

DECEMBER 2022  
NEWS AND EVENTS

**ciarb.**  
North America  
Branch

Happy Holidays NAB Members!



This is the time to book your registration and travel to Santa Fe for our First Annual Members Retreat in April 2023! We have Registration links in the Newsletter and it is confirmed live to register. Our goal is to support the networking mission of CIArb NAB so we hope you can join us because without you there is no networking. **Again, scroll down in this newsletter to find the registration links and more details.** Hope to see you in Santa Fe in April!

Read about the latest arbitration case from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, *Jon Christian Amberson PC v. McAllen (In re Amberson)*. The Opinion of the Court is [here](#).

Congratulations to our 4 featured members this month for their accomplishments and profiles in our Newsletter. A special thank you to our outgoing Chair **Katherine Smith Dedrick FCIArb** and this month's featured member.

*Steven J. Cologne FCIArb  
NAB Newsletter Editor*

**New Email Address?** If your email address changes, please remember to advise [memberservices@ciarb.org](mailto:memberservices@ciarb.org) and [communications@ciarbnab.com](mailto:communications@ciarbnab.com)

## Upcoming Events & Featured Programs



The **Annual General Meeting and Board of Directors Election** of the North America Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators ("NAB") will be held at 10:00 a.m. EST on Tuesday, **December 13**, by Zoom. Register using this [link](#). If you need an additional copy of the **Amended Notice of Annual Meeting**, please contact David E. Sharp, FCIArb, NAB Vice Chair/Communications at [DSharp@sharplawhouston.com](mailto:DSharp@sharplawhouston.com).

NAB is a Partnering Entity in the ABA DR Section's Advanced Mediation and Advocacy Skills Institute being held virtually **December 1–3**. **NAB Members receive a discount by entering the code **CEMED22****. For details and to register, go [here](#).

The highly acclaimed Accelerated Route to Fellowship (International Arbitration) Assessment Course will be presented in-person in San Francisco on **December 2 & 3** at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. NAB is presenting this outstanding course along with California Arbitration and the Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Center. The ARF is designed for practitioners with substantial experience in the field of dispute resolution, typically those with at least 10 years' experience in complex litigation and/or ADR. The cost is \$2,250 (a \$300 discount is available for current members of CIArb, CalArb, or SVAMC). For further information regarding one's qualification to participate in the program, contact **Jim Reiman** FCIArb, Program Director ([jreiman@ReimanADR.com](mailto:jreiman@ReimanADR.com)). More details are available [here](#).

On **December 5** the Los Angeles Chapter of NAB in collaboration with CalArb, Musick Peeler, and Arbitral Women presents a **FREE** program that will be both virtual and in-person entitled "Of Privilege & Privacy: Navigating Inconsistent Legal Privilege and Personal Data Protection Regimes in International Arbitration." The event will be from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. PST. Registration to attend in-person ends on **December 3**. More details and a registration link can be found [here](#).

The December "**Ask the Arbitrator**" event will be Wednesday, **December 14**, at 1:00 p.m. EST/10:00 a.m. PST: "An International Investment and Commercial Arbitrator at Work", an interview with Chartered Arbitrator Mark Kantor. Mark will be interviewed by NAB's Isabela Hernandez-Peredo Martinez, an LL.M. student with the White & Case International Arbitration program at the University of Miami, School of Law in Florida. **This program is free**. For additional details and to register, go [here](#).

## FIRST ANNUAL NAB MEMBERS RETREAT APRIL 14–16, 2023 IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



Join other CIArb members in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico for networking along with educational programming!

The event will be held at the Inn at Loretto in downtown Santa Fe, just off the historic Plaza which dates from more than 400 years ago.

Click here for event registration: <https://www.ciarnab.com/santa-fe-registration>

Early bird rate of \$500 per person for early registrants. The rate will be \$650 after **February 1, 2023**. Registration includes a place for one at the Friday evening dinner along with admission to the Saturday morning session and Sunday morning farewell breakfast. **Hotel costs are extra and to be borne by attendees** See hotel charges below and register for the Inn at Loretto here: [Inn at Loretto](#)

\*\*\*CIARB NAB has, arranged for a block of rooms, first come first served, at the Inn at Loretto for a base rate of \$269/night plus a resort and amenity fee of approximately \$30/night and taxes.

\*\*\*Spouses or significant others may register for an additional \$250 which covers all of the same events, including Dinner on Friday night.

