

**REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS
KARINA ALBERS
APRIL 2022 TO APRIL 2023**

1. 2022 year started off with the warmest New Year's Day on record with 16.2 C. It was Year of uncertainty according to the Bank of England. I would call it the year of change. We have had not one but two new Prime Ministers. We celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our monarch Queen Elizabeth II, coped with a record-breaking heatwave and not long after we mourned the death of our sovereign. Queen's Counsel changed to King's Counsel, some of us still have to get used to that. The World has moved closer together to help the Ukrainian people fight for survival caused by the Russian invasion. An event that has not only affected the Ukrainian populations but also people here in the UK facing the energy crisis.
2. All these occurrences have not hindered the London Branch in its activity but has had the opposite effect. For the London Branch 2022 has also been a year of change. A new chair, vice chair and honorary secretary took office and we have created an additional office with our Education & Training Liaison Officer. We have introduced new event formats online, in-person in London and in Paris. The Committee has been more diverse than ever which has led to fantastic efforts and results. It has shown extraordinary determination to thrive to deliver great things to its members overcoming venue cancellations due to the heatwave and speakers not being able to be present due to Covid-19. Quick thinking, flexibility and great teamwork amongst all ensured an even more stellar programme than in 2021.
3. Before I summarise all that has been accomplished I would like to remind everyone that the Committee dedicates its time solely on a voluntary basis to serve you, the London Branch Members. Event formats evolved from in person only prior to the pandemic to webinars only during the pandemic to now attempting to cater for all offering hybrid events. This is a challenge in itself finding venues that can provide suitable technology ensuring that online audiences enjoy events as much from their desks as the in-person audience in the room. Anyone who has organised a hybrid event knows the additional challenges that come with it.
4. This year we have introduced a new lunchtime soft skill masterclass format which has already proven to be very popular. We've run 18 events over the past year, including 6 webinars, 9 hybrid seminars (in-person and online), 3 in-person seminars thanks to the Committee and the Young members Group. We've had 98 speakers at our events here in London, online and in Paris. It is not easy to quantify our audience as our hybrid and online events continued to be open to all. Well in excess of a thousand people from all over the globe have tuned in and benefited from London's top-class speaker pool. We very much hope that ADR practitioners in dispute resolution centres other than London could profit from our world class speakers and presentations too. Under my chairmanship the Committee has flourished and embraced expanding our views outward towards the global Ciarb network and how to support all ADR stakeholders and to promote the Institute. At any given event we had minimum 10 difference jurisdictions present up to 26 jurisdictions present.

