



Meet the IR Global Disputes Group

Our members are leaders of the legal industry. They are proud to uphold the highest ethical standards and offer an unrivalled quality of service to clients all over the world.



What is IR Global?

IR Global was founded in 2010 and has grown to become the largest legal and professional network practice area organisation with an exclusive network of advisors throughout the world. This incredible success story has seen the network receive recognition and be featured in a plethora of ranking and publications such as Chambers and Partners, Legal 500, the Financial Times, Lawyer 360, Thomson Reuters to name just a few.

IR Global, the future of professional services

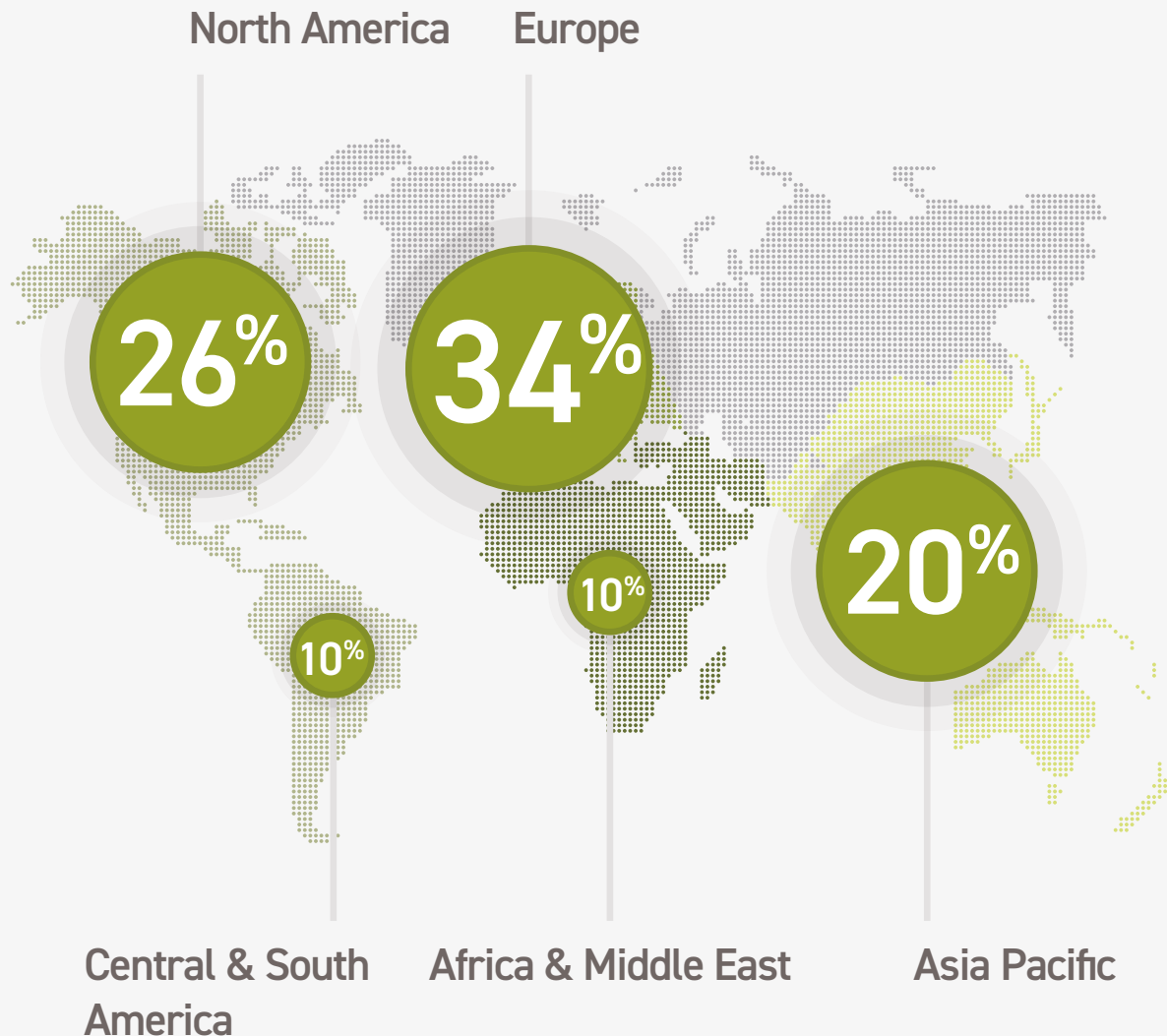
IR Global is a multi-disciplinary professional services network that provides advice to companies and individuals in over 155+ jurisdictions.

