

STATEMENT: Shobana Iyer's Statement for 2024 Ciarb London Committee Elections

In seeking to be re-appointed as a committee member for the Ciarb London Branch, I intend to assist Members in our shared commitment to excellence in the field of alternative dispute resolution and assist Ciarb in being at the forefront in dealing with the ethical and legal challenges relating to the use of emerging technologies in dispute resolution.

As well as a practising barrister, I also sit as an arbitrator in commercial and corporate sector particularly involving intellectual property and/or technology law. With my experience in international arbitrations, as well as my knowhow and insights from being on other professional committees, such as the Bar Council of England and Wales (Bar Council). Having been a Co-Vice Chair of the Bar Council's Legal Services Committee since 2021, my work oversees the IT, ADR, Direct Access and Services Appointment Panels, which includes providing guidance such as the [Bar Council's 'Guidance on ChatGPT'](#) which I was one of the primary authors.

Having been a member of the Ciarb London Committee I have been instrumental in organising and assisting numerous events and webinars for members in substantive and practical issues in the areas of ADR, particularly relating to technology. My experience in dealing with international arbitrations particularly in the sports, arts, insurance, finance, renewable energy and TMT sectors, frequently dealing with issues involving intellectual property, complex technology and corporate transactions, I am in no doubt that, I can continue to contribute to Ciarb members.

I will promote the objects of the Ciarb, particularly to promote and popularise arbitration and alternative dispute resolution while upholding high professional standards. With my knowledge and experience in the field of international arbitrations and emerging technologies in particular, I would be able to assist the Ciarb via the London Branch (whether it be in developing policy recommendations, guidelines or in other means) by:

- (1) Assisting on key issues raised by the use of emerging technologies (including artificial intelligence, blockchain and quantum computing) for the profession. The implementation of LawTech to augment the efficiency of the services provided by dispute resolution professionals, as well as the technology used in specific industry sectors is advancing at a rapid pace, I hope to support Members in the proper implementation and highlight learnings from the past so that progress can be made in an ethical manner maintaining our commitment to justice and fair processes.
- (2) Playing an active role in assisting with recommendations, publications or training to deal with active developments in technology, data protection and cybersecurity issues as well as in practical skills like advocacy in arbitrations.
- (3) Bringing positive change to support diversity and inclusivity in the profession. We are aware of the lack of diversity as well as cultural differences that impact our profession but in order to address the situation, we need to explore ways in which the Ciarb can assist in building and nurturing a culture where inclusiveness is a reflex, not an initiative. Where there is a deep sense of pride, passion, and belonging that transcends any role, culture or country and is unified in our shared commitment to excellence and social responsibility. This also includes supporting our younger members in practical insights as well as the substantive subjects in alternative dispute resolution.

I hope to be voted by Members once again and look forward to continuing my contribution to Ciarb



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Shobana is a practicing barrister with broad commercial and corporate legal experience; and presently the [co-vicechair of the Legal Services Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales](#) and on the [European Commission's List of Chairpersons for Arbitrations](#) for EU trade agreements with third countries.

Shobana is commonly instructed as counsel on a wide range of commercial litigation in England & Wales and arbitration proceedings (both domestic & international) and has experience under major institutions (including Ciarb, LCIA, ICC, SIAC, SCC, WIPO, CAS, AAA, JAMS and UNCITRAL) and ad-hoc arrangements. She specialises in complex commercial cases, frequently involving issues in corporate, intellectual property (IP), insurance and technology laws as well as international (public & private) law. With over 20 years of practice, she has experience in a wide variety of sectors including energy (renewables), finance, insurance, retail, international trade, sports, creative (arts, film/TV, and gaming), technology, media and telecommunications (TMT). As Counsel, she commonly teams up with international lawyers, law firms or directly with in-house counsel, directors, and their teams to add high-value intelligence and additional capacity to their existing teams. Shobana is a skilled negotiator and has a wealth of knowledge in commercial and corporate practice & proceedings, especially those involving emerging technologies and resolving corporate and IP disputes particularly in TMT.

Shobana also sits as an arbitrator in *ad-hoc* and institutional arbitrations. Shobana has been appointed on the [European Commission's List of Chairpersons for Arbitrations](#) for EU trade agreements with third countries. She is a specialist in international law matters and conducted arbitrations involving international trade, finance, corporate matters, insurance, intellectual property rights, art exhibitions/authenticity, films distribution, sports and technology (including blockchain and cryptoassets) in addition to general commercial contracts.

As a Fellow of the [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators](#) (FCiarb) and a [committee member of the London Branch of the Ciarb](#), she frequently deals with the impact of emerging technologies in dispute resolution. She is also an approved tutor for the Ciarb on the Ciarb International Arbitration Modules. Shobana is also an advisory board member of the [CyberArb Initiative](#) for international arbitration.

Colleagues and clients value her exceptional combination of intellect, pragmatism, efficiency, creativity and resilience as well as her high emotional intelligence and business acumen. Shobana is well known for her ability to identify relevant information from technically complex statistical data and accounts, deal effectively with experts and professionals, and in using technology efficiently. She is recognised for her consistency in high quality work:

"She has produced work of a consistently high standard which has been of great assistance to me and other members of Court" ~Late Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Brooke. Vice President of the Court of Appeal (Civil Division).

Presently appointed as [Co-Vicechair of the Legal Services Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales](#) (overseeing the Bar Councils' Panels: IT Panel, ADR Panel, Direct Access Panel and Services Appointment Panel) Shobana deals with LegalTech/LawTech, developments in technology, ADR and with matters affecting the administration of justice and the rule of law. Shobana leads the Bar Council's AI Discussion Forum.

Practice Areas

- ❖ Commercial & Corporate Law
- ❖ Insurance & Reinsurance Law
- ❖ Employment Law
- ❖ Intellectual Property Law
- ❖ Technology & Digital Law
- ❖ Data Protection & Information Law
- ❖ Media & Advertising Law
- ❖ Public & Private International Law