5. It is amazing how many fields are resolved by ADR. The London Branch Committee endeavours to cover as many different areas in which dispute resolution is favoured. Our events demonstrated a great variety to showcase arbitration, adjudication and mediation in Life Sciences at the London International Dispute Week, how to prepare for an effective mediation, getting decisions right and avoid how to challenges as arbitrator, we have embraced green dispute resolution and the path to net-zero, compared different jurisdictions in Kenya and Nigeria and East Asia compared to London, given tips and tricks of what to do when arbitral procedures have been hacked, matters arising from Merger and Acquisition transactions, out the spotlight on energy and extraction trends and developments, exploring the use of technology in arbitration, how effective are witnesses of fact in construction disputes and of course educated our members on the current sanctions and substantive problems arising in arbitrations. A former BBC producer shared her broadcast tips with us how to present more effectively and keep audiences engaged. Practical skills like how to make an award work and teach a cross examination of fact witnesses class. The YMG hosted Tony Landau KC to share his career and experience.
6. For this year we have already got exciting events in the planning: The Ghana High Commissioner to UK and Northern Ireland H.E. Papa Owusu-Ankomah will open our next event jointly with the Ghana branch with a keynote, a joint mediation event with the Singapore branch, Climate change together with the Nigerian branch, Art in the Metaverse, Cyber security with the Bar Council and a debate style event on should one member of the tribunal be an expert arbitrator which is hosted by FTI. And this is all taken place before our summer break. There is no stopping us!
7. Delivering on my promise to have global reach we've been able to run events with the Ciarb European Branch, Ciarb YMG Kenya and Nigeria and East Asia as well as the Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners. Hybrid events together with Singapore, Nigeria and Ghana are in the making. There will be more collaborations with other branches across our global network in future. We have held a successful International Women's Day event together with Ciarb Headquarters again this year. Our relationship with two of the world-class arbitration institutions/Association that London is proud to be home to: the LCIA and the LMAA continues to blossom. The London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation has been added to the list and we continue close relationships with King's College and Queen Mary University has joined the pool this year. A new collaboration with the ICC is on the horizon having invited their members to our award writing masterclass in April. Arbitral Women are also a keen supporter of our events.
8. None of these events would be able to take place without our very generous sponsors. As a branch without any income we have to rely on a limited budget that does not allow for hiring external venues and catering. We are indebted to London law firms and chambers for their copious generosity for hosting seminars and hybrid events. The event list attached to this report is evidence of said generosity. I would like to express our utmost gratitude to all firms that have sponsored our events and to those that have already committed to future events. Many thanks!
9. Our bond with Ciarb Headquarters has only strengthened under Catherine Dixon at the helm and we are very grateful to her and her very efficient and hardworking team for wonderful support and assistance throughout 2022. Catherine has undertaken the monumental task to transition the Institute into 21st Century which is well underway.

We are all looking forward to the new Ciarb, visible already with the new logo and many policy updates and modernisations. This is a huge achievement in a short space of time. Change always means disruptions., however. This cannot be avoided. For us as a Branch it has been a steep learning curve to quickly adjust to the improved organisation. Although it has been time-consuming we have dealt with it patiently as we know it is for the better. The proficient HQ staff showed great understanding and through many fruitful dialogues and cooperation between the branch and HQ earned each other's respect and, if I may say so, professional friendships have been formed.

10. Ties with other branch chairs across the globe have been made not least at the global congress that took place in London in November. Many look up to the London branch for its tremendous activities and resources. We are often contacted for assistance from other branches and regions that intend to establish a Ciarb chapter or new branch. I sincerely hope that this is a sign that we are getting it right. When we held our event in Paris together with the French Chapter and the European branch it was so evident that Ciarb is one big family. The welcome we received was so generous, warm and kind.
11. We have received similarly great feedback from all of our events in 2022. The atmosphere at our events appears to be so welcoming also to non-members that they are encouraged to join the Ciarb. I am very proud to report that membership across the board has increased. After rigorous combing through the database and unpaid membership and no longer student members we are happy that our branch activities have attracted additional members every month throughout the year. Currently we have got 1687 professional members and 434 student members. The total of 2121 members represents 12.5% globally.
12. We have also celebrated the Branch's official 30th anniversary. On the hottest day of the year former and current committee members as well as Ciarb officials gathered together undeterred by a rail strike that day in July to celebrate. Does this not affirm the dedication of Ciarb London members to live Ciarb values and ensure further education and network to the industry in town?
13. This year the branch has been enticed to facilitate training for the first time. Historically the London Branch has stayed away from offering any training in order not to clash with Ciarb HQ courses on offer. Under the new helm all branches are encouraged to offer domestic training as 12 Bloomsbury Square is only going to offer international training courses. This means a whole new venture for us as a branch. We need to assess and establish an education and training subcommittee. The first step for us was to create the role of our training & Education Liaison Officer in 2022. Frederico Singarajah has taken on the new role which no doubt will prove challenging.
14. Many more things have been dealt with this past year but I believe now it is time to say thank you to you all, congratulations and farewell to some. Thank you to our Branch Patron, Dame Elizabeth Gloster. The biggest thank you is given to the Committee. I am so honoured to lead such a diverse committee. We range from gender, age, skill and ethnicity diversity. It has been very exciting to see how much more a team of greater diversity can achieve. You have all been fabulous! Thank you to our Branch officers: our Vice-Chair, Gillian Carmichael Lemaire; our Honorary Secretary, Jean-Francois Le Gal; our Honorary Treasurer, Andrew Davis; and our Public Relations Officer, Natalia Otlinger; our Education & Training Liaison Officer, Frederico Singarajah. Thank you

