

# GLOBAL ARBITRATION REVIEW

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARBITRATION

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## NEWS

### **FIAA announces workshop in November**

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#### **The Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy has announced the focus of its next workshop: questioning expert witnesses.**

The workshop - the second for the FIAA - will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 6 to 8 November. It costs individual delegates €2,500, which includes documentation and meals.

"It will provide international arbitration practitioners with advanced skills and techniques for examination, cross-examination and witness 'conferencing' involving expert witnesses," says David Roney of Schellenberg Wittmer, a co-founder of the foundation who sits on the executive committee.

Roney adds that few advocacy programmes cover the witness conferencing scenario, in which opposing witnesses appear simultaneously together to have an open discussion with counsel and the tribunal, since it is a technique nearly unique to arbitration.

Michael Young of Herbert Smith, an FIAA executive committee member, says witness conferencing is a "fantastic system that is becoming increasingly common," but agrees that it requires a different approach by the advocate.

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in simulations and exercises with accounting experts from LECG and Ernst & Young and will hear a number of presentations from, and work with, skilled advocates.

On the final day, attendees will act as counsel in mock hearings before tribunals of experienced practitioners.

John Templeman, an associate from Allen & Overy who attended the foundation's April workshop on fact witnesses, says "one of the more illuminating lessons was the differing preferences for advocacy styles among the panel members."

Spaces are limited - there are only 24 available -allowing for quality participation and feedback.

Templeman says that the first workshop had almost equal numbers of participants as faculty members: "it was effectively one-on-one tuition of the highest calibre."

Brian King of Freshfields, also a member of the foundation's executive committee, says organisers strive to ensure diversity among the faculty members and participants.

This workshop's faculty includes Wolfgang Peter from Python & Peter in Geneva, regarded as one of the pioneers of witness conferencing; Albert Jan van den Berg of Hanotiau & van den Berg in

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Brussels; Todd Wetmore of Shearman & Sterling in Paris; Judith Gill of Allen & Overy in London and Marinn Carlson of Sidley Austin LLP in Washington DC.

The FIAA was launched in Switzerland in October last year to provide dedicated advocacy training in international arbitration.

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