



NIAMH LEINWATHER

SECRETARY GENERAL

CONTACT

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Wiedner Hauptstrasse 63
1045 Vienna

LANGUAGES

English - mother tongue
Irish - good knowledge
German - business fluent
French - basic knowledge

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Since 1 January 2022, Niamh Leinwather has taken office as the new Secretary General of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC). Of Irish origin, Niamh has both a common and civil law background (Bachelor of Civil Law, University College Dublin, Mag.iur., University of Vienna, Master of European Studies, University of Vienna). She was the first Irish woman to be admitted to the Austrian Bar in 2013 and has over a decade of experience in international dispute resolution at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Vienna where she acted as both counsel and arbitrator. Niamh has held the office of Secretary Treasurer of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI) since February 2023. In July 2024 Niamh was appointed to the Board of Directors of Arbitral Women and chairs the Education Committee. In October 2024 Niamh was invited to her alma mater as an Adjunct Professor of the Sutherland School of Law (University College Dublin).

EXPERIENCE

01/2022 – TODAY

Secretary General of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC) Vienna, Austria

02/2010 - 12/2021

Principal Associate at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP
Vienna, Austria

- Principal Associate in the dispute resolution practice group with a particular focus on international arbitration; experience in complex construction and energy proceedings under the auspices of the ICC, VIAC, DIS and ad hoc rules; acting as counsel and arbitrator

10/2008 - 01/2010

Associate at DLA Piper Weiss-Tessbach,
Vienna, Austria

- Associate in the real estate practice group; researching and drafting of contracts and court filings relating to all types of real estate transactions

EDUCATION

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- 01/2013 -
Austrian Bar Exam – Rechtsanwaltsprüfung
 - 11/2007 - 10/2008
Magister of law (Mag.iur), University of Vienna, Austria
 - 09/2006 - 06/2007
Master studies – Master in European Studies (M.E.S.) – Europastudien University of Vienna, Austria
 - focusing mainly on European law, with economic, social and cultural aspects; perfection of two foreign languages, German and French with basic knowledge of a third language and completion of a thesis
 - 09/2001 - 06/2005
Bachelor of Civil Law with European Legal Studies (BCL) University College Dublin, Ireland
 - 09/2003 - 06/2004
Erasmus/study abroad, University of Vienna, Austria
 - 09/1997 - 06/2001
Leaving Certificate Examination, Loreto College Mullingar, Ireland
 - 09/1990 - 06/1997
Scoil Colmain Noafa, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland