

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CONFERENCE 2026

Arbitration Under Pressure: Rising to the Challenge

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MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2026
SOFITEL MELBOURNE ON COLLINS

CPD POINTS AVAILABLE*

The Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA), together with its co-host, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Australia (Ciarb Australia), is delighted to invite you to the 2026 International Arbitration Conference, *Arbitration Under Pressure: Rising to the Challenge*.

The one-day program features a keynote address from Niuscha Bassiri of ArbBoutique, Brussels, and brings

together eminent speakers from around the globe for seven engaging sessions:

- A turbulent tour around the world
- Arbitrating defence sector disputes: opportunities, limits and lessons
- Pressure-testing dispute resolution processes: better clauses, better outcomes
- Process under pressure: procedural resilience and reinforcing trust

- Fast and furious, yet fair: striking the balance in emergency and expedited arbitration
- Quit while we're ahead? ISDS treaty reform in the shadow of Australian arbitral successes
- Arbitration under pressure: reflections across the generations

* CPD requirements across jurisdictions may differ. Practitioners are recommended to check the requirements in their jurisdiction.

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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

12 OCTOBER 2026 Times noted are in Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)

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TIME	SESSION	
08:20–08:50	REGISTRATION AND COFFEE/TEA	
08:50–09:05	WELCOME TO COUNTRY	
09:05–09:15	OPENING ADDRESS & INTRODUCTION TO KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Judith Levine, Independent Arbitrator and President of ACICA	
09:15–09:35	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Niuscha Bassiri, ArbBoutique, Brussels: “Why the Best Arbitrators Make Uncomfortable Decisions”	
09:35–10:25	SESSION ONE: A turbulent tour around the world	Chair: Lisa Bingham , Consultant, Brussels Panel: Nicola Swan , Chapman Tripp, Wellington Professor Chester Brown SC , 7 Wentworth Selborne and University of Sydney Dr Aloysius (Louie) Llamzon , King & Spalding, Singapore Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue , University of Geneva
10:25–10:45	MORNING TEA BREAK	
10:45–11:35	SESSION TWO: Arbitrating defence sector disputes: opportunities, limits and lessons	Chair: John Gallagher , DLA Piper, Melbourne Panel: Francesca Rush , Department of Defence, Canberra Mike Kalms , KordaMentha, Sydney Fiona Mackrell , QinetiQ, Melbourne Jo Feldman , Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Perth
11:35–12:25	SESSION THREE: Pressure-testing dispute resolution processes: better clauses, better outcomes	Chair: Beverley Newbold , MinterEllison, Sydney Panel: Jacqueline Truong , Ferrovia Construction, Sydney Ben Davidson , Mallesons, Melbourne Jemma Stewart , Webuild, Melbourne Susanna Cahill , Squadron Energy, Sydney
12:25–13:25	LUNCH BREAK	
13:25–14:15	SESSION FOUR: Process under pressure: procedural resilience and reinforcing trust	Chair: Michael Weatherley , Ashurst Perkins Coie, Brisbane Panel: Nathan O’Malley , MusickPeeler, Los Angeles Professor Joongi Kim , Yonsei University, Seoul Céline Greenberg , Greenberg Arbitration, Paris Sara Masters KC , Twenty Essex, London
14:15–15:05	SESSION FIVE: Fast and furious, yet fair: striking the balance in emergency and expedited arbitration	Chair: Amy Hando , Victorian Bar Panel: Cameron Sim , Peter & Kim, Sydney / Singapore Brianna Quinn , Bird & Bird, Sydney Chris Horsfall , CIMIC, Sydney Gitta Satryani , Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, Singapore
15:05–15:25	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK	
15:25–16:15	SESSION SIX: Quit while we’re ahead? ISDS treaty reform in the shadow of Australian arbitral successes	Chair: Romesh Weeramantry , Clifford Chance, Melbourne Panel: Tamlyn Mills , Norton Rose Fulbright, Sydney Patrick Pearsall , Gibson Dunn, Washington, D.C. Jonathan Humphrey , HKA, Sydney Justin Hogan-Doran SC , 7 Wentworth Selborne, Sydney
16:15–17:00	SESSION SEVEN: Arbitration under pressure: reflections across the generations	Chairs: Raeesa Rawal , Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer, London Eleanor Clifford , Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Melbourne Panel: John Beechey CBE , Arbitration Chambers, London The Hon Dr Clyde Croft AM SC , Supreme Court of Victoria Swee Im Tan , 39 Essex Chambers, Kuala Lumpur
17:00–17:10	VOTE OF THANKS: Geoff Farnsworth, Independent Arbitrator and President of Ciarb Australia	
17:10–17:15	INVITATION TO NETWORKING DRINKS	
17:15–18:15	NETWORKING DRINKS	

