

Thomas Dillon

Candidate's Statement

I qualified as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute in 1999, then spent most of the succeeding years working abroad at the Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Since returning from Switzerland in 2023, I have been able to take advantage of the events organised by the London Branch and would like to contribute to its continuing success.

The hard work of present and retiring members of the London Branch Committee has delivered an outstanding programme of events relevant to practice, law and future policy.

I particularly appreciate events which bring together practitioners, academics and, where relevant, policy-makers. A good example is last November's seminar with King's College on the Arbitration Bill. I also greatly value events which bring us into contact with specific industry sectors, such as the recent seminar with Clyde & Co. on ADR in the aviation industry. I think the Branch is doing well and should maintain its direction.

The essential task of a committee member is to roll up his or her metaphorical sleeves and pitch in with the organising of events. As mentioned in my CV, I have done a good deal of committee work and believe I understand what is required of committee members.

To the extent that I might be able to add something to the Committee's considerable resources, I would hope to exploit the international connections that I have developed over the years. I should of course like to organise events on themes related to the creative industries and intellectual property, where much is always happening (e.g., the impending launch of the Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre of the Unified Patent Court). There are often developments at WIPO, an ADR institution in its own right, that could form the basis of worthwhile events.

I should also like to find opportunities to deepen relationships with potential ADR users in the City of London and with sectoral trade associations, to give members exposure to potential sources of work.

If lucky enough to be elected, I shall do my best to help London Branch to continue to enhance its value to members, both as a source of essential legal knowledge and as a tool of professional development.