

GLOBAL ARBITRATION REVIEW

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NEWS

FIAA invites applicants for advocacy workshop

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The first advocacy workshop run by the Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy will take place in Switzerland this spring.

The workshop will run from 3 to 5 April at the Hotel Beau-Rivage in Lausanne. It is limited to 24 participants.

The inaugural workshop will focus on the questioning of fact witnesses. Says Roney: "Unlike many other arbitration conferences and seminars, the focus of this workshop is on learning-by-doing. The participants will practise questioning fact witnesses and making oral submissions based on a mock arbitration case. We have limited the number of workshop participants in order to ensure an effective learning environment and that each participant has ample opportunity to develop his or her advocacy skills." Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The foundation was created in October to provide advocacy training for international arbitration practitioners. David Roney of Schellenberg Wittmer and Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, a former partner at the firm, launched the initiative with Sheila Block of Torys LLP in Toronto and James Seckinger, a trial advocacy professor at the University of Notre Dame Law School in Indiana. According to Roney, the idea grew from an internal advocacy programme his firm runs.

A panel of international arbitration practitioners will give demonstrations and feedback on performances - including Christian Camboulive from Gide Loyrette Nouel, Fernando Mantilla-Serrano of Shearman & Sterling LLP, Martin Hunter of Essex Court Chambers, Stephen Jagusch of Allen & Overy LLP and Brian King of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Most of the instructors sit on the foundation's executive committee or board of trustees.

On the final day, participants will use their skills in a mock hearing of an international commercial dispute over the licencing of rights to a video game.

The foundation will hold a second workshop, focusing on questioning of expert witnesses, in November.

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