



DONNA ROSS DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In addition to my arbitration and mediation practice, 2024 was filled with coaching, teaching and speaking activities in Singapore, Australia and throughout Asia.

Since 'A picture is worth a thousand words', I have recapped the highlights as a collage of photos with comments for each event.

Thank you to everyone who has given me these opportunities.
I look forward to continuing to share in 2025.

dr@DonnaRossDisputeResolution.com

SG + 65 85316916 AU and WhatsApp +61 0412 060

854www.DonnaRossDisputeResolution.com www.linkedin.com/in/donnarossdr/





What an honor to kick off the year in February chairing the tribunal for the final of the AIAC-APAC Pre-moot along with such eminent co-arbitrators in Kuala Lumpur at the beautiful Bangunan Sulaiman.



FINAL ROUND ARBITRATORS

DONNA ROSS
DONNA ROSS
DISPUTE RESOLUTION

DATUK SUNDRA RAJOO
ASIAN INTERNATIONAL
ARBITRATION CENTRE
(AIAC)

VERA HE
INTERNATIONAL
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE (ICC)

**AIAC APAC
PRE-MOOT**
6TH - 8TH MARCH 2024

8TH MARCH 2024

11.00 A.M (GMT +8)

AUDITORIUM, AIAC



XVIII ANNUAL GENERATIONS IN ARBITRATION CONFERENCE HONG KONG

As both a mediator and arbitrator, it was great fun to debate and attempt to prove that arbitration is not only *not* inadequate by any definition, but the be-all and end-all of dispute resolution!

Many thanks to the MAA and GIA for the invitation to participate in this event at the start to the VIS East Moot.



OXFORD STYLE DEBATE

'THIS HOUSE BELIEVES THAT ARBITRATION IS WOEFULLY INADEQUATE TO CATER TO THE DISPUTES OF THE FUTURE'

MR. MOHAMMED TALIB
Partner,
Pinsent Masons

MS. SYLVIA TEE
Counsel,
Ashurst

MR. ARTHUR MA
(moderator)
Partner,
DaHui Lawyers

MS. DONNA ROSS
International Mediator & Arbitrator,
Donna Ross Dispute Resolution

MS. MILJANA BIGOVIĆ
Associate,
DLA Piper





Having participated in the VIS in Vienna many times, yet only online for the VIS East Moot, I was so pleased to have served as an arbitrator in the semi-finals of the 21st VIS East in person in Hong Kong. Looking forward to seeing all of the amazing teams in the 22nd Moot.

See below if you'd like to join as an arbitrator. And it's not just the sessions, but the fun and making new connections!







As we moved towards the final two days of the Vis East, I was fortunate to be invited to participate on a stellar panel and to share my views with room full of present and past mooties and practitioners on the double topic:

**'No Panel of Arbitrators: Selection of Arbitrator with A Human Factor' and
'How to Get My First ICC Arbitrator Appointment?'**

It was interesting to hear the views of my co-panelists, a deep dive into the ICC appointment process, as well the questions from the audience, particularly in light of criticism that arbitral panels are composed of the same small group of arbitrators and to discuss ways to enlarge the pool and enhance diversity and availability.



15 March 2024 • Hong Kong

ICC Pinsent Masons Joint Event

No Panel of Arbitrators: Selection of Arbitrator with A Human Factor


How to Get My First ICC Arbitrator Appointment?


Pinsent Masons and the ICC International Court of Arbitration is joint hosting an event in our Hong Kong office on the selection of arbitrators. The panel session will discuss the ICC's process for appointing arbitrators, the push for greater diversity in arbitration, appointing arbitrators for cross-border disputes and how evolving technology could impact on arbitrator appointment.

