



Erika Williams FCIArb

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Overview

I am a leading international arbitration practitioner with 12 years 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 sit as an independent arbitrator and have experience as sole and presiding arbitrator. 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 many others.

Professional Experience

January 2021 –
Current

Independent Arbitration Practitioner
Williams Arbitration

In January 2021, I established myself as an independent arbitration practitioner. I regularly sit as arbitrator and tribunal secretary. Since establishing my independent practice, I have been engaged in the following.

Arbitrator and Tribunal Secretary Appointments

- Sole Arbitrator in a Resolution Institute arbitration in relation to a dispute between a contractor and sub-contractor on a construction project valued at over AUD 1 million.
- Presiding arbitrator in an ICC Singapore arbitration in relation to a dispute regarding a solar farm between parties in two South Pacific Island territories valued at USD 5 million. The arbitration was seated in Sydney and the contract governed by the laws of one of the Pacific Island territories.
- Sole arbitrator in a commercial dispute regarding the construction of an ocean vessel conducted under the Resolution Institute Arbitration Rules 2020. The dispute was seated in Brisbane and the contract governed by the laws of Queensland. Final award delivered within four months of appointment.



- Tribunal Secretary to sole arbitrator in a construction dispute conducted under the ACICA Rules for claims exceeding \$120 million. The arbitration is seated in Queensland and the contract governed by the laws of Queensland.
- 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, acted 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 (January 2021-October 2022).
- 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 included 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 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 included 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.
- Expert determination regarding a warranty dispute following a multi-million dollar commercial real estate transaction.

November 2011 – **Associate**
June 2016 **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.
- 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.



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
November 2015	2015 Australian Young Lawyer Award Law Council of Australia
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
- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board International
- London Court of International Arbitration
- 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
- 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