We are a community of like minded individuals and a global network which cultivates a giving mentality always putting the client's needs first.

The traditional role of the adviser has changed and today businesses require more from their lawyer, accountant or business adviser. We are at the forefront of this transition and focus on providing results in consideration of long term strategic goals.

We believe the archaic 'professional service firm' model is dying due to it being insular, expensive and slow. In IR Global, forward thinking clients now have a credible alternative to top quality legal and professional advisors which is open, cost effective and flexible.

Member Coverage



The Members



Vetting

Members are subjected to a stringent vetting process prior to an invitation to join. During this process we analyse firm reputation, rankings and gauge feedback from local IR members and connections in their jurisdiction. Finally, a face to face meeting or conference call is set up to ensure the applicant is aware of group expectations and ethos.

Protocols

The relationship between referrer and recipient is to be one of transparency and respect at all times. There is also a protocol in place for referring clients and best practices.

More information can be found in the referral protocol chapter of the member handbook.









<https://bit.ly/2vglak7>

Working Groups

IR has a strong focus on practice area expertise and regional knowledge, ensuring clients get the very best advice, no matter how niche the requirement. Within the group we have 12 working groups, each headed by a steering committee of experienced and innovative member firms from different countries around the world. Their role is to handle communication within the group, the coordination of multi-jurisdictional cases and most importantly, ensure businesses and individuals receive unrivalled quality of service and value.

www.irglobal.com/working-groups

Why Use the IR Global Network?

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|---|--|--|--|
|  <p>Multi-Disciplinary</p> |  <p>Big Firm Experience</p> |  <p>Niche Expertise</p> | <p>SPEAK with your own advisor for an introduction to another member</p> <p>SEARCH via the website and identify the right advisor to fulfil your requirements</p> <p>CONTACT the IR Global head office and speak with a member of the team for support.</p> |
|  <p>Cost Effective Billing</p> |  <p>Close Cooperation</p> |  <p>Speed of Response</p> | |
|  <p>Local Knowledge</p> |  <p>Partner Led</p> |  <p>Personal Service</p> | |

IR Global Disputes Group

The Disputes group has capable, experienced member firms in 60+ jurisdictions around the world. Each member of our disputes network is carefully vetted on their firm's expertise and experience. Members are not just content to be part of the industry but to lead through innovation and, above all else, adherence to the highest ethical standards.

We offer a full cross-border disputes service with niche sector expertise; ADR, mediation, arbitration, and litigation services. Plus, specialist knowledge in product liability, white collar crime and investigations, business, finance and many other areas of expertise.

Disputes Services and Expertise

- ADR including Mediation
- Commercial Arbitration
- Cross Border Disputes
- Investment Disputes
- Litigation
- Risk Analysis



Hilary von Arx member pictured at the 2017 'On the Road' Conference in Singapore

Meet the Committee



Howard Colman
Colman Coyle,
England



Erwin Shustak
Shustak Reynolds &
Partners, P.C.,
U.S. - California



Hilary L. von Arx
Wicki Partners AG,
Switzerland



Dr. Ulrich Reber
SKW Schwarz
Rechtsanwälte,
Germany



Dr. Klaus Oblin
OBLIN Rechtsanwälte GmbH,
Austria



Gary E Davidson
Diaz Reus,
U.S. - Florida

Disputes Group Initiatives



The Role of the Committee

The IR Disputes committee speaks on a regular basis and meets at each of our international events. Furthermore, once a quarter we have a conference call that defines group strategy and identifies current and emerging trends. This encompasses quality standards, new member recruitment, tools which can improve our advisory offering and initiatives that can create value to members and clients alike.

Events

The network hosts four major international conferences per year and numerous small regional meetings. This is a vitally important component of the network as it supports the development of the group and creates close bonds / efficient working relationships between members, ensuring clients have a consistent service through firms that have the requisite expertise and a mutual understanding and method of working.

The Unique Offering of IR Global

By combining forces and in-depth legal expertise from IR Global experts around the world, we are able to offer the highest quality services without the huge overheads and pyramid like structures of the large, multinational professional services firms.

