



Peter Mason, FCI Arb

Nationality: Australian & American

Languages: English



Peter Mason is an independent arbitrator and mediator and an independent (NED) Board member of companies in the USA and Japan. He also serves as sole trustee of a number of trusts, both testamentary and *inter vivos*.

He brings to his arbitration and mediation practice forty years' industry experience and a long and successful track record as a senior corporate leader at a multi-billion dollar global enterprise; as a leading international lawyer; as a disputes lawyer in private practice in both Australia and the United States; and as an independent Board member (NED) of companies in the USA (NYSE) and Japan.

He has a broad commercial practice as an ARD professional, and has a focus on disputes relating to trusts, fiduciary duties, and family matters.

Before his Arbitrator career, Peter spent more than 20 years as Global General Counsel at UNICEF, a highly respected, multi-billion dollar, mission-driven international enterprise, with operations in over 152 countries, where he oversaw the legal support and advice to all business units and offices around the world, leading and in-house teams and managing outside counsel in numerous jurisdictions. While at UNICEF, Peter was responsible for managing organisational risk and ensuring compliance. He designed and negotiated complex international financing for development and public private partnerships. He was a trusted and confidential advisor to four successive UNICEF global chief executives.

At UNICEF, Peter held a number of senior leadership roles as Global General Counsel. He was a member of the Global Management Team, Security Management Team and various AdHoc project boards overseeing significant corporate shifts.

Peter was also the Chair of the Investment Committee overseeing two outside managers of a sustainable investment fund (US\$2.1B AUM as of June 2021) and was a member of the UNICEF Finance Committee, Audit Committee, and Innovative Finance Board.

Arbitra London

Juxon House
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Washington DC, 20005

Arbitra Abu Dhabi

ADGM Arbitration Centre
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ADGM Square, Al Maryah Island
PO Box 111999, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Peter has significant experience negotiating major international commercial transactions such as high-value contracts for vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics, logistics, insurance, and related finance agreements.

He also has extensive experience leading successful negotiations of complex and sensitive agreements with governments and non-state entities. Peter was counsel of record in arbitrations involving Unicef, and appeared before various international courts.

In private practice, both in New York and Sydney, Australia, Peter litigated complex, high-value, international commercial disputes — both lawsuits and arbitrations — involving courts, tribunals, or parties in, among other places, the US, the UK, Australia, Malaysia, the Nordic countries, Columbia, Brazil, and Singapore.

In addition to his arbitration practice, Peter is an independent Board member of Franklin Templeton's LM closed-end funds (NYSE), where he chairs the Board's Compensation Committee and serves on a number of other Board committees including Audit, Pricing and Valuation, and Nominating.

He is also a Supervisory Board Member (kansayaku) of the Tokyo-headquartered GHIT Fund, a private company in Japan which invests in biopharma R&D globally.

Peter is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) and has completed numerous training in mediation since 2012. Born in Papua New Guinea, Peter is a national of Australia and America.

Sector Expertise

- Trusts
- Fiduciary Duties
- Vaccines, Pharmaceuticals, Therapeutics, Life Sciences
- Commercial Dispute Resolution
- Mediation & Dispute Boards
- Investor-State Disputes
- Construction, Infrastructure & Engineering
- Banking & Finance
- Insurance & Reinsurance
- Technology & Telecommunications

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Experience

Peter has long experience resolving commercial and other disputes through mediation, negotiation, litigation, or arbitration.

Representative matters as an arbitrator and mediator include:

- Serving on a three-person panel in a New York arbitration involving a number of family trusts and a family foundation alleging, among other things, breach of fiduciary duties
- Mediator in an international licensing, manufacturing, and distribution dispute involving two Europe- based corporations and a US entity.
- Acting as sole arbitrator in several arbitrations under the Arbitration Act 1996 (UK).

Representative matters as counsel include:

- Two construction arbitrations in Africa.
- A patent rights international arbitration between two pharmaceutical companies and consequential unwinding of the parties' joint venture for drug development and marketing.
- A US construction dispute arising out of a non-operable nuclear power plant.
- New York lawsuits to recover real estate assets purchased by a former head of state of a foreign government.
- An international construction arbitration between a Nordic construction company and a Latin American government.
- A claim by a UK company against a US company arising out of the sale of assets in Brazil.
- A London arbitration between a US oil exploration company and a South-East Asian government.
- A successful trial in the High Court of Malaysia of an intellectual property infringement case representing an international bank.
- Claims in New York by a UK-based investor against an international accounting firm alleging auditing irregularities with regard to a fund established by a California-based investment advisor.
- Successful criminal prosecution in Norway of an individual who had defrauded UNICEF, and successful tracing and recovery of the convicted' s assets in multiple jurisdictions including the Channel Islands.
- A New York dispute between a Nordic company and a US company about a license of industrial technology

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- Mass tort litigation in London and in a South Asian country resulting from water programs conducted in that country
- Contested proceedings in Iran between a UN organization and a supplier
- High-value dispute between a UN organization and a supplier with regard to contamination of foodstuffs purchased for humanitarian relief programs
- Dispute between a UN organization and a supplier of therapeutic products for failure to meet relevant regulatory requirements
- A major will contests in New York courts and associated trust construction proceedings.
- A legal malpractice suit in New York courts arising out of a contested will proceeding.
- Will contest in Paris courts disputing the bequest to UNICEF of a major art collection.
- Proceedings in a tax-haven jurisdiction with regard to a testamentary gift to UNICEF of funds to support programs in a Latin American country
- Appeared before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; authored amicus curiae brief to the Special Court for Sierra Leone at the Court's request (submission was adopted in full by the Court).

