



## **International Arbitration Certificate Program (IACP)**



**June 8-12, 2026**



## International Arbitration Certificate Program

Hosted by: UHLC Global and Graduate Programs

**Date:** June 8-12, 2026

**Location:** University of Houston Law Center, John M. O'Quinn Law Building, Foundation Room

### **Agenda** *(Subject to adjustments as necessary)*

**MCLE: Total Points Available (26.5)**

#### **Monday June 8, 2026** *(MCLE 5.25)*

**9:45 AM** Check-In & Light Breakfast

**10:00 – 10:15 AM** Welcome

***Instructor – Ann Ryan Robertson***

**10:15 AM – 12:30 PM - Foundations and Orientation** *(MCLE 2.25)*

- Overview of international arbitration
- Key arbitral institutions (ICC, ICDR, ICSID, LCIA)

**12:30 – 1:15 PM – Lunch/Networking**

**1:30 – 4:30 PM - Foundations and Orientation (continued)** *(MCLE 3.0)*

- Arbitration agreements & enforceability
- Case Scenario

**4:30 PM – Close Day 1**

#### **Tuesday, June 9, 2026** *(MCLE 5.75)*



**10:00 AM Check-In & Light Breakfast**

***Instructor – Ann Ryan Robertson***

**10:15 AM – 12:30 PM – The Arbitration Process in Practice (MCLE 2.25)**

- Commencing proceedings & jurisdictional issues
- Appointment & role of arbitrators

**12:30 – 2:00 PM – *Lunch (Guest Speakers (1:00-2:00 PM): James Dorough-Lewis and Katrina Bennett; Negotiating Arbitration Provisions in Cross-Border Transactions) (MCLE 1.0)***

**2:00 – 3:00 PM - The Arbitration Process in Practice (continued) (MCLE 1.0)**

- Interim measures & emergency arbitration
- **Workshop:** Drafting arbitration clauses

**3:00 – 4:30 PM - Professional Responsibility & Ethics (MCLE 1.5)**

- Professional Responsibility
- Ethics (MCLE 1.0)

**4:30 PM – Close Day 2**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026 (MCLE 5.25)**

**10:00 AM Check-In & Light Breakfast**

***Instructor – Marieke Witkemp***

**10:15 AM – 12:30 PM – Evidence & Advocacy (MCLE 2.25)**

- Evidence in arbitration (IBA rules & practices)
- Witness testimony & expert evidence

**12:30 – 1:15 PM – *Lunch/Networking***

**1:30 – 4:30 PM – Evidence & Advocacy (continued) (MCLE 3.0)**



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- Enforcement of arbitral awards (New York Convention)
- **Workshop:** Work on Opening Statements

**4:30 PM – Close Day 3**

**Thursday, June 11, 2026 (MCLE 6.00)**

**10:00 AM Check-In & Light Breakfast**

***Instructor – Luis Sotelo***

**10:15 AM – 12:30 PM – Specialized Issues & Global Perspectives (MCLE 2.25)**

- Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)
- Regional perspectives: Latin America focus

**12:30 – 1:30 PM – Lunch (Guest Speaker (12:45-1:30 PM): Professor Julian Cardenas, International Investment Arbitration) (MCLE .75)**

**1:45 – 4:45 PM - Specialized Issues & Global Perspectives (continued) (MCLE 3.0)**

- Technology & the future of arbitration
- **Workshop:** Cross-examinations & Opening Statements

**Friday, June 12, 2026 (MCLE 4.25)**

**10:00 AM Check-In & Light Breakfast**

***Instructor – Ann Ryan Robertson***

**10:15 AM – 12:15 PM – Mock Arbitration Hearing Exercise (MCLE 2.0)**

- Advocacy exercise (e.g. commercial)
  - Opening Statements and Cross-examination

**12:15 – 12:50 PM – Lunch/Networking**



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**1:00 – 2:00 PM – Panel: Trends in Arbitration** (*Sara Beiro Farabow, Partner, Seyfarth LLP; Yanet Quiroz Valdovinos, Vice President of the ICDR-AAA; Ann Ryan Robertson; Marieke Witkemp*) (**MCLE .50**)

**2:10 - 4:00 PM – Mock Arbitration Hearing Exercise (continued)** (**MCLE 1.75**)

- Advocacy exercise (e.g. commercial)
  - Opening Statements

**4:10 – 4:50 PM – Certificate Ceremony & Closing Reception**

**4:50 PM – Adjourn**

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## Program Facilitator



**Karen Jones, JD, MA**

**Karen is the Executive Director of Global and Graduate Programs and an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Law Center (UHLC), where she oversees LL.M. programs, the Legal English Certificate (LEC) Program, global training, visiting scholars, and international partnerships. She teaches negotiation, attorney communication and persuasion, and ADR. She and has coached and judged UHLC's ADR competition teams, and has served as a judge for the ICC Mediation Competition in Paris. She previously taught at Rice University, leading the sports law concentration, and has taught law and management courses at institutions in the U.S. and Europe, including in the International Sports Management and Business Program at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. Earlier, she served as Program Coordinator and Director of the International Sports Law Centre at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague.**

