

**REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE CHARTERED
INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS
KARINA ALBERS
APRIL 2023 TO APRIL 2024**

1. When I joined the London Branch Committee in 2020 I joined with the motto in mind “Ask not what the Branch can do for me but ask what I can do for the Branch”. I think you will agree with me that this has filtered through profoundly to each and every committee member during my two tenures as Chair of the Branch. The London Branch is at its best it has ever been and I am a firm believer that is the right time to hand the Chair over to the next bright light of the committee to shine.
2. The Committee is full of talent with Gill Mansfield, our trusted Vice-Chair, Tope Adeyemi who has been a fantastic Honorary Secretary to me, Andrew Davis our diligent Honorary Treasurer, Natalia Otlinger, our PR Officer, who has ensured that all our members are well informed via our website and LinkedIn of what is on offer for our members, Frederico Singarajah, our Training and Education Liaison Officer, Paul Kinninmont, Shobana Iyer, Babatunde Oguseitan, Seamus O’Doherty, Madgalena Prus, Robert Price, Renato Nazzini, Jean-Francois Le Gale and Glenda Vencatachellum. Also not forgetting Elizabeth Montpetit who has been an asset to our the Young Members Group.
3. All of them have abundance of talent which has been evidenced by 15 events with contributions by 99 different speakers from various jurisdictions including an OBE, High Commissioners, a Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal and former Olympian. These events have been organised by the committee for you, its members. None of these events could take place without our many sponsoring law firms and chambers. Thank you to all for your generosity. One of my personal highlights was to interview a CEO in Los Angeles via hologram together with our president Jonathan Wood here in London. Even Sir Colin Birrs stayed on after his keynote to witness it. All seminars, webinars and hybrid events have been very well attended with over 1000 attendees globally enjoying top class speakers. The committee stands for diversity and has demonstrated that striving for diverse panels is hugely beneficial providing the highest quality of speakers and content.
4. The success of our events and visibly achieving diversity has probably also contributed to double the nominations to join the committee than spaces available again this year. Tope Adeyemi, Shobana Iyer and Glenda Vencatachellum have been re-elected for a second term and newcomers are Sue Kim and Carlos Carvalho. Allow me to congratulate and welcome the new members on board. We are thrilled to have you.
5. As promised in my election speech in 2022 we have expanded our views and activities from looking inwards and staying local to reaching across our London borders to our neighbouring branches and the global Ciarb network. Under my guidance the Committee has taken my motto to heart and asked what the London Branch can do for the Institute (and not what can the Institute do for us). We have collaborated with the Nigeria Branch, the Ghana Chapter, the European Branch French Chapter, Singapore Branch and YMG East Asia Branch. We continue to support smaller branches in more remote locations with our global reach and we are trying to respond to the many requests from other branches

and chapters to host joint events. However, first and foremost our London members are our priority and it is important they benefit from these joint events with other branches.

6. Our members have benefitted from our first joint event with CEDR, which was a great success and to be repeated. We have continued our annual event with the LCIA, another new addition to our collaboration with other institutions and associations is winning SIAC on our panel. Two joint events with the ICC are in the planning and so is an event with WIPO. We have covered topics like ‘Art in the metaverse’, climate change, the Singapore Convention on Mediation, Mediation in a post-Churchill World: 2024 and beyond, Cryptocurrency and Finance Arbitrations and current trends in renewable energy disputes amongst other ADR topics. Our soft skill masterclasses have been a raving success discussing the life and challenges of sole and independent practitioners, Procedural Strategy in Arbitration – Tips, Tactics, and Traps and a practice and procedures workshop for fellows. We have introduced a new event format hosting a debate arguing “At least one member of three-member arbitral tribunals should be a non-lawyer with experience in the subject matter of the dispute” with three judges’ panel. Watch this space as we have got exciting events in the pipeline for you before the summer.
7. It is thanks to the quality of our very regular events covering a great variety of ADR topics which attract members and non-members alike as we continue our policy to open our events to all. This has led to a monthly increase of our membership now totalling over 2,000 members including students. 12 Bloomsbury Square has openly recognised the success of our branch highlighting to other branches that even without offering certified training so far, an increase of membership is possible compared with other branches who offer training but still lose members. During my tenures our branch has increasingly benefitted from HQ recognising the dedication of the committee to the Institute as a whole. This is not least due to my tenacity to stress that committee work is voluntary and highlighting how many weekly hours are spent especially by the officers of the branch to succeed and to be appreciated as one of the top three leading branches globally. We are certainly the most active branch delivering the utmost value to you, our members.
8. I have initiated a long overdue dialogue with other UK branch Chairs to pool our resources like a speaker pool, faculty speakers and experiences of different regions across the country. The reception has been very positive and the desire is there to continue the conversation. It makes perfect sense to divide offering training for arbitration in London and adjudication further up North. We all agreed that demand for mediation is present in every region. It has been a joy and an enriching experience to share views with my fellow Chairs. I humbly thank them for their time and enthusiasm that I have received for reaching out. Exchanging information about Ciarb HQ events happening in London has set an example to employees at 12 Bloomsbury Square to think beyond the London reach for events hosted at their premises.
9. The shared dialogue with Chairs globally has also been beneficial when having to deal with consultants reviewing branch funding models, revised chartered arbitrator criteria and the newly launched chartered adjudicator status. We have had members reaching out to us to express their dissatisfaction which I have relayed to HQ successfully expressing constructive criticism which has been supported by other branches to trigger a formal feedback process to review and alter the criteria. Of course, we were also presented with

