

Advocacy workshop reaches Brazil

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The Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy has held its first workshop outside Europe, in São Paulo.



FIAA opening panel: CBAr president Adriana Braghetta, David Roney, Silvia Rodrigues Pachikoski, Sheila Block, Jim Seckinger, Eduardo Damião Gonçalves

The oversubscribed workshop took place last week, as Brazil celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Brazilian Arbitration Committee - CBAr. It was co-organised by Eduardo Damião Gonçalves of CBAr and sponsored by the Chamber of Mediation and Arbitration of São Paulo (CIESP-FIESP). Thirty-one delegates were able to attend.

Andrew McDougall, a partner at Perley-Robertson Hill & McDougall in Ottawa and a member of the FIAA's executive committee, says that running a yearly programme in a developing international arbitration centre has been one of the foundation's goals since it was set up in 2007. "It is rewarding to reach our strategic objective with such resounding success in only our fourth year. We are already planning a similar programme in India for next year. This is just the beginning."

Ank Santens, a partner at White & Case in New York, who is also on the FIAA's executive committee and helped to organise the Brazilian programme, says it was a pleasure to visit Sao Paulo and to "teach and learn from the Brazilian arbitration practitioners."

“The quality and enthusiasm of the participants were impressive and inspiring,” she says. “They were eager to take full advantage of the opportunity to practise their advocacy skills with international arbitration counsel and arbitrators from around the world. Holding our first non-European workshop in Brazil was clearly the right call.”

Santens adds that the success of the event bodes well for the future of the foundation, “which offers a truly unique programme of immense practical value to participants.”

David Roney, one of the foundation’s founders and a partner at Sidley Austin in Geneva, says the FIAA is delighted with the response of the Brazilian arbitration community. He says he enjoyed working alongside CBAr and CIESP-FIESP – “two highly professional organisations which were key to making the workshop a success.”

“We were also fortunate to have on our faculty for this workshop several Brazilian and Latin American arbitration practitioners, providing participants with exposure to a wonderfully diverse group of instructors,” he continues. “The FIAA feels privileged indeed to have worked with such a high calibre team on the first workshop that we have offered outside Europe”.

Offering a Brazilian perspective, **Silvia Rodrigues Pachikovski**, the vice president of the CIESP-FIESP Arbitration Centre and a practitioner at RPSN Advogados in São Paulo, says that the workshop helped to develop arbitral best practice. “Lawyers trained in the civil law tradition were able to improve their techniques and get used to cross-examination,” she says.

Pachikovski adds that the training comes at a good time: “As host country of the next World Cup and the Olympics in 2016, Brazil is likely to see a large number of domestic and international arbitrations arising from infrastructure agreements.”

Luiz Aboim, a Brazilian associate at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Paris and an alumnus of the foundation’s first workshop in 2008, says he has “pushed for a Brazilian workshop ever since” and was delighted to be one of the trainers at the event.

The foundation was founded by Roney, **Sheila Block** of Torys in Toronto, **Jim Seckinger**, a professor of law at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and Swiss arbitrator **Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler**. All except Kaufmann-Kohler attended the event as trainers.

The next FIAA arbitration workshop will take place in Paris in November 2011 and will focus on the questioning of expert witnesses in international arbitration. The workshop in India has been scheduled to take place from 15 to 17 March 2012, most probably in Mumbai.

Faculty members for Brazilian workshop

Luiz Aboim of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Paris
Julie Bédard of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom in New York
Sheila Block of Torys in Toronto
Christian Camboulive of Gide Loyrette Nouel in Paris
Nicholas Fletcher of Berwin Leighton Paisner in London
Eduardo Damião Gonçalves of Mattos Filho Veiga Filho Marrey Jr e Quiroga in São Paulo
Horacio Grigera Naón, an Argentine arbitrator based in Washington, DC
Fernando Mantilla-Serrano of Shearman & Sterling in Paris
Andrew McDougall of Perley-Robertson Hill & McDougall in Ottawa
Giovanni Ettore Nanni of TozziniFreire Advogados in São Paulo
José Emilio Nunes Pinto, an arbitrator based at José Emilio Nunes Pinto Advogados in São Paulo
Francisco Orrego Vicuña, an arbitrator based at Francisco Orrego Vicuña y Compañía in Santiago
David Roney of Sidley Austin in Geneva
Ank Santens of White & Case in New York
James Seckinger of the University of Notre Dame Law School in Indiana
Eduardo Silva Romero of Dechert in Paris
John Terry of Torys in Toronto
Joseph Tirado of Norton Rose in London
Michael Young of Herbert Smith in Paris