ARBITRATION CHAMBERS
HONG KONG • LONDON • NEW YORK • SINGAPORE

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Sarah is an Independent Arbitrator with Arbitration Chambers, the leading global set of international arbitrators, with offices in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and New York. She is listed as a Thought Leader for arbitration by Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) and has sat as sole, co- and presiding arbitrator under the Rules of the SIAC, ICC, HKIAC, LCIA and DIAC, as well as in *ad hoc* arbitrations, seated in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Dubai.

Prior to joining Arbitration Chambers, Sarah spent 14 years in private practice with Baker McKenzie, in London and in Sydney, and eight years as the Registrar of the LCIA. At Baker McKenzie, Sarah's practice incorporated general commercial litigation and international arbitration across a broad range of subject matters, with a particular focus on disputes arising out of the telecoms, technology, resources & energy, banking, and sports sectors. During her time with the firm, Sarah gained valuable exposure to complex cross-border disputes and proceedings, and she had the opportunity to work with parties and counsel from a variety of jurisdictions around the globe. She also regularly provided risk avoidance advice and is a qualified Solicitor-Advocate.

As Registrar of the LCIA, Sarah had primary responsibility for managing the casework secretariat and for ensuring that the arbitrations referred to the team were administered to the highest standard. Sarah was part of the LCIA's senior management team, reporting to the Director General and, in turn, to the Board. In her role, Sarah liaised closely with the President and Vice Presidents of the LCIA Court regarding contentious points of practice and procedure. Sarah was closely involved in the drafting of the LCIA Rules 2014 and managed the implementation of the LCIA Rules 2014 and 2020, as well as spearheading the transition to paperless working in 2020. She also worked to improve diversity in arbitration, making changes to internal practices to address unconscious bias and introducing external reporting of diversity and first-time appointee statistics in her annual report for 2012, at a time when no other major arbitral institution was reporting such statistics.

Professional experience

- 2020 to present: Arbitration Chambers – Independent Arbitrator (formerly Chambers Director)
- 2012 to 2020: London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) – Registrar
- 2009 to 2012: Baker McKenzie, Sydney – Special Counsel
- 1998 to 2008: Baker McKenzie, London – Senior Associate (trainee from 1998 to 2000)
- 2000 (May to September): UK Supreme Court – Judicial Assistant, Court of Appeal, to Lord Justice Nourse (acting Master of the Rolls), Lord Justice Mummery, and Lord Justice Morritt (President of the Chancery Division).

Admitted

- England and Wales (2000)
- New South Wales (Australia) and the High Court of Australia (2010)

Education

- University of Nottingham, 1993-1997: LLB (Law with European Law), First Class Honours, including a year at Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany - awarded Law Graduates' Association Prize for best graduating student, JC Smith Prize for Evidence, and Sweet and Maxwell Prize, 1997
- Nottingham Law School, 1997-1998: Legal Practice Course, distinction (and top 5% of year)
- Kings College University, London, 2003: post-graduate certificate in Sports Law, merit
- Legal Profession Admission Board, NSW, 2009: Real Estate Law and Australian Constitutional Law (LexisNexis prize awarded for highest mark in Constitutional Law)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Australia), 2011: Fastrack to Fellowship

Professional activities

- Court member of the Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (2022 – date)
- Board member of the Scottish Arbitration Centre (2023 – date)
- Specialist Member of the Sport Resolutions Panel (April 2024 – April 2027)
- Member of the HKIAC List of Arbitrators (2022 – date)
- Member of the DIAC Arbitrator List (2024 – date)
- Member of the SIAC Panel of Arbitrators (2025 – date)
- Member of KCAB International's Panel of International Arbitrators (2025 – date)
- Member of the LCIA (2007 – date)
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2012 – date)
- Chief Executive Women mentoring programme (2012)

