

Natalia Otlinger MCI Arb

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- PERSONAL STATEMENT -

Natalia Otlinger is a skilled professional with a strong focus on **international arbitration**. During her training contract, she completed the following seats - **Ship Finance, Commodities Litigation, Shipping Litigation** and **Aerospace Litigation**. As a Trainee Solicitor at HFW LLP, Natalia worked on multiple arbitrations where her responsibilities included drafting submissions, managing disclosure processes, preparing witness statements, and coordinating preparations for arbitration hearings.

Her legal experience extends to litigation, where she has worked on contractual disputes in the commodities sector and a \$3.5bn multi-party Commercial Court case. Additionally, Natalia completed vacation schemes at **Reed Smith LLP** and **Vinson & Elkins LLP**, further enhancing her practical experience in international arbitration and dispute resolution.

As a Committee Member and Public Relations Officer at the London Branch of the **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators**, Natalia actively participates in the international arbitration community and frequently speaks at arbitration-related events. She has been involved in numerous arbitration **moot competitions**, both as a participant and an arbitrator, and has mentored young professionals in the field.

Alongside her extensive arbitration experience, Natalia has held positions at **DLA Piper** and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

- LEGAL EXPERIENCE -

HFW LLP | August 2021 – present

Arbitration experience

- Represented charterers on multiple **LMAA arbitrations**. Responsible for drafting submissions, letters of demand, notices of appointment, and preparing exhibits, contributing to successful outcomes for the clients.
- Acted for salvors on **LOF arbitrations**, drafted multiple correspondence exchanges with the tribunal and opposing counsel, managed the disclosure exchange process, and drafted a successful specific disclosure application. Prepared a witness statement of a salvage master.
- Acted for a leading Chinese metal trader in a **SIAC arbitration**, coordinating preparations for a hybrid arbitration hearing and making necessary arrangements for counsel and key experts.
- Acted for a global dredging contractor in a SIAC arbitration, conducting legal research on delays caused by changing scope of works under English and Singaporean construction law.
- Represented charterers on several arbitrations about vessels stranded in Ukraine, prepared a detailed chronology of events and researched the prospects of the war's end.
- Acted for a leading commodity trader on an **ad hoc arbitration** concerning a collateral management dispute in Ghana. Analysed available data concerning missing goods and prepared a detailed report.

Litigation experience

- Acted for a leading Swiss commodity trader on a contractual dispute in Commercial Court, demonstrating excellent advocacy and negotiation skills. Coordinated preparations for an in-person trial by preparing court bundles and liaising with transcribers and a witness expert, ensuring smooth and efficient proceedings.
- Represented an insurer on a \$3.5bn multi-party Commercial Court case concerning over one hundred aircraft stranded in Russia, demonstrating strong analytical and research skills. Contributions included finding a candidate for the expert and creating a detailed table containing details of over one hundred stranded aircraft in terms of their type and size, enhancing the client's understanding of the case. Regularly monitored Russian media and added relevant articles to the chronology, demonstrating strong knowledge of geopolitical contexts and developments.

Transactional and advisory experience

- Assisted in multiple financing transactions, including loans, re-financing, and delivery of new vessels. Responsibilities included managing Conditions Precedents, drafting documents, liaising with foreign counsel and international registries, keeping clients updated on progress, reviewing and drafting legal opinions, and producing transaction bibles.
- Independently managed two reflagging transactions by coordinating contact with the client, banks, foreign counsel, and international registries, ensuring the timely and successful completion of the transactions.
- Conducted over 50 sanctions checks in relation to EU, UK, and US sanctions introduced following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Prepared detailed corporate structures of the examined entities and drafted relevant advice, demonstrating strong analytical and research skills.

Committee Member and Public Relations Officer

London Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators | **April 2021 – present**

Vacation Scheme

Reed Smith LLP | **July 2018**

Vacation Scheme

Vinson & Elkins LLP | **June 2018**

Executive Assistant / Paralegal

Andrew Burr Arbitrator and Barrister | **August 2016– September 2017**

Assisted with preparing documents bundles for multiple court, arbitration and adjudication proceedings. Drafted submissions. Assisted at the arbitration hearing at the IDCR in London (EDF Rules).

- OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE -

Communications Coordinator (Public Relations)

DLA Piper | **October 2019– September 2020**

PR & Engagement Executive

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators | **January 2019– October 2019**

- EDUCATION -

LPC LLM (Distinction)

BPP University, London | September 2020 – July 2021

Master of Arts in Law and GDL (Distinction)

The University of Law, London | September 2017 – June 2018

Master of Arts in Law (First Class equivalent)

University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland | October 2010 – June 2015

11th Cologne Academy of International Arbitration

University of Cologne, Germany | Summer 2013

- LANGUAGES

✧ English (Fluent)

✧ Polish (Native)

✧ Russian (Basic)

✧ German (Basic)

- EXTRACURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES -

The Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot

Vienna, Austria | 2013 - 2022

- Team Member (21st – 22nd edition)
- Honourable Mention F. Eisemann Award for Best Team Orals (21st edition)
- Coach (23rd – 28th edition)
- Arbitrator (29th and 30th edition)

The 9th International Riga Pre-Moot

University of Latvia | February 2015

- 1st Place – Best Individual Speaker
- 1st Place Best Team Orals

The Warsaw Pre-Moot

University of Warsaw | February 2015

- 3rd Place – Best Team Orals

Prepared two case abstracts published in the UNCITRAL Database

UNCITRAL | April 2016

"Arbitrators' Quest" CEE and SEE mock trial (Participated)

Konrad & Partners, Vienna | May 2017

Young International Council for Commercial Arbitration (Mentee)

ICAA | 2019 - 2021

Marketing Committee Member

ArbitralWomen | January 2019 – January 2020

Legal Translator

Beck | January 2019 – January 2020

Translated a chapter of Schlechtriem & Schwenger Commentary on the UN Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG) to Polish

- SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS -

CIArb Webinar: "Award Writing Perspectives" (Moderator) | March 2023

CIArb Webinar: "Let's discuss - Cultural Intelligence" (Moderator) | March 2023

ELSA Katowice and ELSA Exeter Webinar "Never Ending Rules" | December 2022

CIArb International Women's Day Event | March 2022