

21st ICC New York Conference on International Arbitration



New York | 24-25 September 2026

PROGRAMME

Friday, 25 September 2026

08.15 – 09.00 *Registration and welcome coffee*

9:00 – 9:15 Welcome remarks

- **Marek Krasula**, Director, Arbitration and ADR, North America, ICC Dispute Resolution Services, New York, NY

9:15 – 10:15 Panel 1: Business Under Pressure: Priorities and Risks in a Changing Global Environment

This opening session brings together senior representatives of leading business organizations to share insights into the key priorities and concerns shaping today's commercial environment. From geopolitical fragmentation and evolving trade relationships to regulatory uncertainty, supply chain disruption, and rapid technological change, global businesses are operating in an environment defined by complexity and volatility. In North America, this notably includes shifting trade and investment patterns, and the review of USMCA, that are reshaping how companies invest and manage risk.

This discussion will aim to provide a candid perspective from the business community, highlighting the issues and risks that are most actively shaping decision-making today, including the challenges that are top of mind for companies operating across borders.

It will also offer important context for understanding how current business dynamics may translate into future disputes, and what this may mean for the international arbitration community.

- **Catherine Amirfar**, Partner, Co-Chair, International Dispute Resolution & Public International Law Groups, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, New York, NY, United States
- **Matthew Holmes**, Executive Vice President & Chief of Public Policy, ICC Canada / Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa, Canada
- **Julia Kiechel**, Vice President, Commercial Litigation, Johnson & Johnson, New Brunswick, NJ, United States
- **Alice Slayton Clark**, Senior Vice President, Trade, Investment, and Digital Policy, USCIB, Washington, D.C.

Moderated by:

- **Alison G. Fitzgerald**, Partner, Bennett Jones, Ottawa, Canada

10:15 – 10:45 *Coffee Break*

Friday, 25 September 2026 (Cont.)

10:45 – 11:45 Panel 2: Powering the AI Economy: Disputes in Energy, Infrastructure, and Critical Minerals

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence is driving significant investment across an evolving ecosystem of strategic infrastructure and industrial supply chains in the U.S., Canada, and beyond. These developments are increasingly taking concrete form in large-scale, capital-intensive projects supported by complex contractual arrangements and supply chains involving everything from critical minerals and semiconductor manufacturing to hyperscale data centers and the energy systems that power them.

Panelists will explore where disputes are most likely to arise across project lifecycles in this interconnected infrastructure and supply chain ecosystem. They will also discuss how disputes are evolving in scale and technical complexity, what this means for parties relying on international arbitration to manage risk and resolve conflicts, and how counsel, experts, and arbitrators may be upskilling and changing their practices to serve clients' needs.

- **Michael Bishop**, Vice President, Litigation, Applied Materials, Inc., Washington, D.C., United States
- **Mona Dajani**, Partner, Global Co-Chair of Energy, Infrastructure and AI, Cooley LLP, New York, NY, United States
- **Brody Greenwald**, Partner, White & Case LLP, Los Angeles, CA, United States
- **Rachel Howie**, FCI Arb, Partner, National Practice Group Co-Leader, Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Dentons Canada LLP, Calgary, Canada

Moderated by:

- **Gaela K. Gehring Flores**, Partner, Chair of International Arbitration Practice Group, Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, Washington, D.C., United States

11:45 – 12:45

Panel 3: The New 2026 ICC Rules of Arbitration: Towards Enhanced Clarity and Efficiency

Drawing on institutional experience, user feedback, and empirical insights, the 2026 ICC Rules of Arbitration aim to enhance clarity, improve efficiency, and provide greater procedural flexibility. The discussion will focus on the practical implications of the new Rules for parties, counsel, and arbitrators, and how they are expected to shape proceedings going forward. Panelists will provide an inside look at the key changes to elements of the 2021 Rules, highlight newly introduced provisions, and give insight into the considerations that shaped the development of the 2026 Rules. Panelists will also discuss how the revisions respond to evolving user expectations and reflect modern dispute resolution practices.

- **Alexander G. Fessas**, Secretary General, ICC International Court of Arbitration; Director, ICC Dispute Resolution Services, Paris
- **Teresa Garcia-Reyes**, VP – Litigation & Investigations, Baker Hughes, Houston, TX, United States
- **Samaa A. Haridi**, Partner, King & Spalding LLP, New York, NY, United States; Vice-President, ICC International Court of Arbitration
- **Michael Ostrove**, Global Co-Chair of International Arbitration, DLA Piper LLP (US), New York NY, United States; Vice-President, ICC International Court of Arbitration

Moderated by:

- **Claudia Salomon**, President, ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris

12:45 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 15:30

Panel 4: What North American Court Decisions Reveal: Trends, Challenges, and the Road Ahead

In recent years, North American courts have issued a growing number of decisions addressing arbitration, impacting the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards, and raising new challenges for arbitration users. This session will examine recent court decisions in the United States and Canada and their practical implications for parties, counsel, and the arbitration sphere, and what they signal for the road ahead.

- **William T. O'Brien**, Partner, Global Co-Head of International Arbitration, Eversheds Sutherland, Washington, D.C., United States
- **Vasuda Sinha**, Partner, Co-Lead International Arbitration Group, McCarthy Tétrault LLP, Toronto, Canada
- **Alexander A. Yanos**, Partner, Co-Chair, International Arbitration Group, Alston & Bird, New York, NY, United States
- **Charline O. Yim**, Partner, Gibson Dunn, New York, NY, United States

Moderated by:

- **Kabir Duggal**, Partner, International Arbitration Practice, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New York, NY, United States; Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School; Council Member, ICC Institute of World Business Law

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00

Panel 5: Managing Arbitrations with Non-Participating Parties

This session examines key challenges arising in arbitrations with non-participating parties, and how tribunals and counsel can address them in practice. Panelists will share tips and best practices to ensure due process, maintain procedural efficiency, and safeguard the enforceability of awards.

- **Cecilia Azar**, Partner, Galicia, Mexico City, Mexico; Vice-Chair, ICC Commission on Arbitration & ADR
- **Stephanie Cohen**, Independent Arbitrator, New York, NY, United States; Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration
- **Christian Leathley**, Partner, Head of International Arbitration, US, London, New York, Latin American Group, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP, New York, NY, United States
- **Paul di Pietro**, Counsel, ICC International Court of Arbitration, New York

Moderated by:

- **Lindsay Gastrell**, Independent Arbitrator / Member, Arbitration Chambers, New York, NY, United States

17:00 – 17:15 Closing remarks

- **Craig Chiasson**, Partner, BLG, Vancouver, Canada; Chair, Canadian Chamber of Commerce / ICC Canada Arbitration Committee
- **Peter J.W. Sherwin**, Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP, New York, NY, United States; Chair, USCIB/ICC USA Arbitration Committee; Member, ICC International Court of Arbitration

17:15 – 19:30 Cocktail Reception