

SARAH GRIMMER

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TWENTY ESSEX (SINGAPORE)

ARBITRATOR MEMBER, AUG 2022 – PRESENT

- Presiding Arbitrator, PCA-administered UNCITRAL Rules arbitration under a bilateral investment treaty commenced by a Spanish investor against a Latin American State.
- Presiding arbitrator, HKIAC arbitration between Hong Kong and German parties under Hong Kong law, Hong Kong seat.
- Presiding arbitrator, SIAC arbitration between Hong Kong parties under Singaporean law, Singapore seat.
- Presiding arbitrator, SIAC arbitration between Spanish, Singaporean, and Indian parties under Indian law, Singapore seat.
- Co-arbitrator, HKIAC arbitration between parties from the Seychelles and St. Kitts and Nevis under Seychelles law, Hong Kong seat.
- Co-arbitrator, ICC arbitration between Korean and French companies under French law, Paris seat.

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE (HONG KONG S.A.R.)

SECRETARY-GENERAL, SEP 2016 – AUG 2022

- Executive leadership of the institution; international promotion of its services; management of the Secretariat in Hong Kong and offices in Shanghai and Seoul (30+ FTEs)
- Overall responsibility for the administration of international commercial and investor-State arbitrations and other dispute resolution matters (mediation, domain name dispute resolution, adjudication) under HKIAC's auspices
- Development and implementation of new initiatives: HKIAC Case Connect online case management system 2021; HKIAC Case Digest 2021 – winner of GAR Award for Best Innovation 2022; HKIAC ranked third-most preferred arbitral institution globally – QMUL/White & Case Survey 2021; Hong Kong's successful bid for ICCA Congress 2024; 2018 revision of HKIAC Administered Arbitration Rules; free hearing space for cases involving developing States 2016; HKIAC signatory to the ERA Pledge 2016 and Green Pledge 2021
- Formulation of law reform recommendations: revision to Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance sub-legislation on HKIAC statutory appointing authority role

PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION (THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS)

SENIOR LEGAL COUNSEL, JAN 2013 – JUL 2016 (LEGAL COUNSEL, OCT 2006 – DEC 2012)

- Administration of inter-State, investor-State and other arbitrations under the PCA's auspices
- Registrar in three inter-State arbitrations under the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention: *The Arctic Sunrise Arbitration* (The Netherlands v. Russian Federation) (2014); *The Duzgit Integrity Arbitration* (Malta v. São Tomé e Príncipe) (2013); *The ARA Libertad Arbitration* (Argentina v. Ghana) (2012)
- Tribunal Secretary in 30+ international investor-State or other arbitrations involving a State or State-entity
- Adviser to the Secretary-General on appointing authority matters under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules
- Tribunal Member, Appeal Board of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (2014-2016)
- PCA representative, UNCITRAL Working Group II (Arbitration and conciliation), 57th Session (2012), and UNCITRAL Working Group III (Online dispute resolution), 28th Session, Vienna (2013)
- Secretary, Review Panel Established under the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (involving Russia, Chile, Chinese Taipei, EU, New Zealand) (2013)

**ICC INTERNATIONAL COURT OF ARBITRATION (PARIS, FRANCE)
ASSISTANT COUNSEL, SEP 2003 – JUN 2006**

- Administration of international arbitrations under the ICC Rules of Arbitration

**SHEARMAN & STERLING LLP (PARIS, FRANCE)
LEGAL ASSISTANT, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION DEPARTMENT, AUG 2002 – JUL 2003**

- Assistance in international arbitrations and proceedings before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

**MARSHALL BIRD & CURTIS (AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND)
SOLICITOR, MAY 1999 – JUL 2002**

- Representation of refugee status claimants and appellants before New Zealand courts and tribunals

EDUCATION

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE (CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM)
Master of Law, Oct 2011 – Jun 2012**

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON (WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND)
Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts (Criminology) Feb 1993 – Oct 1997**

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Chairperson, Women in Arbitration (WIA) (2022-present)
- Arbitration Committee member, Lagos Court of Arbitration (2020-present)
- Council Member, Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution (2019-present)
- Expert Advisory Committee Member, Permanent Forum of China Construction Law (2019-present)
- Chairperson, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Arbitration and Mediation Council Advisory Board (2017-2020)
- Council Member, International Federation of Commercial Arbitral Institutions (2017-2022)
- Member, ICCA-ASIL Taskforce on Damages (2016-present)
- Member, Global Arbitration Review Board of Advisors (2016)
- Member, ICCA Publications Committee (2015-2018)
- Disciplinary Board Member, Special Tribunal for Lebanon Disciplinary Board for Defence Counsel and Victim Representatives (2015-2017)
- Member, New Zealand ICC Arbitration Committee (2014-present)
- Member, IBA Investment Arbitration Subcommittee (2014-2016)
- IBA Arb40 Steering Committee, Member (2013-2017) (contributing author of Toolkit for Award Writing)