Time:
18:30 – 21:00 HKT


Venue:
Pinsent Masons, 50th floor, Central Plaza, 18 Harbour Road, Wan Chai

[Please click here to register](#)


 **Panellists**




Juan Pablo Argentato
Managing Counsel
ICC Arbitration




Winnie Tam
Independent arbitrator
Barrister - Senior Counsel




Jack Law
Partner
Hui Zhong Law Firm




Donna Huang
Director
ICC Arbitration and ADR for North Asia




Dr. Jane Willems
Independent arbitrator



Donna Ross
Independent mediator and arbitrator

 **Moderator**



Alice Wang
Pinsent Masons
Vice-Chair China Project, MAA



In April I had the opportunity to join an Society of Mediation Professionals and ResoX delegation on a trip to Hanoi to meet with institutions and firms to help to promote mediation in Vietnam.

The first event was a series of presentations on Commercial ADR in Singapore for students at the National Economics University (NEU) hosted by Prof Tran Nam, then Dean of the Law Faculty, who also helped organize other portions of our trip along with Tony Nguyen of EP Legal.

We were honored to meet delegations from VIAC, VMC, VICMC and VCCI.





Among the law firms kind enough to host us were:

- Dr Le Net - LNT Partners;
- Mr LeXuan Loc - Tilleke & Gibbins;
- Vinh Lu (Richard) - Asia Legal; and
- Duong Pham - Hogan Lovells.

The week was filled with exchanges on arbitration, mediation, law and culture and with opportunities to forge relationships and new friendships while savoring amazing Vietnamese cuisine.





May brought me back to Hong Kong for a whirlwind week at ICCA 2024 with a rich program on the theme ‘International Arbitration: A Human Endeavour’ and the opportunity to further and foster relationships with colleagues from Hong Kong and the world over.

The week also included a plethora of side events, including the ArbitralWomen and ERA Pledge Breakfast with fellow advisory board members.





Following ICCA, I had the opportunity to visit the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA), which offers all modes of dispute resolution, on a tour co-organized by the Hong Kong DoJ, SCIA, SCIAHK and HKIAC.

The day included a conference on the ‘Latest Developments of International Arbitration in China’ and a city tour that highlighted innovation and the lightning development of this once small town into a modern high-tech city since it was declared a special economic zone some forty years ago.





Very pleased to have been invited by Alvin Sim and SIMI to participate in the SIMI Mediation Annual Review along with top mediation practitioners and share experiences of how to grow mediation and a mediation practice with an audience of younger and newer mediators.



Grateful for my copy of Volume 8 of Contemporary Issues in Mediation.





It was an absolute privilege to contribute, with some 30 illustrious arbitration practitioners, to the "Danubia Files 2: Lessons from the Vis Moot", published by Jus Mundi and showcased at the VIS in Vienna in May.