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CONFERENCE 2026

SPEAKERS

OPENING ADDRESS & INTRODUCTION TO KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Judith Levine
Independent Arbitrator
and President of ACICA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Niuscha Bassiri
ArbBoutique, Brussels

VOTE OF THANKS



Geoff Farnsworth
Independent Arbitrator and
President of Ciarb Australia

SESSION ONE: A turbulent tour around the world

CHAIR

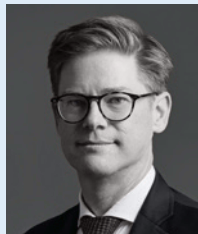


Lisa Bingham
Consultant, Brussels

PANELLISTS



Nicola Swan
Chapman Tripp,
Wellington



**Professor
Chester Brown SC**
7 Wentworth Selborne and
University of Sydney



**Dr Aloysius (Louie)
Llamzon**
King & Spalding,
Singapore



**Professor Makane
Moïse Mbengue**
University of Geneva

SESSION TWO: Arbitrating defence sector disputes: opportunities, limits and lessons

CHAIR



John Gallagher
DLA Piper, Melbourne

PANELLISTS



Francesca Rush
Department of Defence,
Canberra



Mike Kalms
KordaMentha, Sydney



Fiona Mackrell
QinetiQ, Melbourne



Jo Feldman
Corrs Chambers
Westgarth, Perth

SESSION THREE: Pressure-testing dispute resolution processes: better clauses, better outcomes

CHAIR

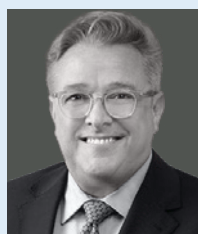


Beverley Newbold
MinterEllison, Sydney

PANELLISTS



Jacqueline Truong
Ferrovial Construction,
Sydney



Ben Davidson
Mallesons, Melbourne



Gemma Stewart
Webuild, Melbourne



Susanna Cahill
Squadron Energy, Sydney

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CONFERENCE 2026

SPEAKERS

SESSION FOUR: Process under pressure: procedural resilience and reinforcing trust

CHAIR



Michael Weatherley
Ashurst Perkins Coie,
Brisbane

PANELLISTS



Nathan O'Malley
MusickPeeler,
Los Angeles



Professor Joongi Kim
Yonsei University, Seoul



Céline Greenberg
Greenberg Arbitration, Paris



Sara Masters KC
Twenty Essex, London

SESSION FIVE: Fast and furious, yet fair: striking the balance in emergency and expedited arbitration

CHAIR



Amy Hando
Victorian Bar

PANELLISTS



Cameron Sim
Peter & Kim,
Sydney / Singapore



Brianna Quinn
Bird & Bird, Sydney



Chris Horsfall
CIMIC, Sydney



Gitta Satryani
Herbert Smith Freehills
Kramer, Singapore

SESSION SIX: Quit while we're ahead? ISDS treaty reform in the shadow of Australian arbitral successes

CHAIR



Romesh Weeramantry
Clifford Chance, Melbourne

PANELLISTS



Tamlyn Mills
Norton Rose Fulbright,
Sydney



Patrick Pearsall
Gibson Dunn,
Washington, D.C.



Jonathan Humphrey
HKA, Sydney



Justin Hogan-Doran SC
7 Wentworth Selborne, Sydney

SESSION SEVEN: Arbitration under pressure: reflections across the generations

CHAIRS



Raeesa Rawal
Herbert Smith Freehills
Kramer, London



Eleanor Clifford
Corrs Chambers
Westgarth, Melbourne

PANELLISTS



John Beechey CBE
Arbitration Chambers,
London



The Hon Dr Clyde Croft AM SC
Supreme Court of Victoria



Swee Im Tan
39 Essex Chambers,
Kuala Lumpur

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ACICA
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ACICA
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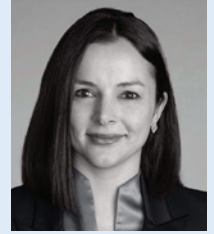
Kristian Maley
Independent Counsel and Arbitrator,
Vice-President, Ciarb Australia



Cara North
Ashurst Perkins Coie,
Melbourne



Drossos Stamboulakis
Victorian Bar



Gitanjali Bajaj
DLA Piper, Sydney
Vice-President, ACICA

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