

**MINUTES OF THE  
CLLS ARBITRATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
ON 10 JULY 2025, 10:00-11:00**

Attendees: Michael Davison (Chair, Hogan Lovells), Kevin Hart (CLLS), Annabel Maltby (Hogan Lovells), Lisa Dubot (Mayer Brown), Richard Bamforth (CMS), James Freeman (A&O Shearman)

Via Zoom: Matthew Saunders (Vice-Chair, Ashurst), Robert Price (Latham Watkins), Alejandro Garcia (Stewarts Law), Oliver Brown (Paul Hastings)

Apologies: Marie Berard (Clifford Chance), Hannah Ambrose (HSF), Chloe Edworthy (Macfarlanes),

**1. WELCOME**

Michael Davison took the role as Chair and welcomed the Committee members to the meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 26 NOVEMBER 2024**

The minutes were approved without comments

**3. CITY OF LONDON: ASSETS, OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS AND ASKS**

Kevin Hart raised that the sister company of CLLS, the City of London Solicitors' Company, has been working over the past months on assisting the office of the Lord Mayor of the City of London and the Financial Services grouping of the City of London livery companies on identifying the challenges facing the City of London. The CLSC identified a list of opportunities and challenges facing City solicitors, which formed part of the annual briefing from the Financial Services Group of Livery Companies (FSG) for the Lord Mayor.

The CLSC has now been asked to provide details of the following:

- Assets - what are the strengths of the City legal sector, contribution to the economy, etc.;
- Opportunities - where do we see room for growth;
- Risks - what are the threats to growth; and
- Asks - what are our key asks for the Lord Mayor to help maximise opportunities and reduce threats?

The Arbitration Committee was asked to provide comments as soon as possible.

Matthew Saunders raised the point that it is difficult to obtain visas on short notice for Arbitration cases involving international parties due to embassy closures and other issues.

**ACTION:**

- Michael Davison, Matthew Saunders and Annabel Maltby to provide a written summary of asks by 16 July.

**4. REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE ARBITRATION ACT**

Matthew Saunders raised with the Committee what the Committee needs to be doing once the Act comes into place. It will present opportunities for the Committee to engage with the global media (e.g. speaking with the FT). Michael Davison mentioned the idea of organising an event in London which would also raise media publicity. Lisa Dubot emphasised to make it clear to participants what the changes are for the international parties.

**ACTION:**

- Kevin Hart to speak with the CLLS's PR company and to come up with a comms plan.

**5. LONDON DISPUTES WEEK: REFLECTIONS AND PLANS FOR 2026**

Richard Bamforth updated the Committee on the London Disputes Week. Richard raised that there are a vast of events around Arbitration during LDW.

Richard pointed out that the different groups around LDW are trying to raise the profile of London as a dispute-solving location. There is also London Arbitration Week and the International Arbitration Day, and the suggestion is for the CLLS Arbitration Committee to get more involved during those events.

**ACTION:**

- Richard Bamforth to speak with the LDW and LAW organisers to raise the profile for the CLLS Arbitration Committee and to engage with the Committee.
- Michael Davison to produce an outline of an event to host with London Arbitration Week or other suitable events.

**6. REVIEW OF THE ECHR**

Matthew Saunders referred the Committee to the email Kevin Hart sent on 19 June in relation to potential changes / revision of the ECHR.

The broader perception of our justice system impacts on the legal profession as a whole and therefore this subject should be of interest to CLLS members as City practitioners. They may impact directly upon work relating to applications including human rights elements in judicial review of environmental projects, and wider aspects of litigation and due process before the courts. More widely, it would be useful to know if the ECHR is affecting the areas of work of Committee members, and particularly whether articles 3 and 8 specifically, or other articles of the convention, are acting now as an inhibitor to growth.

**ACTION:**

- Matthew Saunders to put together a few paragraphs to summarise the Committee's position on the potential change on this.

**\*\*\* THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON 23 OCTOBER 2025 \*\*\***