\*\*\*Registration is open to any CIArb member, regardless of Branch, and their spouses or significant others. **Registration for the Members Retreat does not include the Speakers Dinner at Geronimo which requires separate registration and an additional fee.**

### AGENDA

**Friday, April 14, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner at the Inn at Loretto, featuring a Key Note by John Garman** FCIArb, a former Chair of NAB

**Saturday, April 15, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** – An informative plenary session featuring presentations from:

- Murray Smith, Q.C., LLM, FCIArb,
- John McArthur FCIArb and Northern California Chapter Chair,
- Amb. (Ret.) David Huebner FCIArb, CIArb Trustee for the Americas and former Chair of NAB,
- Ann Ryan Robertson C.Arb, FCIArb, former President of CIArb, and
- A distinguished panel of NAB members from Mexico led by Reynaldo Urtiaga, Chapter Chair for Mexico.

**Saturday evening, April 15, 2023:**

**Option A:** 6:00 p.m. – Speakers Dinner (Geronimo Dinner) at the fabulous Geronimo Restaurant for \$175 per CIArb members and spouses/significant others. (Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis and space is limited). This is an additional event with a separate registration fee. Geronimo Dinner Reservations are available during the retreat registration process Or,

**Option B:** Enjoy a night out on your own or with others in Santa Fe at one of the many gourmet restaurants within a short distance (Make dinner reservations well in advance to avoid any possible complications). Saturday afternoon is free time to enjoy sightseeing and pleasures that Santa Fe has to offer. Check the Santa Fe Visitor's Center website at <https://www.santafe.org> or call the concierge at the Inn at Loretto at 505.988.5531.

Additional information will be provided to registrants as appropriate when available. CLE has not yet been obtained, but the plan is to seek it for certain jurisdictions.



Congratulations to the new board members deemed elected for three year terms starting January 1, 2023. They are: **Laura Abrahamson FCIArb, Sunu Pillai FCIArb, Peter Rosen FCIArb, Harout Samra FCIArb, and Reena Soni FCIArb.**

NAB Members: Don't miss an opportunity to promote yourself by publishing in Lexology! Lexology has a broad reach. If you wrote something that you are legally allowed to have published without copyright or other legal restrictions, send it to our Lexology contact, **Ava Borrasso C.Arb, FCIArb** at [Ajb@ajborrassolaw.com](mailto:Ajb@ajborrassolaw.com).

**John McArthur FCIArb** and Northern California Chapter Chair has written a new, scholarly book, *The Reasoned Arbitration Award in the United States: Its Promise, Problems, Preparation, and Preservation*. Receive a 10% discount on online orders by using the code **NABCIARB**. Learn about the book and order here: <https://arbitrationlaw.com/books/reasoned-arbitration-award-united-states-its-promise-problems-preparation-and-preservation>. John's book explains his view that that "silent" awards are not less prone to challenge and not necessarily cheaper to prepare than reasoned awards, criticizes six ways awards often fail to give meaningful reasons, and argues that U.S. courts have improperly tended to uphold such awards as "reasoned." The work has John's extensive analysis of each ground of vacatur and its success rate based on his study of vacatur opinions in Westlaw for 2010–2017 with a link to appendices with synopses of the vacatur opinions for exceeding powers, manifest disregard, violating public policy, and evident partiality. It also has appendices for awards he treats as well reasoned and for those he views as not so. John will be speaking on awards at the upcoming NAB Members Retreat in Santa Fe in April.

**Les Schiefelbein FCIArb** is pleased to announce Claudia Salomon (President, ICC

International Court of Arbitration) as the Keynote Speaker for the 5th Annual Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution Conference. The Conference will feature internationally recognized dispute resolution practitioners on four panels to discuss: Catastrophic Sovereign Events; Innovation in Investor–State Arbitration; Pharma & Life Sciences Disputes; and Nontraditional International Arbitration Claims. The Conference will be held on **January 13, 2023** at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Arizona State University. You can register at the following link:

<https://events.asucollegeoflaw.com/schiefelbein/>. The Conference is part of the Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution Program at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law. The Program also provides scholarships to law students who are interested in international law and international dispute resolution.

You can now invite non–members who might be interested to sign up for the newsletter at [CIArb North American Branch Newsletter](#).

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**Featured Members.** This month's Featured Members are: **David W. Brennan, Katherine Smith Dedrick, Denton Nichols, and Sofia Gomez Ruano.** Learn about them below and on the homepage of NAB's website [NAB Website](#).



