



**North America Branch  
Accelerated Route to Fellowship  
(International Arbitration)  
Assessment Course**

---



**SAN DIEGO  
April 18 & 19, 2024  
Plus Exam**

**Venue  
University of San Diego  
Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice**

**Presented and Organized by:  
The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators  
North America Branch**

**Course Schedule  
Thursday, April 18 – 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 19 – 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**Five interactive breakout workshops PLUS three plenary sessions explore the challenges of organizing and managing a complex international arbitration and the drafting of an enforceable reasoned international award.**

**Testimonial: Noah Hanft - former President & CEO, CPR; Co-Founder AcumenADR**

"This course was one of the most valuable and rewarding programs I have ever attended. It was rich in substance and, at the same time, conveyed how to practically apply substantive learnings. The workshop/interactive structure makes this program both fun and practical. I particularly appreciated the problems presented because they are real, and finding solutions required not only an understanding of the applicable rules and law, but the exercise of sound judgment. In sum, this course provides the thought processes to resolve and document the complex issues that arise during an international arbitration and when drafting an enforceable reasoned award. I can truly say it made me a better arbitrator."

**Internationally Renowned Faculty**



**David Brennan, FCIArb:** Professor of Practice, University of San Diego School of Law, teaching International Arbitration Courses since 2010. He currently is also a user-member of the LCIA and member of ICCA. Prior to joining the USD School of Law faculty, Mr. Brennan was an Associate Professor of Law, Civil-Judicial-Appellate Externship director, and Moot Court Competition coordinator at Western State University College of Law. That experience was preceded by his thirty years' experience as a civil litigator in both state and federal courts during which he tried dozens of civil trials.

Mr. Brennan was the founding and senior partner of two successive law firms and later served as of counsel to three Southern California litigation firms. Following his military service in the U.S. Navy, he entered and completed law school under the G.I. Bill. He is also a certified mediator, arbitrator and temporary judge and served in both the San Diego and Orange County Superior Courts for civil case resolutions.



**James (Jim) Reiman, FCIArb:** Jim is the past chair of the North America Branch of the CIArb. He is an arbitrator and mediator of complex domestic and international commercial disputes and serves as a director on the boards of public and private companies. He has 18 years' experience as a trial and commercial transactions attorney practicing in Chicago, IL law firms followed by 20+ years as CEO, chairman and board director of public and private companies in the US, UK and China. In addition to his ADR and board work, Mr. Reiman is a member of the faculty of the University of Oxford's Oxford Programme on Negotiation and a Board Leadership Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors. He is the author of the award-winning book *Negotiation Simplified: A Framework and Process for Improving Negotiating Results*, Herndon, VA., Amplify Publishing (2022).

He is the author of the award-winning book *Negotiation Simplified: A Framework and Process for Improving Negotiating Results*, Herndon, VA., Amplify Publishing (2022).



**Cecilia Flores Rueda, FCIArb:** Cecilia Flores Rueda handles complex and high-stakes international and domestic arbitration cases and represents clients before federal and local courts. She also acts in arbitration as both a party representative and an arbitrator and focuses her practice on issues related to cases involving governmental entities, shareholders' disputes, energy, oil and gas, infrastructure projects, trusts, construction, joint ventures, lease agreements, transportation and logistics, international sale of goods, distribution, insurance and reinsurance,

e-commerce, intellectual property, and commercial transactions in general. Cecilia previously worked for major law firms, and, before that, she acted as Secretary General for the Mediation and Arbitration Centre of the Mexico City National Chamber of Commerce (CANACO), where she was in charge of the administration of mediation and arbitration proceedings, both domestic and international, under the rules of CANACO, the Commercial Arbitration and Mediation Centre for the Americas (CAMCA) and the Inter-American Arbitration Commission (IACAC). At the same time, as an independent practitioner, Cecilia participated in many arbitration proceedings related to international trade, some of them ad hoc proceedings under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).



**David E. Sharp, FCI Arb:** David is the current Chair of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrator's North America Branch. He is the principal of the Law Offices of David E. Sharp P.L.L.C. Previously, David was a partner at one of Houston's largest law firms and practiced at several firms during which has handled a wide variety of litigation and arbitration matters ranging from workers comp to antitrust, securities, energy and complex commercial litigation. His experience also includes toxic torts, numerous construction disputes, insurance coverage matters, contract disputes, breach of fiduciary duty claims, legal malpractice, representation of securities broker dealers, and representation of plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury cases, including a long running case involving the death or injury of numerous people in a foreign country, application of a foreign country's law in a state court, and taking of testimony via letters rogatory proceedings in a foreign country.



**Program Director – John B. Pinney, FCI Arb:** John is the senior lawyer at Bricker Graydon in Cincinnati. His practice is focused on international business disputes, including litigation of such disputes in U.S. courts and international arbitrations in the United States and in many countries throughout the world. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, teaches International Commercial Arbitration at the University of Cincinnati and coaches the Cincinnati team that competes in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot. John also frequently speaks on international arbitration at programs throughout the world. In addition, he is active with the American Bar Association and has recently completed service on its Standing Committee for the Federal Judiciary that evaluates and rates all U.S. federal judge nominees.

---

## **Accelerated Route to Fellowship (International Arbitration) Assessment**

The Accelerated Route to Fellowship program is designed for senior practitioners in the field of dispute resolution, ordinarily with 10 years of experience in complex litigation and/or international dispute resolution. It is a qualification program; *not* a fundamentals training program. Successful completion of the program permits participants to apply to become Fellows of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, which allows the use of the designation FCI Arb.

