



Peter Mason

Nationality: Australian & American

Languages: English



Peter Mason is an independent arbitrator and mediator with over 30 years industry experience.

Peter brings to his arbitration and mediation practice a long and successful track record as a disputes lawyer in private practice in both Australia and the United States, and as a senior international lawyer and senior corporate leader at a multi-billion dollar global enterprise.

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 15,000 staff and operations in over 152 countries, where he oversaw the legal support and advice to all business units and offices around the world, leading an in-house team 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.

Prior to his senior role at UNICEF, Peter practiced as a disputes lawyer at AllensLinklaters in Sydney, Australia before relocating to New York as a litigation lawyer at Paul, Weiss and then at the law firm Pillsbury.

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 a billion-plus dollar sustainable investment funds for UN organisations, and a member of the UNICEF Finance Committee, Innovative Finance Board, and Audit Committee.

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

Sector Expertise

- Investor State Disputes
- Mediation & Dispute Boards
- Construction, Infrastructure & Engineering
- Banking & Finance
- Insurance & Reinsurance
- Technology & Telecommunications

Experience

Arbitration

Peter has over thirty years' experience resolving commercial and other disputes through negotiation, litigation, or arbitration. Representative matters 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.

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- 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.
- Two major will contests in New York courts and associated trust construction proceedings.
- Will contest in Paris courts disputing the bequest to UNICEF of a major art collection.

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

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- Global General Counsel of UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, 1998-2021

Professional Associations & Recognitions

Memberships

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London: admitted to Membership (M.CI Arb) October 2021.
- 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.
- New York State Supreme Court Roster of Neutrals: member (various Judicial Departments).
- Previously a member of the US Federal Court (SDNY) Panel of Mediators.

Associations

- Association of the Bar of the City of New York: member, and 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 International Section.
- 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.

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- 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.

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