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North America Branch

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



**CHICAGO
April 23 & 24, 2025
Plus Exam**

Hosted by



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

Course Schedule

Wednesday, April 23 – 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 24 – 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



Thomas O. Crist, FCI Arb: Tom is an international arbitration and disputes specialist headquartered in the United States and the UAE. He has spent most of his career as a trusted advisor, problem solver, and advocacy partner at the Benesch law firm. Tom leads Benesch's Construction Practice and is founder and Chairman of the firm's Global Infrastructure Team, MENA (Middle East/North Africa), and Federal Contracting Practices. The overlapping groups share an emphasis on innovation and delivery of essential services to established and developing locales, including those in the energy, chemical, natural resources, transportation, healthcare, manufacturing, and infrastructure sectors. Tom advises stakeholders and public and closely held company leadership in their planning and execution of a broad range of major projects and initiatives. He lends leadership on site to projects that encounter implementation and technical challenges and which often utilize dynamic controls such as BIM, AI, robotic and autonomous systems, proprietary analytics, and other tools that are on the leading edge in the AEC space.



James (Jim) Reiman, FCI Arb: Jim is the past chair of the North America Branch of the CI Arb. 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).



Program Director – John B. Pinney, FCIArb: John is the senior trial 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, serves as an arbitrator on CPR’s roster of Distinguished Neutrals, teaches International Commercial Arbitration at the University of Cincinnati and coaches the Cincinnati team that competes in the Willem C. Vis International 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 having 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 FCIArb.

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 Chartered Institute of Arbitrators website www.ciarb.org). Candidates may apply for Associate CI Arb 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 the other candidates in your group for discussion. You and the others in your respective groups will be expected to thoroughly discuss each problem, including expressing how to best address and deal with the issues presented. There are also both written assignments and role play exercises included in the workshops.

What grade of membership will I be entitled to?

You may apply as an Associate member of the CI Arb 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 CI Arb, 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 cannot 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.

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Course Venue

**The Chicago office of Benesh is hosting the course.
Its offices are located at**

**71 South Wacker Drive
Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60606**

Timing and Scheduling

The course will commence at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday morning, Central U.S. Time, on April 23, 2025 and continue on Thursday, April 24, 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 will be invited to join fellow candidates and faculty for dinner on Wednesday evening on April 23rd at a restaurant (to be named later) near the course venue. The cost of the dinner is included in the course tuition fee.

Workshops

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 24, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Award Writing Exam

Participants will be required to write a reasoned international arbitration award. Each will have 48 hours to write his or her award at any time during the five-day period starting on April 30, 2025, and ending on May 4, 2025.

We are anticipating strong demand for this program and ask that those interested register at the earliest possible date.

Fees

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

Presented in Cooperation with





Available Discounts

US\$ 300.00

**For Current Members of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, JAMS,
CPR Institute Members & Neutrals and ABA Dispute Resolution Section**

**An additional US\$200 “Early Bird” Discount will be allowed
for registrations made by Monday, April 14, 2025.**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW](#)

Cancellation: You may freely substitute someone from your organization until Friday, April 18, 2025. A cancellation fee of US\$ 250 will be charged if cancellation is received on or before April 18, 2025; 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.
