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ARBITRATION DISPUTE BOARDS AND EXPERTS - WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Richard Bailey

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Introduction

In this talk I will be covering 3 issues:

- Issues in international arbritation.
- 2. Dispute Boards and the success or otherwise in South America.
- Recent experience of experts in the English Courts.

Arbitration is just one of many forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution employed to resolve complex commercial disputes outside of court and is particularly commonly used for complex commercial transactions and cross border trade and commercial agreements.

Arbitration is generally accepted as the leading form of ADR although in construction Dispute Boards and forms of adjudication are becoming more and more common place.













Arbitration

A quick history lesson





Pioneers

The first pioneers of arbitration were the UK and United States of America where it appeared in the Jay Treaty of 1795 to resolves issues from the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Used to resolve the Alabama Claims in 1872



First international arbitration involving South

America

1895 Between the USA and UK over Venezuela



Key events

1958 New York Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards1985 UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration1996 the Washington Convention (ICSID)













International Arbitration and South America

Statistics



ICC Statistics

ICC statistics, the number of Latin American parties in ICC Arbitration rose from 170 in 2005 to 393 in 2015 (+131%), while the number of arbitrations seated in Latin America increased from 20 to 66 in the same time span (+230%).

Increasing number of arbitration

In 2017, Latin America saw an uptick of almost 8% in terms of the number of cases. More specifically, Brazil jumped to 7th place in worldwide case rankings after a case management team was established in Sao Paulo 2017.

International Arbitration in South America

In 2018, the top five countries with parties represented in cases are the United States (210), France (139), Brazil (117), Spain (110), and Germany (95).













Issues in International Arbitration

Trends



BREXIT

It has been confirmed that post BREXIT there will be no changes in the UK Arbitration Act 1996 and of course the UK will remain a signatory to the New York Convention and if anything the UK's support for International Arbitration will group with plans to grow both the LCIA and Scottish Arbitration Institute

Arbitration Funding

This is a real growth area in International Arbitration. There are an increasing number of players coming into the market offering litigation funding not just for a single arbitration but buying up the rights to entire portfolios of claims from contractors around the world. The international arbitration system is now playing catch up with these funders and the recovery of costs.













Issues in International Arbitration

Trends



Cyber Security and Data Protection

Increasingly the issue of cyber security and data protection have become increasingly important issues to address. Over the last 10 to 15 years there has been a rapid increase in data and the attempt by parties to obtain information via hackers. Also there is the issue of GDPR which has been of global significance and global effect despite being only of European application.

Arbitration Efficiency

This is one of the more difficult of areas practice as costs in arbitration are increasing far above inflation due to many pressures on the arbitral process. The ICC has introduced fast track arbitration for low value arbitrations with a sole arbitrator and the arbitration to be completed within 6 months of the formal commencement. The ICC expedited procedure.













Dispute Boards

Success or failure



National recognition

Chile, Brazil and Peru have lead the way in implementing DB's into local and national law.



Use on major projects

DB's have become global recognised and seen as a highly effective method of dispute resolution.



FIDIC

Now an integral part of the FIDIC forms.













Trends in experts

An English View



English Courts view of experts

The English courts and to an extent English Arbitrators have taken a proactive view to control experts and to force them to accept that the experts primary role is to the tribunal.

Experts as advocates for the parry

There has been a trend in international arbitration towards experts acting as advocates for the party they are acting for rather than being impartial.

Negative impact of acting as advocate for a party

One of the most important aspects for the tribunal is to fully investigate the facts and that does not change whether you take a common law or civil law approach to the arbitration.













GOODMAN DERRICK LLP

Richard Bailey Goodman Derrick LLP 10 St Bride Street London EC4A 4AD United Kingdom

T: +44 (0) 20 7421 7921 M: +44 (0) 7971 418 051

rbailey@gdlaw.co.uk

www.gdlaw.co.uk

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