

Can Arbitration be Effective in Resolving Business and Human Rights Disputes?

Speaker Biographies



Donald Donovan

Donald Donovan is a Partner at the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton and Co-Chair of Debevoise's International Dispute Resolution Group and its Public International Law Group. He serves as a counsel in international disputes before international courts, international arbitration tribunals, and courts in the United States. Mr. Donovan also regularly sits as an arbitrator in international cases, including under the auspices of ICSID, the ICC, and the ICDR, as president, chair, sole arbitrator, and co-arbitrator. He is the Immediate Past President of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA), the leading global organization of international arbitrators and arbitration practitioners. Mr. Donovan is ranked in the top band in Chambers in International Arbitration (Global), International Arbitration (Latin America), and Public International Law (Global), the only person so ranked in each of those categories. Currently, Donald Donovan teaches International Arbitration and International Investment Law and Arbitration Law at the New York University School of Law and International Investment Arbitration at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He served as the presiding arbitrator in the Bangladesh Accord case.



Yousuf Aftab

Yousuf Aftab is the founder and principal of Enodo Rights, a New York-based corporate human rights strategy boutique. He has extensive experience advising Fortune 100 companies, investors, law firms, and governments on operationalizing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Before launching Enodo, Mr. Aftab specialized in international disputes at Latham & Watkins and served as a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada. He also advised Debevoise & Plimpton in the development and launch of the firm's industry-leading Business Integrity Group. Mr. Aftab has published and presented widely on the intersection of corporate responsibility and law and is the co-author of *Business and Human Rights as Law: Towards Justiciability of Rights, Involvement, and Remedy* (LexisNexis 2019).



Meriam Al-Rashid

Meriam Al-Rashid is a Partner and the U.S. head of the Public International Law and Investment Disputes team at Dentons US. She is also a member of Dentons' Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice group where she focuses on public international law, including issues related to human rights, international investment disputes, and commercial arbitration. Ms. Al-Rashid's experience includes participation in numerous international arbitration forums, including, but not limited to, the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Ms. Al-Rashid also advises sovereign states and relevant stake holders, such as NGOs, on post-conflict peace negotiations and governance, and investigation and adjudication of war crimes. In May 2019, Ms. Al-Rashid was appointed as Committee Member of the Vance Center for International Justice.



Marney Cheek

Marney Cheek is a partner at the law firm Covington & Burling and co-chairs Covington's International Arbitration Practice Group. She represents both states and corporate clients in complex international disputes, drawing upon her expertise in public international law,

investment, and international trade. Ms. Cheek litigates before numerous international tribunals and advises clients on a range of implementation and enforcement issues arising under trade agreements, including environmental matters. She served as counsel for the claimants in the Bangladesh Accord arbitration.



Jenny Holdcroft

Jenny Holdcroft serves as the Assistant General Secretary of IndustriALL Global Union, an organization which represents 50 million workers in 140 countries in the mining, energy, and manufacturing sectors. She is a member of the steering committee of the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh and negotiated the Memorandum of Understanding between IndustriALL and global garment brands to deliver living wages through industry collective agreements. Ms. Holdcroft has extensive experience in negotiating collective agreements, training, and advocacy. She has also worked as a policy officer for an Australian government agency responsible for affirmative actions to improve the status of women. IndustriALL Global Union was one of the claimants in the Bangladesh Accord arbitration.



Robert C. Thompson

Robert C. Thompson is a member of the California bar, a former Associate General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a former partner of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP, where he was the chairman of the firm's international environment, health, and safety practice. Following his retirement in 1999, Mr. Thompson has been active in human rights research and writing. He is currently a member of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights Arbitration Rules.