Appointments as Arbitrator

- Appointed by the LCIA as co-arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in London, between Ukrainian and BVI parties, involving a claim of over USD 200 million under a guarantee and indemnity.
- Appointed by the ICC as sole arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in London, between an English company and a Turkish company, arising out of a trademark licence and distribution agreement and involving claims for payment of a debt of over USD 1 million, unquantified damages and an account of profits.
- Appointed by the LCIA as presiding arbitrator (nominated by the co-arbitrators) in an arbitration between a Chinese company and a Swiss company, seated in London, involving a claim for the refund of c. USD 3 million of prepayments made in respect of a contract for the supply of metal products.
- Appointed by the HKIAC as sole arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in Hong Kong, between a Hong Kong party and an Irish company for non-payment of fees for professional services.
- Jointly appointed as sole arbitrator by a Singaporean company and a Chinese company in an UNCITRAL arbitration, seated in Singapore, arising out of an agreement for the sale of goods, involving claims in excess of USD 150,000.
- Appointed by DIAC as sole arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in Dubai, between two UAE companies, arising out of a subcontract in the hotel and leisure industry, involving a primary claim of c. USD 630,000.
- Appointed by the ICC as sole arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in London, between a Romanian company and a Turkish company, arising out of alleged breach of agreements for the sale of certain steel products, involving claims of c. USD 925,000.
- Appointed by SIAC as sole arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in Singapore, between a Singaporean company and a Belgium company, involving total claims of c. USD 700,000, arising out of a software end user licence agreement.
- Appointed by a party as co-arbitrator in an arbitration under the ICC Rules, seated in London, between a Singaporean company and an Israeli individual under a guarantee, involving claims in excess of USD 10 million.
- Nominated by a party as co-arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration between an English entity and a Saudi Arabian company for non-payment of fees for professional services.
- Appointed by SIAC as sole arbitrator in an arbitration, seated in Singapore, between a Singaporean company and a Chinese company, arising out of an agreement for the sale of goods and involving a claim of c. USD 300,000.

Other representative clients, cases or matters

While at the LCIA, Sarah was involved in the administration of thousands of arbitrations from a broad variety of industry sectors and jurisdictions.

In private practice with Baker McKenzie, Sarah's representative clients, cases and matters included the following.

- Advising an Australian company in an ICC arbitration (India seat) commenced by a state-owned company, arising out of an agreement for the sale of coal, in which claims in excess of US$160 million were brought against the Australian client.
- Acting for an Australian mining company in an HKIAC arbitration (Hong Kong seat) brought by a Chinese company alleging breach of contract. Assisting the client to negotiate an amicable settlement.
- Advising and representing an Australian company in various disputes arising under a joint venture agreement in the energy and resources sector, including in proceedings before the Supreme Court of Queensland.
- Representing an investment company in an LCIA arbitration arising out of the sale of an interest in an Eastern European mobile telecoms company, involving claims in excess of €500 million.
- Acting for a Formula 1 race team in several high-profile proceedings before the sport's international governing body and in various commercial disputes.
- Representing a Czech bank in a CZK 40 billion LCIA arbitration (London seat) commenced by a second bank and arising out of the sale of its business. Advising the client on procedure and tactics and on the interplay between the arbitration and the plethora of other foreign court proceedings and arbitrations in existence between the two banks.
- Acting in an ICC arbitration (with its seat in London) seeking specific performance of a contract for the disposal of a Polish telecom company for US$140 million. Advising client on enforcement of the arbitral award and successful negotiation of payment of full amount due under the award.
- Representing an international chemical company in English court proceedings commenced by a former distributor, alleging breach of a distribution agreement, and conducting an internal investigation at the client into allegations raised during the proceedings.
- Advising an international high-technology group on a claim brought by a former French agent under the English Commercial Agents Regulations, which resulted in an ICC arbitration. Advising on tactics generally and representing the client at a mediation in Paris.

Languages

- English (native); French (reasonably proficient); German (working knowledge)

Nationality

- British; Australian