further time-consuming IT issues in 2023/4 submitting budget forecasts and membership database updates as well as bugs overriding membership profiles. Many thanks to you, our members for not hesitating to point out to us what is not working well. HQ has been very receptive and supportive throughout. Many thanks to Catherine Dixon and her team and especially to Jim O'Donnell and his IT team for responding speedily.

10. The Ciarb submitted its views on the Arbitration Bill to members of the House of Lords this February which did not include all views of our membership. This did not stop me from ensuring that valid points brought forward by our members that were not included were never the less presented before the Lords by our President who did a terrific job. Thank you to Jonathan Wood for listening to all members.
11. You will hear from Andrew Davis in a moment about our financial report but I would like to take the opportunity also to thank Graham Ashton and his team as well as the Trustees of the Ciarb for supporting all of our activities by granting the budget we have asked for. This is highly appreciated and we are grateful for the trust that is placed in us to handle the funds responsibly.
12. Running a branch involves many more things than already mentioned and I thank every committee member for his and her dedication and time to the committee to ensure that the branch runs smoothly under my guidance. The motivation of the committee has been fantastic to an extent that everyone was positively “fighting” for a spot in the calendar to run their proposed event. This, I believe, is something unheard of. I am so proud of all of you for making it a great pleasure for me to be your Chair.
13. Andrew Davis, our Honorary Treasurer, will be leaving the committee as he has served his second term and needs to pause in accordance with the rules. Andrew, you have been an amazing treasurer overseeing our finances and carefully and conscientiously budgeting for the branch’s needs. It is due to your dedication and consciousness that you have gained the trust of Graham Ashton and his team always delivering punctually (not like other branches). Together we achieved a very healthy bank balance which has enabled us to have flexibility to ensure that we did not suffer any obstacles managing the branch. We will miss you dearly.
14. The same can be said for our public relations officer Natalia Otlinger who leaves the committee too. Thanks to Natalia we have a LinkedIn account and a great many followers just short of 1000. She has also been responsible for keeping the website up to date to ensure that our members are informed. Natalia, you are leaving a legacy behind that will be hard to follow. Many thanks for all your hard work and dedication to the branch. I sincerely hope that you will stay with us via the Young Members Group.
15. Now it is time to say farewell too. I have been honoured to serve the committee as its first female non-lawyer Chair and third female Chair in the history of the London Branch. I have enjoyed enormously working with a highly motivated and dedicated team always striving for the same goal. This cannot be said for many committees. It has been a privilege but it also has been hard work to address many previously overlooked issues and to handle all the demands from members and HQ carefully and with (hopefully) great diplomacy. I am proud to hand over the branch when it is at its best to the new chair who will be elected next Wednesday. There will be change and change is the law of life which

makes it so interesting and colourful. Many, many thanks to you all for your fantastic encouragement and support. No doubt I will see you all again at future branch events.

