

IBA unveils new slate of officers

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Rome (Credit: istock.com/MasterLu)

The IBA Arbitration Committee has announced its latest slate of officers at the association's annual meeting in Rome, with **Julie Bédard** of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom and **Gaëtan Verhoosel** of Three Crowns as co-chairs and **Philippe Pinsolle** of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan waiting in the wings as senior vice co-chair.

Bedard, a Canadian who splits her time between New York and Sao Paulo, will be the committee's senior co-chair until the end of next year, when Verhoosel will take over and Pinsolle will fill his former role as junior co-chair. Verhoosel is from Belgium but based in London, while Pinsolle is French and based in Geneva.

The former senior co-chair was Colombian **Eduardo Silva Romero** of Dechert in Paris, who has now stepped down.

Newly announced vice chairs are **Christian Leathley** of Herbert Smith Freehills in New York; **Valeria Galíndez** of VG (her own firm) in Sao Paulo; **Xavier Favre-Bulle** of Lenz & Staehelin in Geneva; **Samaa Haridi** of Hogan Lovells in New York; **Craig Miles** of King & Spalding in Houston; **Swee Yen Koh** of WongPartnership in Singapore; **Ndanga Kamau**, an international disputes lawyer based in Nairobi; and **Fernando Mantilla-Serrano** of Latham & Watkins in Paris. All except Mantilla-Serrano will serve until 2020. His appointment expires next year.

Secretary of the committee for a second year is **Julien Fouret** of Betto Seraglini in Paris and treasurer is **Adrian Magellanes** of Von Wobeser & Sierra in Mexico City.

Other officers, in charge of conference quality, the arbitration committee's newsletter and membership of the committee, respectively, are **Sofia Martins** of Miranda & Accociates in Lisbon, **José Daniel Amado** of Mirando & Amado in Lima and **José Ricardo Feris** of Squire Patton Boggs in Paris.

Angeline Welsh of Matrix Chambers in London remains in charge of the website.

There are also officers to liaise with the IBA's Asia Pacific Forum and Corporate Counsel Forum: **Liz Chung** of Kim & Chang in Seoul and **Michael McIlwraith** of GE Oil & Gas in Florence, respectively.

The committee's own Asia Pacific group is chaired by **Sae Youn Kim** of Yulchon in Seoul. Other subcommittees concern the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards; investment arbitration; the IBA arbitration guidelines and rules; and international commercial arbitration case law. They are chaired by **Michelangelo Cicogna** of De Berti in Milan, **Reza Mohtashami QC** of Three Crowns in London, **Alvaro López de Argumedo** of Uría Menéndez in Madrid and **Dietmar Prager** of Debevoise & Plimpton in New York, respectively.

The committee's under-40 group, IBA Arb-40, is co-chaired by **André Abbud** of Barbosa Müssnich & Aragão in São Paulo and **Noradèle Radjai** of Lalive in Geneva.

An advisory board is formed of **Pierre Bienvenu** of Norton Rose Fulbright in Montreal; **Dominique Brown-Berset** of Brown&Page in Geneva; **Paul Friedland** of White & Case in New York; California-based arbitrator **Sally Harpole**; and **Audley Sheppard QC** of Clifford Chance in London.

All the appointments were announced last night at the Arbitration Committee's gala dinner during the IBA annual conference in Rome. The conference kicked off on Monday, when former European Commission president and prime minister of Italy **Romano Prodi** spoke about the decline of the "idea of Europe" and status of supranational bodies, noting that fears of loss of identity at nation-state level are leading to a transfer of power from the European Commission to the European Council, comprising heads of states.

Prodi also spoke about Brexit, dismissing the hopes of many for a second referendum and suggesting the result would be the same anyway given his experience of UK "exceptionalism". And he mused on how "liberal democracy is under threat" all over the world, replaced by a desire for authority.

Since his opening address there has been a busy programme of sessions, including on arbitration, and the usual whirl of parties.

This year, the annual IBA International Arbitration Day organised by the committee took place in Buenos Aires and focused on the impact on arbitration of two Latin principles – pacta sunt servanda and bona fide – and how they interact with each other and related principles to enhance the rule of law.

The next Day will be held in Montreal early next year and will explore mandatory law, what the French and Belgians call "lois de police" and other international conflicts of law.