The program focuses on applicable laws and procedures for the conduct of efficient arbitration hearings in complex international cases. The program is comprised of three elements:

### **1. Oral Assessment**

This element of the Accelerated Route to Fellowship Programme consists of two days of workshops (4 days if the program is via remote video conference) based on a case study of a dispute. Each participant is assessed on their knowledge, judgment and self-presentation during discussion of a series of problems arising during a mock complex international arbitration and role play simulations.

### **2. Written Assessment**

Written assignments will be part of the assessment process during the workshop portion of the program. One of the written assignments will be prepared in advance of the workshops and will be collected early on the first day of the workshops.

---

### **3. Award Writing Examination**

This element consists of a written, open book examination in which an award must be written and fully reasoned based on the evidence in an arbitration proceeding. The exam is administered as part of this program. To receive a passing grade, the award must meet international standards for enforcement. The exam administration and assessment fee is included in the tuition fee for the program.

Following successful completion of the three elements described above, candidates may schedule a Peer Interview. There will be a separate charge for the Peer Interview: it is not included in the tuition fee of this program.

**Who Should Attend?** You are a practicing lawyer or arbitrator with substantial complex litigation and/or dispute resolution experience (10 years minimum). For further information regarding one's qualification to participate in the program, please contact John Pinney, Program Director (jpinney@brickergraydon.com).

**Assessment.** Continual assessment throughout the workshop portion of the program, written submittals, and award writing exam.

**Assessment Result.** Successfully passing the oral and written assessments during the workshop portion of the program allows the candidate to take the Award Writing Examination. Successful completion of the Award Writing Examination and (separate) Peer Review Interview allows the candidate to apply for Fellow status (for full details of route to Fellowship, please visit the CIARB website [www.ciarb.org](http://www.ciarb.org)). Candidates may apply for Associate CIARB membership with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators at any time.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What will happen during the oral assessment portion of the program?**

You will be in small groups with two or more assessors. You will be given a case study comprising a commercial contract and a set of facts describing the events which lead to a dispute between a number of parties. During the assessment workshops, various situations or problems which might arise during an international arbitration will be put to you and you will discuss how you would deal with them. There are also written and role play exercises.

### **What grade of membership will I be entitled to?**

You may apply as an Associate member of the CIARB at any time. If you pass the oral and written assessments during the workshop portion of the Accelerated Route to Fellowship program, and are not already a Member of the CIARB, you will be entitled to apply for Member status. This applies whether you sit for and pass the Award Writing Exam or not. Applying for Member status as soon as possible is encouraged as all persons applying for Fellow status must first be Members of the Institute.

If you do not pass the oral and written assessment portion of workshop portion of the Accelerated Route to Fellowship program, you will not be permitted to take the Award Writing Exam.

If you do not pass the Award Writing Exam, you will not be permitted to proceed to the Peer Interview process for Fellowship status.

If you successfully pass the workshop portion of the Accelerated Route to Fellowship program as well as the Award Writing Exam, you will be able to schedule a Peer Interview. There will be a separate charge for the Peer Interview process: it is not included in the tuition cost of this program. Following successful completion of the Peer Interview you may apply to upgrade your membership level from Member to Fellow status.

---

## **Course Venue**

The course venue is the Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego, 555 Marian Way, San Diego, CA 92110.

## **Timing and Scheduling**

The course will commence at 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning, Pacific U.S. Time, on April 18, 2024 and continue on Friday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m. Each session will end at approximately 5:30 p.m. The award writing examination will proceed as described below. All attendees are welcome to attend the Friday night reception being held as part of the North America Branch Annual Members Retreat. (See separate Retreat registration information below.)

## **Workshops**

Thursday, April 18, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 19, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## **Award Writing Exam**

Participants will be required to write a reasoned international arbitration award. They will have 48 hours to write their award at any time they wish during the five-day period starting on April 24, 2024, and ending on April 29, 2024.

## **Join the North America Branch Annual Members Retreat in San Diego**

The North America Branch's Annual Retreat will be held at the Humphreys Half Moon Inn on beautiful Shelter Island only a short drive from the airport. All CIARB members are welcome regardless of Branch. See Retreat venue video: <https://video214.com/play/PiuW3jU7z1uzcBA21Cbviw/s/dark>

## **Special Discount for Attendees of Fellowship Course**

The Annual Members Retreat – Regular Registration Fee: \$645

**Discounted Retreat Registration Fee for ARF**

**Candidates (includes Friday night dinner and Saturday programming): \$200**

**Does not include Saturday evening dinner or spouse/partner registration**

**Registration for Retreat Required with ARF Registration to receive Discount**

\* \* \* \* \*



**We are anticipating strong demand for this program and would ask that you register at the earliest possible date.**

**Registration is limited!**

## **PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

**CLICK HERE FOR  
PROGRAM REGISTRATION**

### **Fees**

**Accelerated Route to Fellowship Program registration fee:  
US\$2,300.00 – United States Dollars**

**Available Discounts**

**US\$ 300.00**

**for**

**Current Members of**

**Chartered Institute of Arbitrators**

**Cancellation:** You may freely substitute someone from your organization until the Monday before the Training. A cancellation fee of US\$ 250/C\$325 will be charged if cancellation is received prior to April 1, 2024; tuition will not be refunded if cancellation is received after that date. However, the fee paid may be applied to a future NAB course or program.

---