Yours truly
Karina Albers
Chair of Ciarb London Branch

April 2024

SCHEDULE

CIARB LONDON EVENTS SINCE 2023 AGM

9 May 2023	<p>International Arbitration in Ghana</p> <p>Speakers: H.E Papa Owusu-Ankomah, Steven Finizio, Nania Owusu-Ankomah, Dipen Sabharwal KC, Andrew Skipper OBE, Kwadwo Ntrakwah, David Ofosu-Dorte, Kwadwo Sarkodie, Naa Amorkor Amarteifo and Tope Adeyemi (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Mayer Brown LLP (hybrid event)</i></p>
30 May 2023	<p>Climate Change Meets Arbitration – an African Perspective</p> <p>Speakers: Chief J. Akingbola, SAN, Opeyemi Longe, Seyilayo Ojo, Ana Stanič, Wendy Miles KC, Dr Kolawole, Babatunde Fagbohunlu SAN, Ned Beale , Jean-Francois Le Gal and Dr. Kolawole Mayomi</p> <p><i>Hosted by Radisson Blu Anchorage Hotel Lagos (hybrid event)</i></p>
6 June 2023	<p>Art in the Metaverse</p> <p>Speakers: Sylvain Levy, Mr Akhill Vadehra, Mr Ernest Chappa, Ms Cari Hyde-Vaamonde, Rebecca O’Kelly, Sir Colin Birrs, Karina Albers, Alexia Ogden, Anne-Sophie Nardon, Emily Gould and Shobana Iyer (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Bird & Bird LLP (hybrid event)</i></p>
21 June 2023	<p>The UK’s intention to ratify and sign the Singapore Convention on Mediation</p> <p>Robert Rhodes KC, Michel Kallipetis KC, Eunice Chua, Saphna Jhangiani KC and Shobana Iyer (moderator)</p> <p><i>Joint online event with the Singapore Branch</i></p>

12 th July 2023	<p>DEBATE - At least one member of three-member arbitral tribunals should be a non-lawyer with experience in the subject matter of the dispute</p> <p>Speakers: Tim Battrick,, Jeffrey Benz, Aashna Agarwal, Ayse Yazir, Tope Adeyemi, Paul Kinninmont, Judges: Karthik Balisagar, Steven Finizio and Karina Albers</p> <p><i>Hosted by FTI Consultanting (in-person event)</i></p>
5 September 2023	<p>19th Annual Joint CIArb London-LCIA Seminar: Cryptocurrency and Finance Arbitrations</p> <p>Speakers: Jamie Harrison, Colin Johnson, Saima Hanif KC, Charlie Morgan, Olesya Prantnyuk and Tope Adeyemi (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by IDRC and sponsored by HKA (hybrid event)</i></p>
27 September 2023	<p>Young Members Group: Procedural Strategy in Arbitration – Tips, Tactics, and Traps</p> <p>Speakers: Jennifer Wu, Mathew Briggs, Kate Parlett and Elizabeth Montpetit (moderator)</p> <p><i>Online webinar</i></p>
5 October 2023	<p>Part One: The Work of Sole Practitioners & Small Firms</p> <p>Speakers: Foluke Akinmoladun, Christopher Chinn, Mercy Mcbrayer, Kevin Nash, Tomas Vail and Tunde Osungeitan (moderator)</p> <p><i>Online webinar</i></p>
1 November 2023	<p>Young Members Group: Current Trends in Renewable Energy disputes</p> <p>Speakers: George Fisher, Anna Hoffmann, Lucy McKenzie and Mark McMahon (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by 4 Pump Court Chambers (in person)</i></p>
31 January 2024	<p>1st Joint Event with CEDR: Mediation in a post-Churchill World: 2024 and beyond</p> <p>Speakers: Catherine Dixon, James South , Kelly Stricklin-Coutinho, Jeremy Mash, Terry Renouf, Baria Ahmed and Gill Mansfield (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) (hybrid event)</i></p>
28 February 2024	<p>2nd Half Day Energy Symposium: Renewables: Current Trends, Likely Developments and... Disputes</p>

	<p>Speakers: Peter Lynch, Paul Kinninmont, Tome Melbye Eide, Seyda Duman, Mary-Anne Roff, Camilla ter Haar, Dennis Sarobe, Jose Manuel Gutierrez Delgado, Rouha Hussaina, Caragh McWhirr, Frederico Singarajah, Colleen Parker-Bacquet, Elchin Mammadov, Babatunde Osungeitan, and Karina Albers</p> <p><i>Hosted by 39 Essex Court Chambers (hybrid event)</i></p>
7 March 2024	<p>International Women’s Day Seminar: Inspire Inclusion</p> <p>Speakers: Julius Nkafu and Karina Albers (moderator), Shobana Iyer, Gill Mansfield, Natalia Otlinger and Magdalena Prus</p> <p><i>Joint event with CI Arb Headquarters, Hybrid event</i></p>
12 March 2024	<p>Part Two: The Work of Sole Practitioners & Small Firms</p> <p>Speakers: Karina Albers, Lucy Greenwood, Mercy McBrayer, Adedoyin Rhodes – Vivour SAN, Paul Sills and James Clanchey (moderator)</p> <p><i>Hosted by IDRC and sponsored by Arbitra (hybrid event)</i></p>
10 April 2024	<p>Arbitration Practitioner Workshop: Practice and Procedure</p> <p>Moderator: Daniel Djanogly</p> <p><i>Hosted by BTG Advisory</i></p>
25 April 2024	<p>AGM & Keynote Speech by Lady Mary Arden Assessing anniversaries and achievements in 2023/4</p> <p><i>Held at the Athenaeum Club</i></p>