



Erika Williams FCIArb

0406 605 727
erika@williamsarbitration.com

Overview

I am a leading international arbitration practitioner with over a decade of experience acting in some of Australia's largest disputes resolved through arbitration. I am experienced in commercial, construction and investment arbitration and have acted in arbitrations under various arbitral institutions including ACICA, LCIA, ICC, SIAC, CIETAC and JCAA

I am on the arbitrator panels of leading arbitral institutions including the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, and the Resolution Institute, among others. I am currently accepting arbitrator and tribunal secretary appointments.

I also have a broad range of general commercial litigation experience, particularly in relation to cross-border disputes, from commencing proceedings and interlocutory actions through to full trials and appeals, including in the High Court of Australia.

Professional Experience

January 2021 –
Current

Independent Arbitration Practitioner
Williams Arbitration

In January 2021, I established myself as an independent arbitration practitioner. In addition to accepting arbitrator and tribunal secretary appointments, I provide consultancy services to in-house counsel and firms involved in arbitration and cross-border litigation.

Since establishing my independent practice, I have been engaged in the following.

Arbitrator and Tribunal Secretary Appointments

- Presiding arbitrator in an ICC Singapore arbitration in relation to a dispute between parties in two South Pacific Island territories valued at USD 5 million.



- Arbitrator appointed by party agreement in a commercial dispute regarding the construction of an ocean vessel. The arbitration is being conducted under the Resolution Institute Arbitration Rules 2020
- Tribunal Secretary to sole arbitrator in a construction dispute for claims exceeding \$120 million
- Tribunal Secretary to a panel of three referees in the unique Supreme Court of Queensland matter of [Santos Limited v Fluor Australia Pty Ltd & Anor](#), the questions in which the Court has referred out to the referees. The matter involves claims exceeding \$1.4 billion

Consultancy Services

- Counsel for the Australian Centre for International Arbitration administering cases under the ACICA Arbitration Rules and promoting the use of arbitration in Australia
- Arbitration Consultant to GRT Lawyers, acting as counsel defending a Mongolian State-Owned Entity in a jurisdictional challenge under the SIAC Rules (claim and counterclaim totalling USD 40 million)
- Counsel at Peter & Kim, a leading international arbitration firm based in Switzerland, South Korea, Australia and Singapore. As Counsel, I have advised a French entity in relation to a potential investor-state dispute with Singapore and assisted in successfully defeating an application for interim measures in a JCAA arbitration between and Japanese and Korean entities
- Consultant to SangDo Lawyers in relation to an arbitration agreement that was successfully enforced in the Queensland Court of Appeal decision of [Lee v Lin & Anor \[2022\] QCA 140](#)

July 2016 –
November 2020

Senior Associate
McCullough Robertson Lawyers

I was a Senior Associate at McCullough Robertson, Brisbane. I practiced in international commercial arbitration, investor-state arbitration and general commercial litigation, often involving issues arising from cross-jurisdictional disputes.

My key experience as counsel includes acting autonomously:

- as lead solicitor on a multi-million dollar construction arbitration involving over 1,000 separate claims and managing a large team of 12 lawyers and five barristers



- as lead solicitor in Supreme Court litigation in \$60 million claim against a China and Hong Kong based fashion clothing retail group for unpaid consultancy and development fees
- in an investor-state claim under a bilateral investment treaty against a South American country for an Australian investor in a lithium mine
- for a coal trader in a misrepresentation dispute administered by SIAC
- in a dispute involving delay claims and standby claims in relation to an oil refinery project in Qatar under the JCAA Rules, including drafting detailed witness statements following which the parties were able to reach a settlement beneficial to our claimant client
- for Netherlands principal contractor against subcontractor in a dispute arising from termination of a construction contract under the Resolution Institute Rules
- in relation to international commercial arbitrations under various arbitral institutions including ACICA, LCIA, UNCITRAL, SIAC and JCAA, and
- in relation to complex issues arising in arbitration and litigation proceedings including obtaining cross-jurisdictional freezing orders and evidence in cross-border arbitration and litigation.