also to all our other Branch Committee members: Tope Adeyemi, Shobana Iyer, Paul Kinninmont, Gill Mansfield, Robert Price, Seamus O'Doherty, Babatunde Osungeitan, Glenda Vencatachellum, Daniel Djanogly; Elizabeth Montpetit, Dan Harrison and Laila Hamzi, our Young Members Group representatives and our Immediate Past Chair Ben Giaretta as well as our Branch Administrator, Elinor Pritchard. Without Elinor we would not be able to reach you. Everyone has dedicated so much of their time to the Branch.

15. Congratulations to the new people who have been elected to the Branch Committee (Jean-Francois Le Gal , our Honorary Secretary, will announce the results of the election shortly). And congratulations to our immediate past chair Ben Giaretta, who has joined the Trustees of the Ciarb. We are also looking forward to Jonathan Wood, current Deputy President of Ciarb, a London Branch member, to be the next Ciarb President.
16. We are sad to say good-bye to Gillian Carmichael Lemaire who has decided to step down from the committee. She has been a fantastic Vice-Chair to me this past year always there when needed. Her sober and practical approach has been invaluable to the work of the Committee. Gillian, you will be missed greatly by all of us. Another long-standing committee member is not going to be around in 2023. Daniel Djanogly has served the Ciarb London Branch for over two decades. We thank him for his never-ending dedication to the branch.
17. I would like to finish with thanking all Branch members for their participation in the Branch activities this year. Without you our efforts are in vain. I sincerely hope you've enjoyed the seminars, webinars, workshops, masterclasses, roundtables and the fireside chats over the past twelve months. I very much look forward to seeing you again soon at our events over the coming year and beyond. Until then. Thank you.

Karina Albers
Chair, London Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
27 April 2023

SCHEDULE

CIARB LONDON EVENTS SINCE 2022 AGM

12 May 2022	<p>Life Sciences Disputes event - LIDW</p> <p>Speakers: Malcolm Sheehan QC, Harriet Hanks, Paul Abbott, Tasmina Goraya, Catherine Penny and Larna Varney</p> <p><i>Part of London International Disputes Week, joint event with Queen Mary University of London and Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners, Hybrid event</i></p>
14 June 2022	<p>Dispute resolution and the path to net-zero: How can you play your part?</p> <p>Speakers: Thomas Karalis, Wendy Miles QC, Annette Magnussen, Matthew Saunders and Shobana Iyer (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Ashurst LLP (hybrid event)</i></p>
21 June 2022	<p>Young Members Group Webinar: London, Kenya, Nigeria</p> <p>Speakers: Orji A Uka, James Ngotho Kariuki, Angelica Andre and Elizabeth Montpetit (moderator)</p> <p><i>Joint event with the Young Members Group of the CIArb Kenya and Nigeria Branch</i></p>
13 September 2022	<p>18th Annual Joint CIArb London-LCIA Seminar: Your Arbitration has Been Hacked, What Now?</p> <p>Speakers: Ruth Hosking, Jamie Harrison, Shobana Iyer, Robert Maddox and Karina Albers (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Quadrant Chambers (hybrid event)</i></p>
29 September 2022	<p>Young Members Group Webinar: Roadmap to qualifying and working in different jurisdictions</p> <p>Speakers: Jennifer Wu, Mathew Briggs, Mark McMahon and Elizabeth Montpetit (moderator)</p> <p><i>Joint event with the Young Members Group of the CIArb Asia Branches</i></p>
27 October 2022	<p>Seminar: Arbitrations Arising From M&A Transactions</p> <p>Speakers: Greg Fullelove, Sara Masters KC, George Mountis, Daniel Harrison, Daniel Djanogly and Artem Doudko (moderator)</p>

