

Applied Arbitration for Fellows

January 27-28, 2027 (1 ½ Days, In Person)

Houston, Texas



Course Information

Purpose and Audience

Previously offered to rave reviews in Dubai, London, Hong Kong, Lagos, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, CIARB's "*Applied Arbitration for Fellows*" course is now available for the first time in North America.

This is not a fundamentals course; it is a **practical skills development programme** for those already experienced in dispute resolution. Participants engage in realistic simulations under the guidance of top international arbitrators and practitioners.

Testimonials

"Amazing. Faculty was fantastic."

"Interesting, dynamic and challenging."

"An outstanding and worthwhile course."

"Exactly what I expected and what I wanted to get out of the course."

“The course provides a unique opportunity to gain experience sitting as an arbitrator. From the moment the course starts you are asked to engage in practical and realistic arbitration scenarios. The feedback from seasoned arbitrators was so valuable. I don’t believe there is another course like it. It was hard work, but I learned a lot.”

Format and Delivery

- Online course materials.
- **In-person role play** (1 ½ days, January 27-28, 2027) using realistic case documentation.
- Two **virtual** sessions (one prior to the in-person role play, one after the in-person role play)
- Participants act as **co-arbitrator** and **presiding arbitrator**.
- Faculty includes **top international arbitrators and practitioners** who provide personalised feedback.

Learning Outcomes

Candidates will practise the roles of co-arbitrator and presiding arbitrator in mock proceedings using realistic documentation and interacting with specialist arbitration counsel and witnesses as well as other tribunal members. Through active engagement, participants will develop their knowledge, skills and confidence to:

- Plan and manage arbitration proceedings effectively
- Address common procedural problems
- Communicate effectively with parties, counsel, and tribunal members
- Ensure fair, efficient, and effective arbitration processes

Entry Requirements

- Must be a **CIArb Fellow**.
- Preference given to those who have not yet served in a neutral role.

Tutors

The course will be delivered by the following tutors:

Course Director:

Julia E. Sullivan, FCIArb

Chartered Arbitrators:

Michael Tonkin, C.Arb, FCIArb

Ann Ryan Robertson, C.Arb, FCIArb

Murray Smith, K.C., C.Arb, FCIArb

Mauricio Gomm, C.Arb., FCIArb

Michael Cover, C.Arb, FCIArb

Counsel:

Cecilia Flores Rueda, FCIArb

Jeff Senger, FCIArb

Derrick Carson, FCIArb

Biographies

Course Director

Julia E. Sullivan, FCIArb

Julia is an independent arbitrator with more than 35 years of experience in commercial transactions, complex business disputes, and international arbitration. She has been appointed in more than 170 arbitrations as sole arbitrator, chair, co-arbitrator, or emergency arbitrator, including international disputes involving parties and projects across North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Julia's arbitral practice spans a broad range of commercial disputes, with particular expertise in energy, construction, infrastructure, finance, partnerships, joint ventures, and aviation. Her experience includes disputes involving major infrastructure projects, renewable energy facilities, oil and gas operations, finance and financial instruments, securities, banking, construction, fiduciary duties, fraud, unfair competition, and U.S. and cross-border commercial transactions.

Prior to becoming a full-time arbitrator, Julia practiced law for nearly three decades with leading international law firms, including as Practice Manager for Energy Regulation, Markets & Enforcement and member of the Global Energy & Transactions Steering Committee at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Economic Litigation Partner at Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, and energy attorney with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Her legal practice focused on complex commercial litigation, energy regulation, project development, finance, and cross-border transactions.

Julia is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and previously served as Vice Chair (Membership) of the CIArb North America Branch. She is a member of ArbDB Chambers and serves on the rosters of various arbitral institutions. She has taught and lectured extensively on arbitration, project finance, and international commercial law, including appointments as Visiting Professor at universities in Poland, Georgia, and other jurisdictions. She is also an approved faculty member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Julia's academic credentials include four advanced degrees: an LL.M. (Distinction) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, an LL.M. in International Business from Boston University, an LL.M. in Transnational Commercial Transactions from Lazarski University (Poland), and a J.D., summa cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law. She also holds specialized credentials in international arbitration from the ICC Advanced Arbitration Academy for North America and the CIArb/Oxford Diploma Programme in International Commercial Arbitration.

Julia is admitted to practice in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Nevada, and England & Wales. She is a frequent author and speaker on international arbitration, energy disputes, infrastructure projects, and emerging issues affecting global commerce and dispute resolution.

Chartered Arbitrators

Michael Tonkin, C.Arb, FCIArb

Michael is the 2026 Deputy President of CIArb.