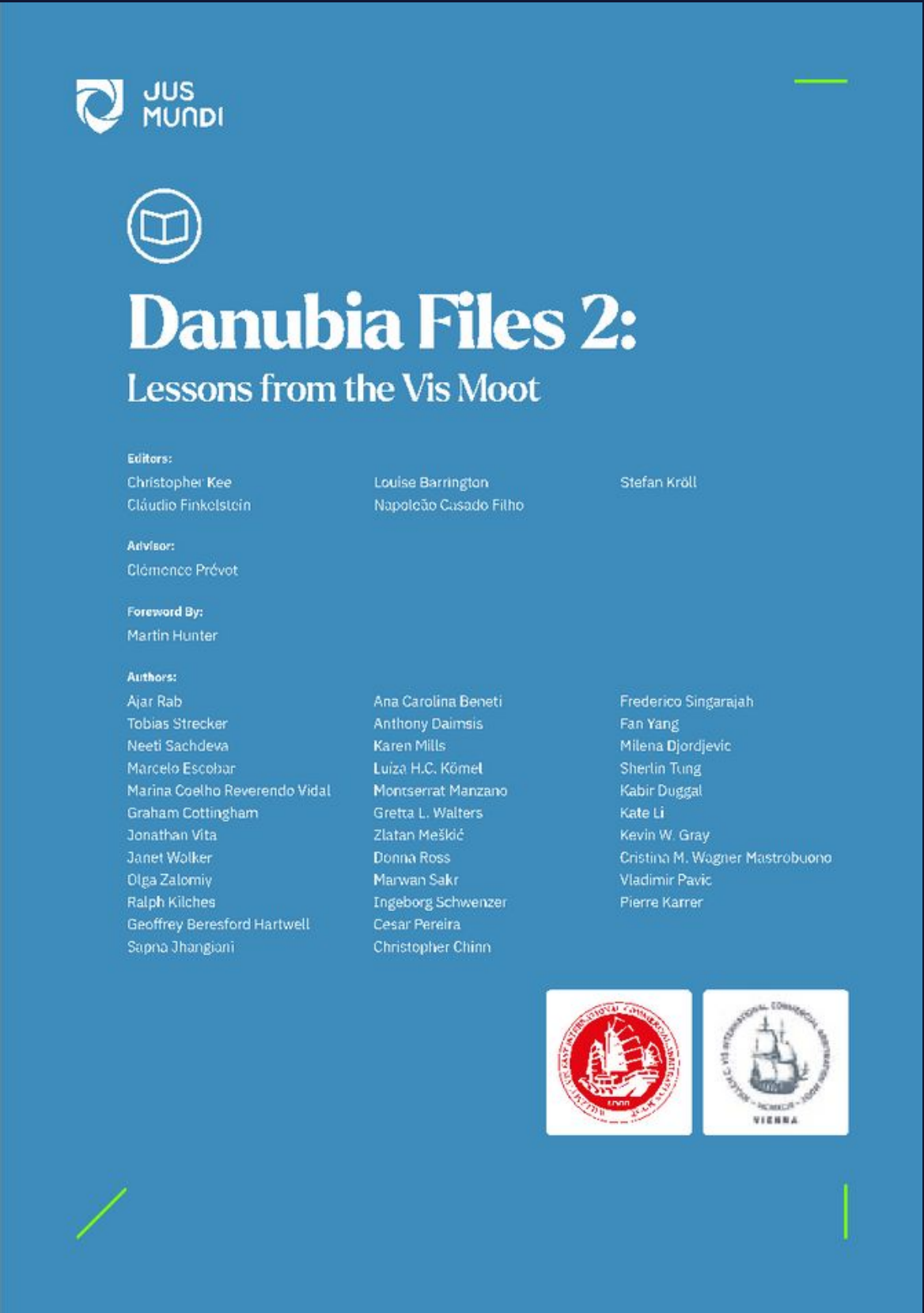
Along with my colleagues Zlatan Meskic and Marwan Sakr, we drafted the award for the problem of the 26th Vis Moot. Both versions of the Danubia Files are a precious resource for students, mootees and young practitioners. Kudos to Louise Barrington for making this happen.

**This book is a tribute
to Eric E. Bergsten**




Eric Bergsten and his right hand, Brigitta Bergsten

It was Eric Bergsten, the father of the Vis Moot, who first suggested I set up the team at Cardozo. He will be greatly missed.







Mediation Chambers

Spotlight on Mediation Chambers Members

Donna Ross

Donna Ross LL.M. FCI Arb is an international ADR practitioner specializing in corporate and commercial disputes, with qualifications in both civil and common law. She is the principal of Donna Ross Dispute Resolution. Admitted to practice in New York and Australia, Donna holds a French civil law degree and has extensive multicultural experience, having worked in the US, France, Australia, and Singapore.


Donna has a broad-based professional background in business and technology and has acted in high-value and complex disputes. These disputes often relate to cross-border deals, private equity, IT, telecommunications, construction, partnership and shareholder agreements, import licensing, and distribution agreements. Donna also has expertise in retail leasing and the wine industry. Her focus is on resolving disputes in a cost-effective and commercial manner.