WHO'S WHO LEGAL RANKINGS & TESTIMONIALS

- Thought Leaders Global Elites Asia Pacific (2018-2023)
- Thought Leaders China & Hong Kong (2020-2022)
- Thought Leaders Arbitration (2018-2022)
- Arbitration (2015-2022)

2022: “Sarah Grimmer is ‘absolutely excellent’ report peers, and ‘combines academic intelligence with great management and people skills’”.

2021: “Sarah Grimmer comes highly recommended as the ‘the savviest lawyer in any arbitral institution’ and is praised as being ‘truly world class’ by market sources.” “Sarah Grimmer of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre is a highly accomplished arbitration specialist, with sources lauding her as ‘a very impressive lawyer’.”

2020: “The ‘outstanding’ Sarah Grimmer of the HKIAC is ‘a truly great practitioner’. Her practice runs the gamut of investment treaty and contractual disputes.”

2019: “Sarah Grimmer ‘is a sharp legal mind’ who draws praise for her ‘invaluable experience in the field’ of investment treaty and contractual disputes.”

PUBLICATIONS

- *HKIAC’s Experience of the Use of Multi-tier Dispute Resolution Clauses*, in *Multi-tier Approaches to the Resolution of International Disputes: A Comparative Study*, Cambridge University Press, 2021
- ‘Distinction and Connection: Hong Kong and Mainland China, a View from the HKIAC’, *Asia Pacific Arbitration Review* 2020, *Global Arbitration Review*
- *Love Me Tender: At which Point in a Tender Process is Investment Treaty Protection Attracted?* in HKIAC (ed), *International Arbitration: Issues, Perspectives and Practice*; Liber Amicorum Neil Kaplan, Wolters Kluwer, 2019
- ‘The HKIAC Tribunal Secretary Service: Four Years On’, in R. Weeramantry & J. Choong (Gen eds.), *Asian Dispute Review*, October 2018
- ‘Dispute Resolution along the Belt and Road’ (with Christina Charemi), *Asia Pacific Arbitration Review* 2018, *Global Arbitration Review*
- *Constituting the Tribunal and Challenging its Members: Due Process Issues and Concerns*, in A. Menaker (Gen. Ed) *International Arbitration and the Rule of Law: Contribution and Conformity*, ICCA Congress Series No. 19, Wolters Kluwer, 2017
- *The Determination of Arbitrator Challenges by the Secretary-General of the PCA*, in C. Giorgetti (ed), *Challenges and Recusal of Judges and Arbitrators in International Courts and Tribunals*, Martinus Nijhoff/Brill, 2015
- ‘Pro Bono in International Proceedings at the Permanent Court of Arbitration’, *IBA Pro Bono Committee News*, September 2015, No. 3
- ‘Investment arbitration: issue conflicts and non-pecuniary remedies’, Report on session of the Arbitration Committee at the IBA Annual Conference in Tokyo, 24 October 2014, *IBA Newsletter*
- ‘The Expanded Role of the Appointing Authority under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 2010’, *28 Journal of International Arbitration* 5 (2011) 501.

SELECTED LECTURING AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Paris Arbitration Week, ‘The Rise of Cryptocurrency’ (2022)
- California International Arbitration Week, ‘Protecting Interests through Interim Relief’ (2022)
- CDR Webinar, ‘Challenges and Solutions for Belt and Road Disputes’ (2022)
- Baker & McKenzie Dispute Resolution Webinar, Keynote Speech: ‘International Arbitration in Hong Kong in the Year Ahead’ (2022)
- AMINZ Arbitration Day, ‘Tribute to Sir David A.R. Williams QC’ (2022)