Michael became a CIArb Fellow and a Chartered Arbitrator in 2004 at the age of 31. In the same year, he joined the CIArb UAE Branch Committee and supported the Branch in a range of different roles, including as Branch Chair. Michael also served as a CIArb Trustee, CIArb Honorary Treasurer, as Chair of the Audit Committee, and was part of the CIArb Governance Review Working Party.

Based in Dubai, he is a Partner at HKA Global, a leading global consultancy, specialising in risk mitigation, dispute resolution, expert witness evidence and litigation support.

Michael's experience spans five continents and a wide range of institutional rules. He is a frequent speaker on expert witness evidence and the role of an arbitrator and has authored papers on these topics.

Michael's academic background includes a BSc degree in Quantity Surveying from the University of Glamorgan (now the University of South Wales), a Diploma in Arbitration from the College of Estate Management (now the University of the Built Environment), and a Diploma in International Maritime Arbitration from CIArb.

Ann Ryan Robertson, C.Arb, FCIArb

Ann served as the 2021 global president of the CIArb. She is a recognized leader in the field of international arbitration. A full-time independent arbitrator in Houston, Texas, Ann has acted as sole, co-arbitrator, presiding and emergency arbitrator in commercial arbitrations across a range of industry sectors. Ann is also one of ten arbitrators appointed by the United States Department of Trade to serve as a dispute settlement panelist pursuant to Chapter 31 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Named to International Arbitration - Lexology Index (formerly Who's Who Legal) since 2015, in 2024 and 2025 Lexology designated Ann as a "Thought Leader: Arbitration"—a select group of individuals "worthy of special mention owing not only to their vast expertise and experience...but also their ability to innovate and inspire."

Alongside her arbitration practice, Ann teaches International Arbitration Advocacy at the University of Houston Law Center and coaches the Law Center's Cross-examination in International Arbitration Moot team.

Murray L. Smith, KC, C.Arb, FCIArb

Murray served as 2005-2008 Chair of the North American Branch of the CIArb. He has been a Course Director for Fellowship qualification with CIArb in numerous programs across North America, including New York, Palo Alto, Boston, New Orleans, Portland, San Antonio, Chicago, Santa Fe, Atlanta, Las Vegas, Victoria, Vancouver, Montreal, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia and Kingston, Jamaica.

Murray has served as arbitrator in a wide variety of international and domestic commercial arbitrations as panel chairman, party appointed tribunal member, and sole arbitrator. He has acted as arbitrator in international commercial arbitrations under AAA (ICDR), ICC, BCICAC, ADR Institute Rules and UNCITRAL Rules. He collaborated with Martin Hunter and Alan Redfern in writing the leading text "Law and Practice of International Commercial Arbitration" (2nd ed.) and is a frequent lecturer on the subject of international arbitration practice.

Mauricio Gomm, C.Arb, FCIArb

Mauricio is an independent arbitrator, mediator, and law professor with more than 35 years of legal experience, including over two decades dedicated to international dispute resolution. Dual-qualified in Brazil and New York and accredited as a mediator by CEDR, he has served as presiding arbitrator, sole arbitrator, co-arbitrator, emergency arbitrator, mediator, and expert witness in complex cross-border disputes conducted under the rules of leading arbitral institutions, including the ICC, ICDR/AAA, LCIA, CPR, SIAC, HKIAC, and UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules.

Mr. Gomm's practice encompasses a broad range of industries, including infrastructure and construction, energy, mining, corporate and M&A, international sales, and franchising and distribution disputes. He is a Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and is recognized for his ability to bridge civil law and common law traditions in multilingual and multicultural proceedings. He conducts proceedings in English, Portuguese, and Spanish and is also able to serve in matters conducted in French.

Michael Cover, C.Arb, FCIArb

Here is a conference-style biography suitable for a moderator's introduction or conference program (approximately 180 words):

Michael is an international arbitrator, mediator, adjudicator, and dispute board member, and a founding member and Director of ArbDB Chambers in London. A dual-qualified barrister and solicitor in England and Wales, he has more than three decades of experience in commercial dispute resolution, both in private practice and as in-house counsel.

A Chartered Arbitrator and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Michael has issued more than 120 arbitral awards under the rules of leading institutions, including the International Chamber of Commerce, London Court of International Arbitration, and International Centre for Dispute Resolution. He is also a highly experienced mediator, having conducted more than 280 mediations across a broad range of commercial, construction, energy, insurance, intellectual property, maritime, and shareholder disputes.

Michael serves on the panels of numerous international arbitral and mediation institutions and has particular experience in complex cross-border disputes, including matters arising under FIDIC contracts and major infrastructure projects. He is recognized in *Legal 500* as a leading UK mediator and by *Who's Who Legal* as both a Global and UK National Leader in Mediation. He is also certified in investor-state mediation and has extensive experience as a trainer and speaker on arbitration, mediation, and dispute boards.

