiving your ideas and submissions!

ArbitralWomen thanks all contributors for sharing their stories.

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AW Activities at a Glance: [click here](#)

Membership
Runs Now
Annually
from Date of
Payment



ArbitralWomen Individual & Corporate Membership

ArbitralWomen's website is the only hub offering a database of female practitioners in any dispute resolution role including arbitrators, mediators, experts, adjudicators, surveyors, facilitators, lawyers, neutrals, ombudswomen and forensic consultants. It is regularly visited by professionals searching for dispute resolution practitioners.



The many benefits of ArbitralWomen membership are namely:

- Searchability under [Member Directory](#) and [Find Practitioners](#)
- Visibility under your profile and under [Publications](#) once you add articles under My Account / My Articles
- Opportunity to contribute to ArbitralWomen's section under [Kluwer Arbitration Blog](#)
- Promotion of your dispute resolution speaking engagements on our [Events page](#)
- Opportunity to showcase your professional news in ArbitralWomen's periodic news alerts and [Newsletter](#)
- Visibility on the [News](#) page if you contribute to any dispute resolution related news and ArbitralWomen news
- Visibility on the [News about AW Members](#) to announce news about members' promotions and professional developments
- Ability to **obtain referrals** of dispute resolution practitioners
- **Networking** with other women practitioners
- Opportunity to participate in ArbitralWomen's various programmes such as our [Mentoring Programme](#)

We encourage female practitioners to join us either individually or through their firm. Joining is easy and takes a few minutes: go to '[Apply Now](#)' and complete the application form.

Individual Membership: 150 Euros.

Corporate Membership: ArbitralWomen Corporate Membership entitles firms to a **discount on the cost** of individual memberships. For 650 Euros annually (instead of 750), firms can designate up to five individuals based at any of the firms' offices worldwide, and for each additional member a membership at the rate of 135 Euros (instead of 150). Over **forty firms** have subscribed a Corporate

Membership: [click here](#) for the list.

ArbitralWomen is globally recognised as the leading professional organisation forum for advancement of women in dispute resolution. Your continued support will ensure that we can provide you with opportunities to grow your network and your visibility, with all the terrific work we have accomplished to date as reported in our Newsletters.

ArbitralWomen membership has grown to approximately one thousand, from over 40 countries. Forty firms have so far subscribed for corporate membership, sometimes for as many as 40 practitioners from their firms.



Do not hesitate to contact membership@arbitralwomen.org, we would be happy to answer any questions.