Academic & Professional Qualifications

Academic

- LL. B., University of Sydney Law School 1984; B. Ec. (Hons.), University of Sydney 1982

Bar Admission

- Australia (New South Wales)
- USA (New York State)

Professional

- International Commercial Disputes Lawyer in Private Practice (Sydney and New York) 1985-98
- Global General Counsel of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, 1998-2021

Professional Associations & Recognitions

Memberships

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- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London: admitted as a Fellow (FCIArb) June 2022.
- London Court of International Arbitration: member.
- International Arbitration Club of New York: admitted to this invitation-only group of senior international arbitrators.
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL): Member of NYSBA Observer Delegation to 2021/2 sessions on amendments to ICSID rules and new UNCITRAL arbitration rules for expedited international arbitrations.
- Previously a member of the New York State Supreme Court Roster of Neutrals and of the US Federal Court (SDNY) Panel of Mediators
- Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (JCAA) Panel of Arbitrators
- British Virgin Islands (BVIIAC) Panel of Arbitrators & Mediators.
- FINRA Accredited Arbitrator.
- Vienna International Arbitration Centre (VIAC) List of Arbitrators.
- Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) Panel of Arbitrators.

Associations

- Association of the Bar of the City of New York: previously served on the Association's Council on International Affairs, Council on Children, and Asian Affairs Committee.
- New York State Bar Association: member of Dispute Resolution Section and Trusts and Estates Section.
- Previously Co-Chair of the United Nations Committee of the New York State Bar Association.
- American Society of International Law: Executive Council Counsellor since 2017 and member of the Audit Committee since 2018; member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee 2016.
- World Economic Forum (Davos) General Counsel Global Community: founding member 2021 and subsequently an Advisor to the group.
- The Conference Board Chief Legal Officers' Council: member 2017-2020.
- National Association of Corporate Directors: member since 2019.
- The Children's Radio Foundation: Board member since 2014 and Chair of the Audit Committee 2015-19; member of the CEO search committee.
- The University of Sydney USA Foundation: Board member since 2019; Board Chair and President since 2020.

Articles, Publications & Thought Leadership

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Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, “Guidelines for optimizing Board cyber security oversight: realization, mitigation, protection and resilience” session, Governance Intelligence’s Corporate Governance Forum; New York NY, October 2024
- Panelist, British Virgin Islands International Arbitration Conference panel on Arbitration of Off-Shore Disputes and Trust Disputes; BVI, March 2024
- Invited Participant, High-level Roundtable on Arbitration of Construction Disputes, British Virgin Islands International Arbitration Conference, March 2024
- Moderator, United Nations Member State second consultation with UNCITRAL Secretariat on UNCITRAL research project (supported by the Government of Japan), “Dispute Resolution in the Digital Economy”; New York, February 2024
- Invited Participant in UK Government Roundtable discussion on “Key Issues Confronting International Commercial Arbitration in the UK and Globally”; Paris, October 2023
- Invited Participant in State of Qatar Roundtable discussion, co-hosted by the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General for Public Private Partnerships and the Islamic Social Financing and the Global Humanitarian Action Executive Alliance, on “Redefining Public Private Partnerships and SDG 17 in Humanitarian Response”; United Nations Headquarters New York, July 2023
- Invited Lecturer, Exeter College, Oxford (Occasional Lectures series), “Human Rights from an International Perspective”; Oxford, May 2023
- Panelist, London International Disputes Week 2023 panel on “Arbitrating International Commercial Disputes in Dubai and Abu Dhabi”; London, May 2023
- Moderator, United Nations Member State consultation with UNCITRAL Secretariat on UNCITRAL research project (supported by the Government of Japan), “Dispute Resolution in the Digital Economy”; New York, February 2023
- Panelist, LMA Conference panel on “Addressing Clients’ ESG Needs”; New York, November 2022
- Invited Participant in UK Government Roundtable discussion on “International Commercial Arbitration in the Southern Hemisphere”; Miami, October 2022
- Panelist in plenary panel “General Counsel’s Criteria for Selecting Dispute Resolution Providers and Arbitrators”; Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Americas Conference, Miami, October 2022
- Panelist in plenary panel, “Latest Legal Trends in Climate Finance”; NYU’s Grunin Center for Law and Social Entrepreneurship conference, Washington DC, June 2022

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- Co-presenter, Enterprise GC Conference Plenary Session on “Working with Outside Counsel”; London, April 2022
- Panelist, Tackling the World’s Humanitarian Needs Through Impact Finance; McDermott Will & Emery webinar series, March 2022
- Featured Guest in conversation with firm Chairman Ira Coleman: “Leaders Moving Business Forward”; McDermott Will & Emery webinar series 2021

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