

First Annual ICC Houston Conference on International Arbitration:

# Houston as the Crossroads between the Middle East and the Americas

April 8-9, 2013

## Venue

Fulbright & Jaworski LLP  
1301 McKinney Street  
Houston, Texas 77010

## Objective

The First Annual ICC Houston Conference on International Arbitration shines a spotlight on Houston as a gateway for U.S. companies doing business in Latin America and the Middle East. Given Houston's strategic location and large energy and construction sectors, it is an ideal location for bringing together corporate counsel, outside counsel and business persons from various sectors that involve the U.S., the Middle East and Latin America. We will focus on new developments in energy and infrastructure disputes, as well as recent developments, hot topics and enforcement issues in the Middle East and Latin America. We will conclude with a roundtable of corporate counsel representing corporate interests based in Houston discussing their perspectives on international arbitration. Join scholars, practitioners, and corporate counsel from Houston, Latin America and the Middle East as they discuss and debate international arbitration practices with a focus on Houston as an arbitration gateway.

## Who should attend

Arbitrators, legal practitioners, in-house counsel, and academics who wish to know more about international arbitration.



International Chamber of Commerce

*The world business organization*



First Annual ICC Houston Conference

# Program

## Monday April 8, 2013

6:30-8:00 p.m.

### Welcome Cocktail Reception

**Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP**  
700 Louisiana, Suite 1600  
Houston, TX 77002

## Tuesday April 9, 2013

8:00 a.m.

### Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:30 a.m.

### Welcome & Introduction

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

### New Developments in Energy and Infrastructure Disputes

Energy and infrastructure are key components of the business landscape in Houston. This panel will address new developments in energy and infrastructure disputes, with a particular emphasis on disputes involving Middle Eastern and Latin American business interests.

### Discussion

11:00-11:15 a.m.

### Coffee Break

11:15 a.m. -12:45 p.m.

### Regional Focus: Hot Topics in International Arbitration in the Middle East

This panel will address emerging and hot-button issues in international arbitration in the Middle East, including new developments in the arbitration laws of various jurisdictions, such as Saudi Arabia, and how the implementation of those laws will affect cross-border business disputes, as well as enforcement of awards in the Middle East and common misperceptions about Sharia law in international arbitration.

### Discussion

12:45- 2:15 p.m.

### Lunch

# First Annual ICC Houston Conference

2:15-3:45 p.m.

## **Regional Focus: Latin America - Enforcement of Awards**

The speakers will address a variety of issues that parties should consider when seeking enforcement or vacatur of an arbitration award in Latin America, including the impact of the seat of arbitration, the status of the enforcing countries' adherence to the New York Convention, the unique enforcement procedures and requirements for local courts in a sampling of jurisdictions, and the foreign investment consequences of Latin American countries renouncing the ICSID Convention, among other topics.

### **Discussion**

3:45-4:00 p.m.

### **Coffee Break**

4:00-6:00 p.m.

## **Corporate Counsel Roundtable Discussion**

This panel will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the international arbitration process from the perspective of ICC corporate users with ties to the Houston region. The corporate counsel panelists will also discuss their "wish list" from the standpoint of their relationships with outside counsel and their expectations of the arbitral tribunal.

### **Discussion**

6:00 p.m.

### **Closing Remarks**

## Speakers

- **Roberto Aguirre Luzi**, Partner, King & Spalding LLP, *Houston*
- **Arif H. Ali**, Partner, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, *Washington, D.C.*
- **Oliver Armas**, Partner, Chadbourne & Parke LLP, *New York*
- **C. Mark Baker**, Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., *Houston*
- **Francisco Balduzzi**, Senior Legal Counsel, Latin America, Wood Group Management Services Inc., *Houston*
- **John Beechey**, President, International Court of Arbitration®, *Paris*
- **Suzana Blades**, Senior Counsel, ConocoPhillips, *Houston*
- **Ricardo Colmener**, Regional General Counsel, Latin America, Weatherford, *Houston*
- **Alan Crain**, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Baker Hughes Incorporated, *Houston*
- **Veronica Foley**, Associate General Counsel, Americas, Precision Drilling, *Houston*
- **Grant Hanessian**, Partner, Baker & McKenzie LLP, *New York*
- **Sami Huerbi**, Director for the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Dispute Resolution Services, International Court of Arbitration®, *Tunisia*
- **Yasmine Lahlou**, Counsel, Chaffetz Lindsey LLP, *New York*
- **Alexander Lütgendorf**, Senior Counsel, Amereller Legal Consultants, *Dubai*
- **Daniel J. McDonald**, Partner, Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP, *Calgary*
- **Caline Mouawad**, Partner, King & Spalding LLP, *New York*
- **Ann Ryan Robertson**, International Partner, Locke Lord LLP, *Houston*
- **Ben H. Sheppard, Jr.**, Independent Arbitrator and Director of the A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center, University of Houston, *Houston*
- **Josefa Sicard-Mirabal**, Director, Arbitration & ADR North America, International Court of Arbitration®, *New York*
- **Tom Sikora**, Counsel, International Disputes Group, ExxonMobil, *Houston*
- **Jonathan Sutcliffe**, Partner, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., *Houston*

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## Logistical and Registration Information

### Venue:

Fulbright & Jaworski LLP  
1301 McKinney Street  
Houston, Texas 77010

### How to register:

Please complete and return the registration form indicating method of payment to:

**Email:**      [aay@iccwbo.org](mailto:aay@iccwbo.org)

**Post:**        **ICC North America**  
                 **c/o United States Council for International Business**  
                 **1212 Avenue of the Americas, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
                 **New York, NY 10036**  
                 **USA**

**Tel:**         **+1 212 703 5044**

**Fax:**         **+1 212 575 0327**

**Website:**    [www.iccnorthamerica.org](http://www.iccnorthamerica.org)

Registration will be confirmed upon receipt of registration form and payment.

### Registration fee:

Until March 8, 2013:

After March 8, 2013

“Early bird special”

US \$350

For USCIB members: US \$450

For non-members: US \$550

### Registration Fee for Academics, Corporate Counsel, Sole Practitioners and Government Representatives:

US \$275

*The fee includes working papers, continental breakfast refreshments, lunch and reception.*

### Travel and accommodation:

Travel and hotel expenses are not included. Participants are responsible for making their own travel arrangements and hotel reservations.

### Cancellation charge:

50% of the contribution to costs will be refunded if notice of cancellation is received in writing before March 21, 2013. Cancellations after this date are not refundable. However, registration may be transferred to another person from the same company or organization at no extra charge, provided that notice is sent to [aay@iccwbo.org](mailto:aay@iccwbo.org) prior to the conference.

# First Annual ICC Houston Conference

## Registration Form

### Participant information:

Title (Mr/Dr/Ms/etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/state: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration fee: (Please check the appropriate box.)

Until February 25, 2013:

After February 25, 2013

“Early bird special”

US \$350

For USCIB members: US \$450

For non-members: US \$550

For Academics, Corporate Counsel, Sole Practitioners and Government Representatives: US \$275

### Method of payment:

By credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

American Express

MasterCard

Visa

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date:     /     /                      Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:     /     /                      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The details you provide on this form will be used for registration purposes. They will be stored in ICC's databases for the sole use of ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) and USCIB (United States Council for International Business). You may have access to these details and request deletions and corrections at any time by contacting **Alexandra Akerly** at **212-703-5044**. The details you provide may be used by ICC and USCIB to keep you informed of developments in your area of activity through publications, subscriptions, events and other commercial offers.