The benefit of having a professional who is an IR Global member is access to a world wide network of highly experienced and sophisticated advisors without incurring the high costs of engaging a large, expensive multi-national law firm.

In addition, as dispute issues cross all areas of business, the group is in regular contact and has close co-operation with the other IR Practice Group committees and members, including M&A, Commercial Law, Private Client, Accountancy and Tax to name just a few. Meaning no matter what the requirement we can bring in the right expertise.

As Featured In



FINANCIAL TIMES



WealthBriefing



AccountancyAge

People Management



Publications

Our virtual series of publications brings together members around the world to share knowledge and discuss topical issues.

Staying Ahead of the Curve - Implementing effective arbitration agreements

An examination of most commercial contracts governing international agreements will reveal a clause dealing with alternative dispute resolution, specifically mediations and arbitrations.

The oft-quoted advantages of arbitration, as opposed to litigation, usually revolve around control; in terms of privacy, timing, flexibility and cost.

Arbitrations are conducted in private, as opposed to litigation which is open to public scrutiny. Parties to an arbitration can also control the timing of the arbitration process, since they have chosen and employed the arbitrators conducting the process. There is also the benefit of avoiding trial by jury. As a result of this control, arbitrations are routinely used to resolve international disputes.

To view this publication click [HERE](#).



Litigation Funding - Handling commercial and financial disputes

The complexity of global commerce inevitably leads to disputes between parties doing business together across borders, cultures and time zones.

The increasing frequency, scale and complexity of commercial disputes has subsequently led to a rise in litigation and arbitration proceedings as a means of resolution. While the costs of initiating court proceedings aren't usually prohibitive, the ongoing costs associated with litigation, such as attorney's fees and fees for discovery and depositions, can quickly stack up. The same is true for arbitration, where administration and arbitrator fees charged by international arbitration centres can lead to exorbitant costs to see a case through to conclusion.

For claimants based outside the European Union, in dispute with European defendants, there are also other barriers to consider, such as huge security deposits designed to cover the costs of the defendant should the case be lost.

To view this publication click [HERE](#).



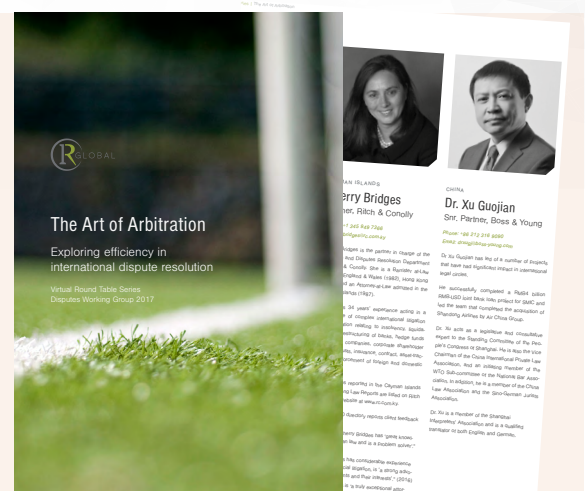
The Art of Arbitration - Exploring efficiency in international dispute resolution

Commercial disputes are common in business, with many organisations handling multiple disputes on a domestic or international level in the course of their activities. The efficient resolution of those disagreements is crucial to ensuring costs and time are kept to a minimum, allowing the companies involved to focus on their primary operations without the distraction of a complex dispute.

Litigation is acknowledged as a difficult, time-consuming and expensive process, often requiring multiple hearings and appeals that can alter resolution timescales significantly. As a result, arbitration has become established as a viable alternative, often preferred because of its efficiency and transparency.

There are a number of high profile arbitration institutions that have an established set of rules and procedures accepted and implemented by all signatory countries. This level playing field has given organisations greater confidence to engage in international trade and commerce, without the spectre of costly litigation proceedings in a foreign legal system they have minimal understanding of.

To view this publication click [HERE](#).



Case Study #1:

Effective UK/German co-operation resolves contractual issue for a bespoke manufacturer of model motor vehicles

Colman Coyle are pleased to have been able to work with, and be involved, a significant number of referrals to and from, a large number of IR Global Members.

Howard Colman is the exclusive commercial litigation and arbitration member for England and is frequently involved in providing advice to, and seeking advice from, firms around the globe in relation to cross-border disputes.