Counsel

Cecilia Flores Rueda, FCIArb

Cecilia is the 2026 President of the North America Branch of CIArb.

Cecilia is an international arbitrator, mediator, and dispute resolution practitioner based in Mexico. She is the founder of FloresRueda Abogados, a boutique firm focused on complex domestic and international arbitration, litigation, and alternative dispute resolution matters. She regularly serves as arbitrator, tribunal chair, co-arbitrator, sole arbitrator, and counsel in high-value disputes across a wide range of industries, including construction, infrastructure, energy, oil and gas, transportation, insurance, joint ventures, shareholder disputes, and matters involving governmental entities.

Cecilia has more than two decades of experience in dispute resolution. Prior to founding her firm in 2015, she served as Secretary General of the Mediation and Arbitration Center of the National Chamber of Commerce of Mexico City (CANACO), where she administered domestic and international arbitration and mediation proceedings. She has acted in proceedings under the rules of leading arbitral institutions, including the ICC, ICDR, AAA, CANACO, and other international and regional arbitration centers. ([NAI](#))

Ms. Flores Rueda has held numerous leadership positions within the international arbitration community, including service as Chair of the North America Branch of CIArb,

Counsel of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration, and member of the USMCA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes. She has also been active in the ICC Young Arbitrators Forum and other initiatives dedicated to the development of the next generation of arbitration practitioners.

Cecilia is widely recognized for her contributions to international arbitration and has been listed by Chambers Latin America, Who's Who Legal, and Leaders League. She is the editor of the *Diccionario Enciclopédico de Arbitraje Comercial* and the author and co-author of numerous publications on arbitration and dispute resolution. She frequently lectures and teaches on arbitration at universities and professional programs throughout Mexico and internationally.

Cecilia earned her law degree and postgraduate studies in International Commercial Law from Universidad Panamericana and an LL.M. in International Law from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), both with honors. She is admitted to practice in Mexico and conducts proceedings in both English and Spanish.

Jeff Senger, FCIArb

Jeff is a Fellow of CIArb, a member of the board of the North America Branch, and an arbitrator at JAMS.

Jeff is an experienced neutral who has been recognized as a Fellow of CIArb, a Distinguished Neutral in arbitration and mediation with the CPR International Institute for Dispute Resolution, an arbitration panelist with the American Arbitration Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the London Court of International Arbitration, and a mediator for the District of Columbia Superior Court and United States District Court. Jeff has mediated, arbitrated and litigated hundreds of cases involving a wide variety of complex commercial disputes, with significant experience in life sciences, health care and governmental/public agency matters.

An authority on dispute resolution, Jeff has written an award-winning book, numerous law review articles, and several book chapters on mediation, negotiation and life sciences law. He has spoken on behalf of the United States government on five continents. He has led mediation, negotiation and arbitration programs at Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Georgetown University Law Center, the U.S. Department of Justice, the federal Interagency Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group, and CIArb.

Prior to joining JAMS, Jeff had a distinguished career as the acting general counsel of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), a life sciences partner at the international law firm of Sidley Austin, and a foundational leader of the U.S. Department of Justice's

Alternative Dispute Resolution program. He serves as a mediator, arbitrator, special master/referee and neutral evaluator.

Derrick Carson, FCI Arb

Derrick is a Fellow of CI Arb. He served on the Executive Committee (2012–2015) and as Vice Chair (Arbitrator Training & Education) of CI Arb's North America Branch.

Derrick is a partner in the Houston office of [Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP](#), where he focuses on complex construction, energy, and commercial disputes. With more than 25 years of experience, Derrick has represented clients in high-stakes litigation and arbitration proceedings throughout the United States and internationally.

Derrick's practice spans the full spectrum of dispute resolution, including domestic and international arbitration, trial advocacy, and appellate litigation. He has served as lead counsel before juries, judges, and arbitral tribunals in matters involving major infrastructure projects, oil and gas development, renewable energy facilities, maritime disputes, and other complex contractual controversies. His international experience includes representing clients in proceedings administered by leading arbitral institutions and disputes arising in the Middle East, the Caribbean, and other jurisdictions worldwide.

Prior to joining Pillsbury, Derrick served as Chair of the Energy Litigation Practice Group at Locke Lord LLP and previously chaired the firm's Construction Law Practice Group. He is widely recognized for his work at the intersection of construction and energy law, particularly in disputes involving large-scale infrastructure and industrial projects.

Derrick is a frequent advocate in matters involving engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts, project delays, cost overruns, changed work claims, and other issues common to complex construction and energy developments. His combination of trial experience, arbitration expertise, and industry knowledge makes him a trusted advisor to owners, contractors, developers, and energy companies facing significant disputes.