In addition to serving as a neutral, Donna is an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore and a lecturer at La Trobe Law School. She is also a member of the CIArb faculty and a CPD Provider for the Leo Cussen Centre for Law and Legalwise.

Donna is an IMI and SIMI Certified Mediator and an accredited mediator in New York and Australia. She is also a Law Institute of Victoria Accredited Specialist in Mediation Law. Recognized as a leading mediator by Doyle's Guide since 2018, Donna was named Australasian Arbitrator of the Year in 2020 and most Influential Lawyer in 2021. She was also a finalist for the Australian Law Awards in 2023 as an arbitrator and mediator.

Donna is a Fellow and Faculty Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Fellow and graded arbitrator of Resolution Institute, and a Fellow of ACICA. She sits on the panels of numerous domestic and international institutions and provides ADR services to courts, including through Arbitration Victoria, a new low-cost and expedited arbitration scheme of the County Court of Victoria.

An active supporter of ADR, Donna frequently speaks at ADR events, coaches and judges in competitions, and sits on several committees, including Resolution Institute's National Determinative and D&I Committees and Arbitral Women's advisory board.



While there are many places to find arbitrators, there are far fewer groups of international mediators.

Kudos and thanks to Alix Povey for creating Mediation Chambers.

Pleased to be a member and I look forward to working together to advance international mediation in our various jurisdictions.





June concluded with two talks on increasing the use of mediation in international arbitration – as opposed to litigation, where it is widespread in many countries – and touching upon surveys showing commercial parties would use mediation if there was an enforcement mechanism.

I also spoke about the Singapore Convention on Mediation and what institutions are doing to promote mediation.



Resolution
Institute

Excellence in dispute
resolution across
Australia and Aotearoa

Webinar | Mediation in International Arbitration

with Donna Ross

Tuesday, 25 June 2024 | 11am – 12pm AEST | Online

Join us for a webinar exploring the widespread yet underutilized practice of mediation in arbitration. Mediation is often mandatory in domestic and international litigation, but less so in arbitration. We will discuss how to make better use of mediation, what institutions are doing to promote settlement facilitation—including Arb-Med-Arb protocols—and how the Singapore Convention on Mediation will help foster a mediation culture in international disputes.



MUTE OFF Thursdays

1,313 followers


7mo •

Thank you, Donna Ross LL.M. FCIArb!

In this week's MUTE OFF Thursdays session 17, Donna presented her insights on Mediation in International Arbitration – Can the Singapore Convention change the game?

Learn more Donnan here: <https://lnkd.in/eiBfMZHW>

If you have 7+ years of experience as a lawyer in arbitration and are interested in participating in our meetings, please contact any of the Co-Chairs! 📧 Elena Gutiérrez García de Cortázar Dr. Jennifer Bryant, Esq. Lindsay Gastrell Shreya Aren