A good example of the benefits, not only for member firms, but also for clients of the relationships formed through IR Global, arose in a piece of commercial litigation which Howard successfully concluded quite recently.

Howard was approached by Urs Breitsprecher of Aquan Rechtsanwalte who was acting for a German manufacturer of bespoke model vehicles for international collectors in a potential claim for damages arising out of a breach of contract by an English company.

The contractual arrangements between the clients did not specify the applicable law nor the jurisdiction. It would have been possible to construct arguments both for English law and German law.

Howard worked with Dr Jana Schott, a partner in Aquan, to determine not only which law was most likely to apply, but also the commercial and strategic benefits for the client of each jurisdiction and system of law.

They jointly concluded that it was best to commence proceedings in England and to run the case under English law. This ultimately proved to be a good decision as, amongst other things, through the English procedure of disclosure, Howard was able to obtain a significant number of crucial internal documents from the English company which significantly strengthened the case.

These documents would not have been available to the client through German proceedings and the provision of them ultimately contributed significantly to a highly satisfactory settlement being obtained for the client.

“Through the English procedure of disclosure, Howard was able to obtain a significant number of crucial internal documents from the English company which significantly strengthened the case.”

COLMAN COYLE
Solicitors



Case Study #2:

Dispute Arising out of Hit Television Program

The benefits of having legal counsel who is a member of the IR Global community are substantial and important. The below case study highlights the importance of having attorneys who can provide their clients with local representation as well as global coverage for the increasingly international, cross-border aspects of business and commercial disputes.

IR Global member Erwin Shustak's firm, based in California, represented the creator of the international hit television show *The Voice*. That client had a dispute with a Netherlands company, and others, who he alleged purloined his intellectual property. The dispute wound up in litigation in the California court.

Since several of the defendants were Dutch, and their business activities governed by the Dutch courts, there was an ancillary court proceeding that needed to be commenced and pursued in the Netherlands to obtain information and documents pursuant to Dutch law. Erwin contacted his friend and colleague, IR Global member John Wolfs of Wolfs Advocaten, based in Maastricht, Netherlands, who acted as local counsel to the client in coordination with Erwin's firm. John pursued the legal proceeding in the Netherlands which allowed their joint client to obtain the information and documents necessary to pursue his primary dispute in California.

It is the ability of IR Global members to call upon and quickly enlist fellow members across the globe that gives each IR Global member the unique ability seamlessly marshal the international and domestic legal and other professional resources necessary to accomplish the desired result and best serve a client's needs wherever the needs arise on a worldwide basis. There is no single law firm that has as many members or offices throughout the world as IR Global, affording the clients of IR Global members immediate access to experienced and sophisticated attorneys and other professionals wherever and whenever needed.

“Erwin contacted his friend and colleague, IR Global member John Wolfs of Wolfs Advocaten, based in Maastricht, Netherlands, who acted as local counsel to the client in coordination with Erwin's firm”.



Erwin Shustak, Shustak Reynolds & Partners, P.C., U.S. - California

Case Study #3:

Successful International Arbitration involving multiple IR Global members

The expertise and presence of IR Global Disputes members can be shown in a case of international arbitration between an Italian manufacturer of cookware and its German distributor over trademark and contract issues. As the Distribution Agreement was subject to Italian law but containing an arbitration clause in favour of the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, the attorney representing the Italian plaintiff, Tommaso Mancini, from the Pesaro-based IR Global member Bacciardi & Partners representing the plaintiff retained the services of Dan Engström from Advokatfirman Nova AB, the Swedish IR Global member specialized in disputes and arbitration. Coincidentally, the German defendant in this dispute was represented by Dr. Ulrich Reber from the Munich office of the German IR Global member firm SKW Schwarz Rechtsanwälte. As the legal matters were all subject to Italian substantive law, SKW Schwarz engaged the services of yet another IR Global disputes member, i.e. those of Massimo Boni of the Milan-based firm Ferrari Pedeferra Boni. The parties brought the dispute to an amicable settlement. The fact, however, that this case of international arbitration involved four IR Global disputes members from different jurisdictions shows that clients trust in the competence of IR Global members when it comes to matters of cross-border litigation and when collaboration across several countries is needed.

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Dr. Ulrich Reber, SKW Schwarz Rechtsanwälte, Germany



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