

## Academy announces first laureate

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FRIDAY, 22 JULY 2011

The International Academy for Arbitration Law in Paris has named its first laureate, Mario Micciché from Italy.



*Academy president Emmanuel Gaillard and laureate Mario Micciché (Credit: Julie Cohen)*

Each year the laureate title will be given to the academy student who produces the best essay on a given topic. Micciché's essay was selected from among 24 submitted this year on the topic "Is Arbitration a Form of International Justice?"

Micciché is a postgraduate student in law at Oxford University. The runner up was Diane Desierto, a partner at Desierto Ammuyutan Purisima & Desierto (DAPD Law) in Manila.

The three other finalists were Kamalia Mehtiyeva from Azerbaijan, Christopher Chinn from the US and Karim El Chazli from Egypt. Mehtiyeva and El Chazi are both doctoral students at the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris I) and Mehtiyeva works as an associate at Shearman & Sterling at Paris. Chinn is a graduate of Minnesota Law School and a former associate at Baker & McKenzie.

The competition was judged by a jury consisting of Diego Fernandez Arroyo, a professor at the School of Law of Sciences Po in Paris; George Bermann, a professor at Columbia School of Law; German arbitrator Klaus Sachs; and Marie-Elodie Ancel and Jean Baptiste Racine, professors at Paris XII University and the University of Nice. All finalists received a book on the New York Convention as well as one-year access to the legal database Doctrinal.fr. The winning essay will be published in a volume of papers delivered during the programme.



*Finalists Kamalia Mehtiyeva, Diane Desierto, Mario Micciché, Karim El Chazi and Christopher Chinn*

The academy's president, Emmanuel Gaillard, the head of international arbitration at Shearman & Sterling, says he was impressed by the quality of all five essays and is proud of the geographic diversity of the five finalists. "Both excellence and diversity are emblematic of the Academy," he says.

The Academy was established earlier this year to offer advanced teaching in international arbitration every summer. 195 candidates from 66 countries were selected to take part in its first programme, although some have delayed their places until next year so that they can secure financing.



*The finalists with Marie-Elodie Ancel, Emmanuel Gaillard, Alexandre Hory, Yas Banifatemi, Diego Fernandez Arroyo and Michael Schneider*

The three-week programme closed today after a final session taught by Lalive partner Michael E Schneider. Gaillard says the highlights of this year's programme included the opening lecture given by Swiss arbitrator Pierre Lalive and the Berthold Goldman lecture given by UK arbitrator VV Veeder QC. The Berthold Goldman lecture focuses on historic arbitrations – Veeder spoke about the Lena Goldfield arbitration, an ad hoc arbitration between an English company and the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

The Academy's programme for 2012 is already published on its website. The opening lecture will be given by Russian arbitrator Sergei Lebedev, who will speak about the negotiations that led to the New York Convention. The Berthold Goldman lecture will be given by Jan Paulsson who will speak about the Pyramids case – a famous arbitration in the 1980s about a tourist project in Giza. Like this year, both lectures will be open to the public.

The website will soon be updated to include photos, videos and interviews relating to this year's course and a private section for alumni.



*The Academy: Class of 2011*