



Choice of Seat in International Arbitration: Top Seven Seats Agenda

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Day One: 12 April 2021

GMT	Tehran time
 14:30 – 14:40, Welcome speech Head of CILA, Dr. Oloumi Yazdi	18:00 – 18:10
 14:40 – 14:45, Moderator Dr. Ali M. Abrishami	18:10 – 18:15
 14:45 – 15:15, Keynote address Prof. George Bermann	18:15 – 18:45
 15:15 – 15:45, Singapore Seat Prof. Gary Born	18:45 – 19:15
 15:45 – 16:15, London Seat Prof. Loukas Mistelis	19:15 – 19:45
 16:15 – 16:45, Stockholm Seat Prof. Kaj Hober	19:45 – 20:15
16:45 – 17:00, Q & A	20:15 – 20:30

Day Two: 13 April 2021

 16:00 – 16:10 Welcome speech Head of CILA, Dr. Oloumi Yazdi	19:30 – 19:40
 16:10 – 16:15, Moderator Dr. Ali M. Abrishami	19:40 – 19:45
 16:15 – 16:45, New York Seat Prof. Franco Ferrari	19:45 – 20:15
 16:45 – 17:15, Geneva Seat Prof. Felix Dasser	20:15 – 20:45
 17:15 – 17:45, Hong Kong Seat Prof. Louise Barrington	20:45 – 21:15
 17:45 – 18:15, Paris Seat Prof. George Affaki	21:15 – 21:45
18:15 – 18:30, Q & A	21:45 – 22:00
18:30 – 18:45, Closing remarks	22:00 – 22:15





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Dr. Hammid Reza Oloumi Yazdi, Head of CILA

Hamid Reza Oloumi is the Head of the Centre for International Legal Affairs (CILA). Dr. Oloumi was a former judge in the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, and acted as a counsel and arbitrator in many domestic and international arbitration cases. He has more than 20 years of experience across various industries on a broad spectrum of both international and national laws. Oloumi has been the advisor to many multinational and domestic companies on ADR, state contracts and investment contracts. He has played a major role in drafting many crucial bills and legislation relating to national and international trade law. He was a member of committees for drafting the Iranian commercial and competition Codes, bilateral investment treaties and by-laws. Oloumi has served as the Dean of Faculty of Law and Political Sciences and Vice President for Research at Allameh Tabataba'i University. He has organized and conducted numerous research projects for various industries in an efficient manner. He is an Associate Professor at Allameh Tabataba'i University and teaches on oil and gas, international trade law, international contracts and ADR.

About the speakers



Prof. George Bermann, Keynote speaker

The Director of the Centre for International Commercial & Investment Arbitration at Columbia Law School, George Bermann is a world-renowned authority on comparative law, EU law, international trade contracts, WTO dispute resolution, and transnational litigation and arbitration. For more than four decades, Prof. Bermann has been an active international arbitrator in commercial and investment disputes in all sectors, including general commercial contract, construction, intellectual property, energy, oil and gas, competition law, insurance, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, distributorship and franchising, transportation, and employment. He also serves regularly as an expert witness before international arbitral tribunals as well as before courts in arbitral-related cases. Bermann founded both the Columbia Journal of European Law and the European Legal Studies Centre, where he serves as the director. He is also an affiliated faculty member of the School of Law of Sciences Po in Paris and the MIDS Masters Program in International Dispute Settlement in Geneva. Bermann is also co-author of the UNCITRAL Guide to the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, the chair of the Global Advisory Board of the New York International Arbitration Centre (NYIAC), co-editor in chief of the American Review of International Arbitration, and Founding Member of the Governing Body of the ICC Court of Arbitration and a member of its standing committee.



Prof. Gary Born, Singapore Seat

Gary Born is the chair of the International Arbitration Practice Group. Prof. Born is widely regarded as the world's preeminent authority on international commercial arbitration and international litigation. He has been ranked for the past 20 years as one of the world's leading international arbitration practitioners and the leading arbitration practitioner in London. Born has participated in more than 600 international arbitrations, including four of the largest ICC arbitrations and several of the most significant ad hoc arbitrations in recent history. Born is uniformly ranked by Euromoney, Chambers, Legal500 and Global Counsel as one of the leading practitioners in the field. He is one of only two lawyers in the world, and the only lawyer in London, to receive global "starred" status in Chambers rankings for international arbitration. Born has taught courses on international arbitration, international litigation or public international law at Harvard Law School, Stanford Law School, St Gallen University, National University of Singapore, University of Peking, Tsinghua University, Georgetown University, University of Virginia School of Law. He has also been awarded honorary titles by leading universities, including St. Gallen (Professor) and Wayne State University (Doctor of Laws).



Prof. Loukas Mistelis, London Seat

Loukas Mistelis is the Clive M Schmitthoff Professor of Transnational Commercial Law and Arbitration and the Director of the School of International Arbitration at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London. He joined Queen Mary University of London in 1998. He was also Visiting Professor, NYU in London (2006-2012), a Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University London programme (2008-2011); he is Distinguished Visiting Professor, National University of Singapore (2013); Visiting Professor at Keio University, Tokyo (2008), LUISS, Rome (2009) and Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon (2007, 2009). Prof. Mistelis is an acknowledged authority on international dispute resolution and investment treaty law. In 2006, he was listed as one of the "leading lights in international arbitration", 45 under 45, amongst the top 15 highlighted members of the list, is listed on the Who's Who Commercial Arbitration since 2007 and also a member of the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators. He has also advised several UK government agencies (such as DTI, BERR, MoJ) and international organizations, including the United Nations (UNCTAD, UNCITRAL and ECLAC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