MUTE OFF

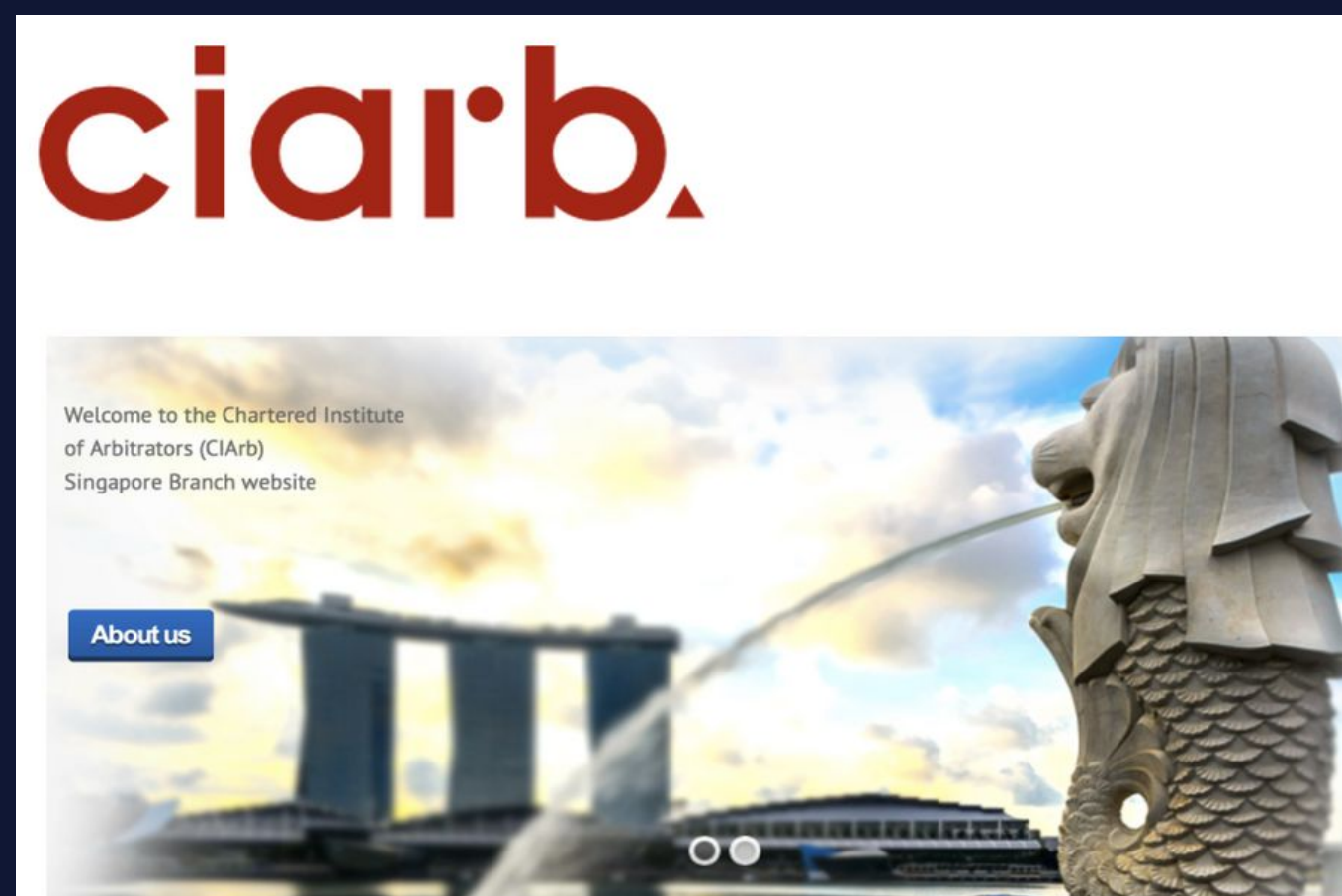
Thursdays





I am honored to announce that I have joined the board of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB) Singapore Branch. It's a privilege to support our members along with my esteemed colleagues as a board member and member of the Mediation Committee.

I am pleased to also share that in addition to being on the CIARB Approved Faculty as Tutor for Introduction to International Arbitration and Award Writing (Module 3) and Assessor for the Law of Obligations (Module 2), I am now also a Course Director, Tutor and Assessor for Introduction to Mediation and Mediation (Module 1).






So thrilled and honored to be appointed to the NUS Law Faculty to teach International Mediation.

I believe that teaching is indeed a win-win: by sharing knowledge with students, we also continue to learn and improve our own skills.


And along with arbitration and litigation in the DR realm, it is important for students to learn about mediation before they embark in practice.

Many thanks to all who supported me and a special shout-out to Prof. Joel Lee.



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DONNA ROSS

Adjunct Professor

Donna Ross, the principal of Donna Ross Dispute Resolution, is an international ADR practitioner admitted to practice in New York and Australia, with a French civil law degree. She is multilingual and multicultural and has worked in jurisdictions across the globe.