**David W. Brennan (San Diego, CA)**

Since 2010, David Brennan has been a Professor in Practice at USD School of Law focused on international and domestic arbitration laws, procedures, and ethics. He was an Associate Professor at Western State College of Law in Fullerton from 2005–2010. His civil litigation practice spanned from 1973 through 2004. David received Mediation certification in 1992 after which he engaged in private and court–appointed cases through 2004. Memberships: CalBar active since 1973, ABOTA member 1986 rank of Advocate, CIARB (NAB) as

a Fellow and trainer/mentor since 2016, Member of the ICCA in The Hague, the London Court of Arbitration (LCIA), North America user/member, and the California Arbitration organization. David currently serves as the coach/advisor for USD’s VIS International Commercial Arbitration Competition teams in Vienna and Hong Kong and serves as an arbitrator for those events. He graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1973 and received his LL.M(I) from USD School of Law in 2003. David spent nine years in the U.S. Navy, including service in Vietnam.



**Katherine Smith Dedrick (Denver, CO)**

Katherine’s practice focuses on commercial contract, construction issues, risk management, insurance and reinsurance matters, many of which she has handled through litigation and arbitration in jurisdictions throughout the US and as a consultant overseas. She has extensive experience in disaster recovery disputes and resolution, having worked with some of the largest commercial insurers, companies, building owners and government entities in the U.S., Mexico, Chile, New Zealand and Australia. She was co–

founder of a disaster recovery and consulting company located in the U.S. and Asia Pacific before it was sold to an Australian group. Katherine is currently Chair of CIArb’s North America Branch and previously served as Chair of its program committee. She received her JD with high honors from IIT Chicago Kent College of Law and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She is an independent arbitrator with AAA and FINRA. She also serves as an independent director of Oberweis Asset Management.

**Denton Nichols (Houston, TX)**

Denton Nichols, FCIArb, specializes in international arbitration and disputes in Norton Rose Fulbright's Houston office. Denton is known for his representation of clients in the energy, petrochemical, manufacturing, and mining industries. Being a Spanish and Portuguese speaker, Denton devotes a significant



portion of his practice to Latin America. His high-stakes representations have included both investor-state and commercial arbitrations, and to date he has represented clients through final awards and settlements resolving over US\$ 3 billion in claims. Denton received his J.D. and M.A. from The University of Texas and his B.A. from Rice University.



### **Sofía Gomez Ruano (Mexico City, MX)**

Sofía Gomez Ruano, FCIArb, is a Partner of the Dispute Resolution Practice at Creel, García-Cuellar, Aiza y Enríquez. She has over 20 years of experience in dispute resolution representing clients and sitting as an arbitrator in large and complex matters. She handles cases involving M&A, construction, hospitality, financial services and information and communications technology. Sofía is listed on the panel of conciliators of the International Centre for Settlement of

Investment Disputes (ICSID) and is a member of the USMCA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Disputes.

She has been Professor of Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Universidad Panamericana for over 13 years. Sofía has co-authored several arbitration publications and is a frequent guest speaker on dispute resolution. Sofía is a graduate of the Universidad Panamericana.

## **News About Members**

The newsletter has expanded to report news about Members. If you have something to report, please email that information to [newsletter@ciarbnab.com](mailto:newsletter@ciarbnab.com). **To ensure the newsletter goes out the first business day of each month, it is requested that information for the January 2023 newsletter be submitted by December 16, 2022.**

When participating in a program or event of another organization, please remember to include in event fliers and publications, if possible, your post-nominal designations such as **FCIArb**. In addition to showcasing credentials you have earned, doing so helps all members by raising recognition of CIArb and, by association with you, helping to demonstrate that CIArb members are highly qualified individuals who have been credentialed by what in our opinion is the world's leading ADR credentialing organization.

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**Get involved with one (or more) of the NAB Committees.** Communications (and its social media subcommittee), Programs, and Training would definitely appreciate help. Contact information is on the website or email [communications@ciarbnab.com](mailto:communications@ciarbnab.com) to get directed to the right person(s).

**Young Members** should become part of the young members group (YMG). If you are not on the YMG's membership roster, contact Imad Khan at [lkhan@winston.com](mailto:lkhan@winston.com).

**Student Members**, please share the information about free student memberships with those of your classmates who have not joined. More details are available on our [website](#).

Finally, don't forget to join, if you have not, the [NAB LinkedIn Group](#). **This group is open to all who may be interested in ADR (not limited to NAB members)**. If you have friends who ought to join, let them know about it. There are currently over 280 members, mostly NAB members. There, you can post questions, articles, and anything that might be of interest to members and comment on our monthly "What Do You Think?" feature about ADR.



**STEVEN J. COLOGNE**  
FCI Arb

NAB Newsletter Editor  
and Board Member



**DAVID E. SHARP**  
FCI Arb

NAB Vice Chair /  
Communications



**JULIA SULLIVAN**  
FCI Arb

Vice Chair / Social  
Media Subcommittee

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