	<i>Hosted by Osborne Clarke</i>
31 October 2022	<p>Young Members Group Workshop: Cross-examination masterclass of Fact Witnesses</p> <p>Speakers: Sir Bernanrd Rix, Rachel O’Grady, Alejandro Garcia and Elizabeth Montpetit (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Taylor Wessing LLP</i></p>
15 November 2022	<p>Annual Mediation Seminar: Perspectives on what makes for an effective mediation</p> <p>Speakers: Tim Hardy, Charlotte Henschen, Kai-Uwe Karl and Gill Mansfield (moderator)</p> <p><i>Joint event with LCAM, hosted by RPC LLP (hybrid event)</i></p>
6 December 2022	<p>Joint CIArb London-LMAA Seminar: Arbitrator decisions getting it right and avoiding challenge</p> <p>Speakers: Chris Smith KC, Clare Ambrose, Philippa Hopkins KC, David Stewart and Babatune Osungeitan (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Essex Court Chambers (hybrid event)</i></p>
19 January 2023	<p>Half Day Energy Symposium: Energy and Extraction: Current Trends and Likely Developments</p> <p>Speakers: Paul Kinninmont, Tome Melbye Eide, George Comyn, Oliver Irwin, Milena Szuniewicz, Phillip Ashley, Norah Gallagher, Jose Manuel Gutierrez Delgado, Diego Santacruz Descartin, Shai Wade, Süleyman Bosca, Tunde Fagbohunlu San, Veronika Korom, Rashid Gaissin, Babatunde Osungeitan and Karina Albers</p> <p><i>Hosted by CMS LLP</i></p>
2 February 2023	<p>Lunchtime Soft Skill Masterclass: No More Death By PowerPoint</p> <p>Speaker: Esther Stanhope and Karina Albers (moderator)</p>
10 February 2023	<p>CIArb European Branch and London Branch Hybrid Conference</p> <p>Speakers: Karina Albers, Alexandre Malan, Jil El Ahdab, Jonathan Wood, Shobana Iyer, Paul Kinninmont, Elizabeth Oger-Gross, Gillian Carmichael Lemaire, Alexandra Johnson, Nathalie Potin, Christopher Chinn, Jean-Francois Le Gal, Christian Theissen, Claire Morel de Westgaver, Calvin Hamilton</p> <p><i>Hosted by White & Case LLP Paris (hybrid event)</i></p>

13 February 2023	<p>Young Members Group Webinar: In conversation with Toby Landau KC</p> <p>Speakers: Toby Landau and Elizabeth Montpetit (moderator)</p>
1 March 2022	<p>Annual Joint event with King’s College: Fact Witness Evidence in Construction Disputes</p> <p>Speakers: Kim Franklin KC, Robert Price, Gillian Carmichael Lemaire, Sam Kay and Professor Renato Nazzini (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by King’s College, Crown Office Chambers and Berkeley Research Group (hybrid event)</i></p>
8 March 2023	<p>International Women’s Day Seminar: Embrace Equity</p> <p>Speakers: Claire Womersley, Tracey Fox, James Clanchy, Nikki Sharp and Karina Albers (moderator)</p> <p><i>Joint event with CI Arb Headquarters, Hybrid event</i></p>
21 March 2023	<p>Lunchtime Webinar: Sanctions and Arbitration – Substantive problems</p> <p>Panel: Rupert D’Cruz KC, Evgeniya Rubinina and Robert Price (moderator)</p>
12 April 2023	<p>Lunchtime Soft Skill Mastersclass: Award Writing Perspectives – Making an award work</p> <p>Panel: Dr Katherine Simpson, Perenami Momodu, Ashwita Ambast, Tope Adeyemi and Natalia Otlinger (moderator)</p>
27 April 2023	<p>AGM & Keynote Speech by Christopher Vajda KC</p> <p>What Makes A Good Arbitrator</p>