Donna is a Fellow and Faculty Member of CIArb, an accredited mediator in New York and Australia and an IMI and SIMI Certified, an Accredited Specialist in Mediation, a Doyle's Guide leading mediator since 2018.

Specialised in corporate and commercial disputes, she has a broad-based background in business and technology and has acted as advocate in high-value and complex disputes relating to cross-border deals, private equity, technology, telecommunications, construction, retail leasing, franchising, the wine industry as well as partnership, shareholder, import, licensing and distribution agreements.

Her focus is on helping parties resolve disputes in a cost-effective and commercial manner.





July finished off with a return to KL to speak at the Asia ADR Summit ‘Beyond Boundaries: The Rise of Asia in Global Dispute Resolution’.

Our panel, ‘Spotlight on Mediation: Navigating Progress in Asia’ discussed the challenges of and strategies for mediation as a preferred method for conflict resolution in the region.



1330 - 1430

Spotlight on Mediation: Navigating Progress in Asia

Session brought to you by :



India International Arbitration Centre
GLOBAL • EFFICIENT • CREDIBLE

This panel session is dedicated to exploring the evolution and advancement of mediation practices across Asia. This discussion will delve into the unique approaches, challenges, and successes in promoting mediation as a preferred method for conflict resolution in the region. Experts will share insights on emerging trends, regulatory frameworks, and innovative strategies aimed at fostering effective mediation processes amidst cultural, legal, and socio-economic diversity. Participants can expect to gain valuable perspectives on how mediation is shaping the future of dispute resolution in Asia and its implications for regional development and cooperation.



Nick Chan
(Moderator)



Rohan Arasoo
(Speaker)



Donna Ross
(Speaker)



Shamila Neelakandan
(Speaker)



MELBOURNE AUGUST 2024

Every two years graded arbitrators (Grades 1 and 2) participate in a Master Class to keep their grading by staying abreast of developments in domestic and international arbitration.

Each participant introduces the discussion on a topic or two, on areas such as challenges, procedure, efficiency, case management, etc.

My two questions were on procedure, including saving time and costs, which is dear to my practice as an arbitrator.

1. What steps can an arbitrator take to save time and costs in respect of the hearing phase of an arbitration?

1.30 p.m. to 1.40 p.m. – Donna Ross to introduce discussion

2. At the Preliminary conference, the Respondent makes application for the Applicant to disclose and produce any third-party funding agreements currently in place or under consideration. How do you proceed?

11.00 a.m. – 11.10 a.m. – Donna Ross to introduce discussion





What was supposed to be a small get-together with the group from the Hanoi trip with our colleague and friend Tony (Nguyen Trung Nam) who was in Singapore for Convention Week turned into a mediator fest with some twenty of us from Singapore and beyond at a dinner graciously hosted by Linda Heng.

Moutai compliments of Rajesh Sharma.






I was thrilled to be invited to join a panel by the consummate mediator and teacher, Melvin Loh, and the Law Society of Singapore along with renowned mediators from Singapore and eminent colleagues from abroad during Singapore Convention Week.


We spoke of and discussed standards in our respective jurisdictions to an audience of Singaporean and foreign participants with the participation of a delegation of lawyers from the Huangpu Lawyer Working Committee of Shanghai Bar Association for our event.












I was very fortunate to be able to participate in another panel during SCM Week on Investor-State Mediation organized by the NUS Centre for International Law (CIL) on Investor-State Mediation and ways to increase the use of mediation in ISDS, where disputes are traditionally resolved by arbitration.

