

PARIS LAUNCHES NEW ACADEMY

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Wednesday, 23 February 2011

Practitioners have welcomed the French Arbitration Committee's latest initiative - an academy where students, young practitioners and government officials can learn about international arbitration from some of the world's leading academics.



Paris in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower

A month after unveiling its new arbitration law, France has turned its attention to training the next generation of arbitration talent.

The International Academy for Arbitration Law will run a three-week "summer school" every year in Paris that will alternately focus on investment and commercial arbitration. A full list of its advisers and board of directors is below.

This year, starting on 4 July, a 15-hour course on investment arbitration will be taught by Austrian academic Christoph Schreuer, author of *The ICSID Convention: A Commentary*.

Seven other leading professors - George Bermann, Pierre-Marie Dupuy, Diego Fernandez Arroyo, François Knoepfler, Pierre Mayer, Klaus Sachs and Michael Schneider - will teach five-hour courses on specialist subjects (see full details below). In addition, workshops will be offered by representatives of international arbitration centres: Eloise Obadia, ICSID senior counsel; Simon Greenberg, deputy secretary general at the ICC Court; and Brooks Daly, general secretary at the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

The institute will also host an annual lecture in honour of former president of Paris II University Berthold Goldman. This year it will be delivered by V V Veeder QC of Essex Court Chambers.

To mark the academy's opening, Pierre Lalive, president of the Swiss Arbitration Association and Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Geneva, will give an inaugural lecture, in which he will address the question, "Is arbitration a form of international justice?"

The idea for an academy was first championed by the French Arbitration Committee's secretary-general, Alexandre Hory, but has been enthusiastically endorsed by the French Arbitration Committee.

The academy's president, Emmanuel Gaillard, head of international arbitration at Shearman & Sterling LLP and a professor of law at Paris XII University, says it will provide "specialised and high-calibre teaching" to serve the ever increasing demand among students and young practitioners for exposure to international arbitration. He hopes the school will provide participants with an opportunity, "not only to learn from established names, but also to get to know their peers, who will become the leading specialists of the next generation."

Leading practitioners in other jurisdictions told GAR that they are impressed by the academy's programme. Arif Hyder Ali, chair of Crowell and Moring's international arbitration practice and a professor at Georgetown Law School in Washington, DC, says the course is distinguished by the "remarkable" calibre of the professors. He notes that it is also "the perfect length - not too long, not too short".

Pierre-Yves Gunter, a partner at Python & Peter in Geneva, agrees that the academy is "a great idea - particularly the dual focus on commercial and investment arbitration." He says that he is particularly impressed by the number of leading academics and practitioners who have agreed to teach at the academy.

The academy's treasurer Jean-Georges Betto, a partner at Hogan Lovells in Paris, says the initiative is the latest in a series of developments that has seen arbitration in Paris undergo "a significant makeover". With the new arbitration act, he says France now has a legal system that is "ahead of its time".

Interested students, young practitioners and government officials can find out more about the academy on its website - the deadline for applications is 30 April.

Students may also be interested to know that three days after the course finishes, the London School of Economics is offering its own three-week summer school on commercial arbitration and litigation. Jan Kleinheisterkamp and Jacco Bomhoff will teach a compacted version of their courses for the LSE Master of Laws programme. Students should apply by 27 May - more details are available here.

Special courses in 2011 at the International Arbitration Academy in Paris:

Gateway issues in international arbitration in the United States

- * **George Bermann**, Professor of Law, Columbia University School of Law; Director, European Legal Studies Centre

State consent in investment arbitration

- * **Pierre-Marie Dupuy**, Professor of Law, The Graduate Institute, Geneva

Favor arbitrandum in Latin America

- * **Diego Fernández Arroyo**, Professor of Law, Sciences Po, Paris

Provisional measures in international arbitration

- * **Francois Knoepfler**, partner at KGG & Associés; Honorary Professor, University of Neuchâtel

The new French law on international arbitration

* **Pierre Mayer**, Professor of Law, University Panthéon-Sorbonne; partner at Dechert LLP in Paris

Insolvency proceedings and international arbitration

* **Klaus Sachs**, partner at CMS Hasche Sigle, lecturer on international arbitration law at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich

Evidence and the use of experts in international arbitration

* **Michael E. Schneider**, founding partner at Lalive in Geneva, president of the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA)

The academy's board of advisers:

George Abi-Saab of Egypt

Liza Chen of China

Eros Grau of Brazil

Horacio Grigera Naon of Argentina

Gilbert Guillaume of France

Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler of Switzerland

Alexander Komarov of Russia

Pierre Mayer of France

Michael Reisman of the US

Dorothe Sossa of Benin

Christophe Schreuer of Austria

The board of directors of the academy:

Emmanuel Gaillard, president

Alexandre Hory, secretary general

Yas Banifatemi, secretary general

Jean-Georges Betto, treasurer

Marie-Elodie Ancel

Jean-Baptiste Racine

Philippe Leboulanger (president of the CFA)