Prof. Kaj Hober, Stockholm Seat

Kaj Hober was Professor of International Investment and Trade Law at Uppsala University. Between 1997 and 2009, he was Adjunct Professor of East European Law at Uppsala University. In 2010, Prof. Hober was Professor of International Law at the Centre for Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee, Scotland. Kaj Hober holds long distinguished and highly regarded reputation as a leading figure in the field of international arbitration. He has acted as counsel to numerous corporations and governmental agencies in general commercial and corporate law matters throughout his professional career. Hober is also widely regarded as an arbitrator and has been appointed to panels of large scale arbitral disputes in more than 200 international arbitrations, commercial as well as treaty based, (including many chairmanships) across a variety of tribunals which include the SCC, ICC, ICISD and the LCIA, amongst others. Hober has over thirty years of experience dealing with the legal aspects of East-West trade, advising clients from both sides in a variety of transactions. He has acted as arbitrator in more than 200 arbitrations.





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Prof. Franco Ferrari, New York Seat

Franco Ferrari is the Director of the Centre for International Litigation, Arbitration and Commercial Law at New York University. Prof. Ferrari has published more than 290 law review articles and book chapters in various languages and 25 books in the areas of international commercial law, conflict of laws, comparative law, and international commercial arbitration. Ferrari, who is a recipient of the 2018 Certificate of Merit for High Technical Craftsmanship and Utility to Practicing Lawyers and Scholars awarded by the American Society of International Law, is a member of the editorial boards of various peer-reviewed European law journals (Internationales Handelsrecht, European Review of Private Law, Contratto e impresa, Contratto e impresa/Europa, and Revue de droit des affaires internationales) and the General Editor of the European International Arbitration Review. He was also responsible for numerous projects, including the preparation of the UNCITRAL Digest on applications of the UN Sales Convention. Ferrari also acts as an international arbitrator both in international commercial arbitrations and, most recently, investment arbitrations.



Prof. Louise Barrington, Hong Kong Seat

Louise Barrington is a dispute resolver with 30 years of experience. Prof. Barrington is legally qualified in Ontario, New York and England and Wales. In 2001, she became one of Asia's first chartered arbitrators and an accredited mediator and trainer. With "home bases" in Hong Kong, Paris, and Toronto, she has acted as sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator named by parties and institutions, and as tribunal president, in both ad hoc and institutional cases on four continents. In her more than 100 arbitration cases she has resolved disputes involving sales (CISG and shares), banking, franchises, insurance, construction, wrongful dismissal, intellectual property and licensing, agency, commission and shareholder disputes. She has taught arbitration, mediation, international and commercial law in law school faculties in Canada, England, Hong Kong and the USA. She has also taught American Business Law in Paris. In 1997, Barrington founded ICC Asia in Hong Kong, acting as arbitration/commercial law and practice resource for lawyers and businesses throughout the region. She is also the Founder and Director of Vis Moot East in Hong Kong.



Prof. Felix Dasser, Geneva Seat

Felix Dasser is a senior partner and former Head of Homburger's arbitration and litigation team; and president of the Swiss Arbitration Association. His practice focuses on international commercial disputes, litigation and arbitration as well as internal and regulatory investigations. Prof. Dasser acts as counsel for major companies in Swiss and foreign arbitration proceedings under various arbitration rules and also serves as an arbitrator and expert on Swiss law. He is recommended by all major league tables for arbitration and litigation. He has acted as an arbitrator in more than 60 cases, and represents Swiss and foreign companies before Swiss courts and authorities. Dasser is Adjunct Professor of Law at the Zurich Law School. He teaches and publishes regularly in the fields of international commercial dispute resolution and international business law. He is also a visiting professor at the China University of Political Science and taught at The Hague Academy of International Law.



Prof. George Affaki, Paris Seat

Georges Affaki is a Chartered Arbitrator, a qualified Avocat before the Court of Appeal of Paris, and a Professor of Law at the University of Paris. He is a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and a member of the Panels of Arbitrators and of Conciliators of ICSID. Prof. Affaki has served as chairman, panel and sole arbitrator under the rules of the leading arbitral institutions in a broad variety of commercial and investment disputes. He has also appeared as counsel and expert witness in arbitral and court proceedings in relation to investment treaty claims, international banking, financial market regulation, trade finance and comparative Arab laws. He was ranked by Chambers amongst the Most in Demand Arbitrators and by Euromoney in the Guide to the World's Leading Commercial Arbitration Lawyers Chosen by their Peers. He has published textbooks and articles on international arbitration and litigation, economic sanctions, international banking and finance, Islamic finance and cross-border insolvency. In 2019, Affaki was nominated Foreign Trade Counsellor of France by Ministerial Decree.

Moderator



Dr. Ali M. Abrishami

Ali Abrishami holds PhD from Queen Mary, University of London, and has more than 15 years of experience advising multinational companies on international dispute resolution, international trade and foreign investment. He is also the Managing Partner at NSR Law Firm in Tehran. As a senior legal and commercial advisor to a number of the EU firms, Dr. Abrishami has advised clients on legal and commercial aspects of foreign investment and cross-border trades. He has substantial ADR experience, and acts as counsel, arbitrator and mediator in numerous arbitration and mediation cases. Abrishami taught international commercial law at King's College London and SOAS, University of London. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Allameh Tabataba'i University, and teaches courses on international arbitration, international trade law, international investment law and multinational enterprises. He researches in the areas of international arbitration and mediation, international trade and foreign investment, and has authored many publications in both Persian and English.

