

Advocacy workshop comes to the UK

Tom Toulson
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The Foundation for International Arbitration Advocacy is running a workshop outside its base in Switzerland for the first time.

The workshop on the questioning of expert witnesses will take place over the first three days in July at Beaumont House.

Twenty-four participants will get the chance to cross-examine experts from FTI Consulting and Ernst & Young - and will receive feedback on live and video-recorded performances. The sessions will be run by experienced arbitration specialists, who will also give demonstrations and lectures.

The FIAA was established in 2007 to provide training to lawyers from different jurisdictions in the art of advocacy tailored to arbitration. According to one of the founders, David Roney, a partner at Schellenberg Wittmer in Geneva, the decision to bring the workshops outside Switzerland is part of an international strategy. "By taking our workshop to other major arbitration centres and developing markets, we aim to make them accessible to a broader audience by reducing travel costs. We chose Beaumont House in Windsor because it offers first-rate residential conference facilities and is within easy access of both central London and Heathrow."

The organisation plans to run its next workshop in São Paulo in the autumn of 2010. Based on those who have registered for the July event already, Roney expects half the participants will be from the UK and half from countries in Europe and North America.

The course costs £985, which also covers accommodation and meals. Stephen Jagusch, a partner at Allen & Overy LLP and a member of the organisation's executive board, says it's worth every penny.

"The value of the training alone is, in my view, priceless. Advocacy before international tribunals can be vastly different from advocacy before domestic courts. The true specialists in this field tend to do their own advocacy, which is why it is critically important for any aspiring arbitration lawyer to learn and develop their advocacy skills. One can learn in these intensive workshops what it could take years to learn in many practices. But even ignoring the value of the training, I can't think of any residential course anywhere that provides three nights of first-rate accommodation and all food and refreshments for under £1,000."

WORKSHOP FACULTY:

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