- Hong Kong University, Part-time Lecturer, LLM Program (2021)
- ICCA-ASIL Taskforce on Damages, Soft Launch (2021)
- VI Oxford Arbitration Day, 'Cybersecurity and International Arbitration', (2021)
- 9th International Society of Construction Law, Keynote speech: 'Chinese Outbound Investment in the Pacific Region and International Dispute Resolution' (2021)
- Stockholm University, LLM Program (2020, 2021)
- Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb) Webinar, 'Policing the Arbitrators', (2021)
- HKIAC Chinese Arbitration Insights, 'Mainland China and International Investment Arbitration', (2021)
- IX 3/4 St Petersburg International Legal Forum, 'Arbitration in Russia: Forum in Favorem Arbitri' (2021)
- White & Case and Queen Mary University of London, 'Launch of the 2021 International Arbitration Survey', (2021)
- IBA Asia Pacific Arbitration Conference, 'The Rise of Investor-State Arbitration in the Aftermath of the Pandemic', (2020)
- University of Southern California-JAMS Webinar, 'The Future of US-China Commercial Dispute Resolution', (2020)
- The Economist Corporate Network, Asia Regional Strategic Forecast, Business Leader Panel, Hong Kong (2020)
- Russia Arbitration Association Annual Conference, 'Arbitration and Corruption', Moscow (2020)
- African Union Law Week (HKIAC/AU Joint Seminar on Investment Treaty Arbitration), Dar es Salaam, 'Arbitration between China and African Countries and Investment Disputes' (2019)
- Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SIArb) Commercial Arbitration Symposium 2019, session co-chair (2019)
- Eastern Economic Forum, Vladivostok, 'Special Administrative Regions: One Year On' (2019)
- 11th Annual IBA Conference, 'M&A in Russia and CIS Countries', Moscow (2019)
- IBA Asia Pacific Arbitration Conference, Singapore, Hong Kong/PRC Interim Measures Arrangement (2019)
- Asian Development Bank, International Arbitration Training, Manila (2018), Fiji (2018, 2019)
- IX St Petersburg International Legal Forum, Institutional Developments (2019)
- Tashkent Legal Forum on International Arbitration, HKIAC Arbitration (2019)
- Joint ICC-HKIAC Conference, Chinese State-Owned Enterprises, Paris (2019)
- Juris Leading Arbitrators Conference, Latest Developments in Arbitration, Vienna (2019)
- The Economist Roundtable, Hong Kong, 'Hong Kong's Competitive Positioning' (2018)
- Hong Kong University, Keynote speech: HKIAC's Experience of Multi-Tier Dispute Resolution (2018)
- Paris Arbitration Academy, HKIAC and Hong Kong (2018)
- Stanford University, California, 'HKIAC and Hong Kong: History and Constitutional Structure in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative' (2018)
- The Praelium (in honour of Prof. David Caron), London, Chairperson of the Tribunal (with V.V. Veeder and Prof. George Bermann) (2018)
- Centre for International Law, Singapore, Working Conference on Conciliation (2017)
- Taipei International Conference on Mediation and Arbitration, Tribunal Secretaries in Arbitration (2017)
- Hong Kong Law Society, Belt and Road Conference (2017)
- ICCA-ASIL Taskforce on Damages Seminar, Hong Kong (2017), Seoul (2019)
- China Arbitration Day, Washington DC, HKIAC and Hong Kong Arbitration (2017)
- Integrated Bar of the Philippines, 16th National Convention of Lawyers, 'Global and Regional Integration of Legal Services', Manila (2017)
- NITI Aayog, New Delhi, 'National Initiative towards Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement in India', (2016)
- GAR Live Hong Kong, co-chair (2016-2021)

- Hong Kong Arbitration Week, ADR in Asia Conference (HKIAC's flagship event) (2016-2021)
- IBA Annual Conference, Washington DC, 'Intellectual property' and 'Mediation/Arbitration and Third-Party Funding' (2016)
- ICCA Mauritius Conference, Port Louis, 'Constituting the Tribunal & Challenging Its Members: Due Process Issues and Concerns' (2016)
- American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington DC, 'One View of the Arena: The Agent's Perspective in International Dispute Settlement' (2016)
- Energy Charter Secretariat, Brussels (training for government delegates), 'State-State Arbitration' (2014)
- Columbia Arbitration Day, Columbia Law School, New York, 'Diverging Standards of Review of Jurisdictional Decisions' (2014)
- MATRA Program, TMC Asser Institute, The Hague (training for government delegates), 'Investment Treaty Arbitration' (2012-2014)
- Université de Versailles, Arbitration and International Business Masters Program (2010-2014)
- Essex University, European Business Law Master of Law Program of PALLAS (2008-2010)
- Erasmus University of Rotterdam, LLM Program (2009-2010)
- Leiden University, LLM Program (2008, 2011, 2013)
- Cairo Regional Centre for International Arbitration Conference '30 Years of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules 1976', Cairo (2006)

OTHER

Citizenship: New Zealand

Languages: English (native); French (fluent spoken)

Bar admission: Solicitor/Barrister of the High Court of New Zealand (1998)