 **Investor-State Mediation: *changing the mindset***
In conversation with the practitioners
30 August 2024, 12:30pm – 2:30pm, Shangri-La Singapore

PART OF  SINGAPORE CONVENTION WEEK 2024

MODERATOR	SPEAKERS					CLOSING
						
Ms Natalie Morris-Sharma Attorney-General's Chambers of Singapore	Ms Frauke Nitschke ICSID	Mr Robert Houston K&L Gates Straits Law	Mr Lim Tat Aequitas Law	Ms Donna Ross Donna Ross Dispute Resolution	Ms Mariam Gotsiridze SMU, SIDRA	Ms Celine Lange NUS Centre for International Law





When Joon-Nie Lau from SAL asked about hosting a networking lunch as a side event to the TECHLAW.FEST, as a specialist in IT tech disputes, I thought it was a great idea. My friend and colleague, Linda Heng, the founder of ResoX, a tech platform created to allow disputants better access to justice that integrates an AI Dispute Advisor, AIDA, agreed to co-host.

Special thanks to Maxwell Chambers Suites for graciously providing The Gallery and our special guest Shumin Lin, a crypto lawyer with Drew & Napier.

The event was a great success. Women tech lawyers, in-house counsel and technopreneurs – and their male allies – gathered to network and for a short panel discussion touching on topics such as challenges faced by women lawyers in tech, developing a career after a hiatus to raise children, work-life balance, as well as more concrete questions on the benefit of mediation and arbitration to resolve tech disputes.





October saw me in KL once more at the Asian International Arbitration Centre to participate in the Mediate Wise competition, after first teaching a session on mediation advocacy – one of my pet subjects – remotely.

It was an honor and a pleasure to be the mediator in the final round.

Kudos to Alix Povey and Louise Barrington for the superb organization of the training and competition.





Mid-October it was over to Seoul with the New York State Bar Association International Section's Global Conference.

Our dual panel entitled 'The Transformation of Dispute Resolution in the Asia-Pacific Region: Changes & Challenges' included a discussion encompassing enforcement of arbitral awards in Asia under the New York Convention and judgments domestically, and obtaining evidence for use in the US proceedings and commercial mediation in the region including country-specific presentations on Cambodia, Thailand, Korea, Vietnam, Australia, Singapore and the U.S. (three of my jurisdictions).

It was good to reconnect with colleagues from New York, but most importantly to have time to spend with good friends on the panel.





November started off with the opportunity to participate in one of my favorite forms – a debate – on a topic on which I have written that elicits much controversy particularly with a single neutral: Med-Arb.

The date took place during the RAIF (Regional Arbitral Institutes Forum), which groups together arbitral institutes from Australasia. The forum rotates and was held this year in Sydney.

Navigating Uncertainty
Resolution Institute and RAIF Conference
DR solutions for a complex world
7 and 8 November 2024
Sofitel Darling Harbour, Sydney

The great debate: Med-Arb, yay or nay

Philip Argy, Arbitrator, Expert Determiner, Mediator, Solicitor, Negotiator, ArgyStar.Com

Donna Ross, International ADR Practitioner, Donna Ross Dispute Resolution

Dr Peter Kassapidis, Commissioner, South Australian Employment Tribunal

Mark Dempsey SC, Arbitrator Mediator Expert Determiner, Mark Dempsey SC.Com

Weiye Tan, Council Member, Singapore Institute of Arbitrators





Later in November, I took advantage of trip with friends to Chiang Rai to meet with Machimdhorn Khampiranont, the Deputy Managing Director of the Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC) in Bangkok along with her colleagues Tanathip Minrin and Rajsarut Janchote to discuss arbitration and ADR in Thailand and trends in the region.

Many thanks to Vanina Sucharitkul and Nicky Balani for setting up the meeting.



If you are looking for a relaxing retreat in beautiful surroundings do check out Visama.





NEW PANEL APPOINTMENTS IN 2024



SIAC Reserve Panel of Arbitrators



Panel of Arbitrators of the Hangzhou Arbitration Commission (HZAC)



SIMI Certified Mediator



AALCO-HKRAC Panel of Arbitrators
Mediators



Fellow of the Asian Institute of Alternative
Dispute Resolution





And that's a wrap for 2024!!!

Thank you to everyone who has given me these opportunities.

I look forward to continuing to share my experience
with parties, students, clients and colleagues
in 2025.

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