My key experience as Tribunal Secretary includes assisting Tribunals in the following matters:

- \$10 million claim against the defence force of a Pacific Island nation in relation to a catering services contract where the respondent did not participate substantively in the arbitration
- USD 10 million repudiation claim involving iron ore mine and Chinese steel mill concerning an offtake agreement and involving a jurisdictional dispute
- arbitration under the Sugar Code involving the terms of a sugar contract between approximately 250 growers and the relevant sugar mill
- restraint of trade dispute involving the sale of a cleaning and facilities management business
- expedited arbitration to resolve a partnership dispute between unrepresented parties arising upon the dissolution of the partnership
- arbitration to resolve the finalisation of a 30-year lease of a caravan park in North Queensland, and
- expert determination regarding a warranty dispute following a multi-million dollar commercial real estate transaction.

November 2011 –
June 2016

Associate
Baker McKenzie

I was an associate in the Dispute Resolution and Litigation team at Baker McKenzie, Sydney. I practiced in international commercial arbitration and general commercial litigation.



Representative legal matters include:

- Acting in relation to a number of international arbitration proceedings involving parties in several countries.
- Successfully obtaining a stay of arbitration from an Australian court.
- Advising on complex issues arising in international disputes including jurisdictional issues, obtaining and using evidence in foreign seated proceedings and enforcing foreign judgments and arbitral awards.
- Acting in relation to a multi-million dollar breach of contract litigation.
- Acted in relation to an application to remove a liquidator in a high-profile matter.
- Acted in appellate proceedings involving a question of professional negligence.
- Acted in relation to special leave and High Court proceedings on the correct interpretation of a section of the Corporations Act.

June 2011 - November 2011	Paralegal/Solicitor John Holland
November 2010 – June 2011	Information Specialist Baker & McKenzie
February 2010 – November 2010	Research Clerk Baker & McKenzie
November 2009 – January 2010	Summer Clerk Baker & McKenzie, Sydney
August 2006 – November 2009	Paralegal - Legal Technology Support Team Clayton Utz, Brisbane (2006), Sydney (from 2007)

Education

January 2018	Award Writing Module (Fellowship Accreditation) Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
November 2013	Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
August 2011	Admitted as a Lawyer Supreme Court of New South Wales High Court of Australia



November 2010 –
June 2011

**Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice
College of Law, Sydney**

March 2007 -
November 2010

**Bachelor of Laws (Honours Class II)
University of Sydney**

2008

**Bachelor of Arts - Japanese Studies
University of Sydney**

Language Skills

English
Native

Japanese
Conversational

Awards and Recognition

November 2022

Sole Practitioner of the Year Finalist
Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards

August 2022

Leading Arbitration Lawyers 2022 – Recommended
Doyle’s Guide

November 2021

Winner - Arbitration Practitioner of the Year 2021
Australian ADR Awards

August 2021

Leading Arbitration Lawyers 2021 – Recommended
Doyle’s Guide

November 2020

Arbitration Practitioner of the Year Nominee
Australian ADR Awards

November 2019

Senior Associate of the Year Finalist
Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards

July 2019

Senior Associate of the Year Finalist
Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards

July 2019

Arbitration Practitioner of the Year Finalist
Australian ADR Awards

July 2017

Senior Associate of the Year Finalist
Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards



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| November 2015 | 2015 Australian Young Lawyer Award
Law Council of Australia |
| November 2015 | NSW Young Lawyer of the Year Nominee
Law Society of New South Wales |
| October 2012 | Best Oralist
International Arbitration Moot
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators/NSW Young Lawyers |

Membership of Panels

- Asian International Arbitration Centre
- Australian Center for International Commercial Arbitration
- Australian Communications and Media Authority Register of Bargaining Code Arbitrators
- British Virgin Islands International Arbitration Centre
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Japan Commercial Arbitration Association
- Jus Mundi Jus Connect
- Queensland Law Society
- Maldives International Arbitration Centre
- Resolution Institute
- Rising Arbitrators' Initiative
- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (Reserve Panel)
- Thai Arbitration Centre

Professional Associations and Memberships

- ACICA Queensland State Committee – Member
- ACICA45 – Advisory Member
- Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, Queensland Law Society – Member
- ArbitralWomen – Member
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – National Councillor and Queensland Chapter Convenor
- ICC Australian Nomination Commission - Member
- Resolution Institute – Member of the Determinative Committee and Arbitration Sub-Committee