**Before academia, Karen held nearly two decades of leadership roles in Fortune 500 companies in contracts, negotiation, procurement, and compliance, and founded and managed a legal clinic that included mediation. A Fulbright Scholar to France (2022) and recipient of the UH President's Circle Award (2025), she has published articles and book chapters and is the creator of the Court of Arbitration (CAS) Case Summaries series part of the International Encyclopedia of Laws publications. She speaks internationally on governance, sports law, ADR, and ethics.**

## Instructors



**Ann Ryan Robertson (Primary Instructor)**

The 2021 global President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Ann Ryan Robertson C.Arb FCI Arb FColl Arb is a recognized leader in the field of international arbitration. Named to Global Arbitration Review’s “Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration” since 2015, Ann serves as arbitrator in international and domestic arbitrations in a variety of complex business disputes across a number of industries. She is an experienced chair, party-appointed, sole and emergency arbitrator. Ann is a Chartered Arbitrator and is listed on the panels of neutrals of the major arbitral institutions.



**Marieke Witkamp**

Marieke Witkamp is an international arbitrator based in Houston, TX. She has worked on 3 continents and has over 20 years of dispute resolution experience. She has gained her dispute resolution experience as (i) a commercial judge at the court of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, (ii) an arbitration attorney in Qatar with K&L Gates, (iii) as (foreign) lawyer at a boutique litigation firm in Houston, TX and as (iv) in-house counsel in the Dutch energy industry and Qatar’s sports industry.



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**Marieke has an LLM in US law from the University of Houston, she is licensed in Texas and the Netherlands and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.**

**Marieke has been appointed as arbitrator in 40+ cases and has acted as sole, chair, emergency and party-appointed arbitrator. She is included in arbitrator rosters around the world, including: AAA-ICDR, LCIA, DIAC, ArbitrateAD, the Netherlands Arbitration Institute and Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association.**



**Luis Sotelo**

**Luis Sotelo has over 15 years of experience successfully assisting clients on international arbitration and litigation matters, including representing both investors and States in multimillion-dollar proceedings, as well as clients in regulated sectors, including in particular mining, oil and gas, finance, and telecommunications. He has participated in arbitration matters under the rules of major international arbitration institutions, including ICC, ICSID, ICDR, and UNCITRAL, and under laws of different jurisdictions around the world.**



## Speakers



### **Katrina Bennett**

**Katrina's practice covers a range of general corporate and transactional matters, including entity formation, capital structure, venture capital, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances, securities law compliance, private placements, corporate governance, and general corporate and commercial law. Katrina also has experience counseling companies regarding SEC reporting obligations, corporate governance, and other securities law and compliance issues.**



### **Dr. James Dorough-Lewis**

**James advises private equity sponsors, portfolio companies, and founder-led and family-owned businesses on domestic and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, minority investments, joint ventures, and other corporate transactions. His practice has a particular focus on technology, software, and data-driven businesses, with additional experience in industrial manufacturing and services. He represents both buyers and sellers in middle market transactions, including platform acquisitions, add-ons, carve-outs, and strategic exits.**

**Known for disciplined execution and practical, commercially grounded advice, James leads multijurisdictional transaction teams and coordinates specialist and third-party advisor**



workstreams. He brings a commercial mindset and clear, business-first judgment to transactions, shaped by prior service in the US military and by federal government and private sector roles in the US and abroad. Drawing on that experience and advanced education across disciplines relevant to his practice, he anticipates legal and regulatory risks and uses technology and process innovation to increase efficiency and deal certainty.



### **Julian Cardenas**

**Professor Julian Cardenas Garcia is Director of the Center for U.S. and Mexican Law at the University of Houston Law Center, where he advances cross-border legal collaboration, academic exchange, and bilateral initiatives between the United States and Mexico. Since joining UH Law Center in 2012, he has built a distinguished academic and professional career focused on transnational energy law, international arbitration, investment law, and geopolitics.**

**An internationally recognized scholar and practitioner, Professor Cardenas has taught in the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and France, and regularly advises companies, governments, and public institutions on energy law and policy matters. He has served as an independent expert in major international arbitration proceedings, including ICC, AAA, and ICSID matters involving energy, infrastructure, and foreign investment disputes.**

**Before entering academia, Professor Cardenas served nearly six years as a career diplomat for Venezuela, working on multilateral affairs with the Organization of American States and the United Nations, as well as bilateral sovereign matters. A frequent international speaker and media commentator, he is fluent in Spanish, French, and English, with working proficiency in Portuguese.**

**He holds law and international relations degrees from Universidad Central de Venezuela, advanced legal degrees from Sorbonne University Paris II Panthéon-Assas, and an LL.M. from the University of Houston Law Center.**



**Panel**



**Sara Beiro Farabow, Partner, Seyfarth LLP**

**Sara is the leader of Seyfarth's International Dispute Resolution group and former national co-chair of the Construction Practice Group. Her practice is devoted to counseling clients on international arbitration and other cross-border dispute resolution proceedings, as well as complex domestic and international development projects, contract administration, claims, insurance (including OCIP/CCIP), cross-border transactions, risk management, and project finance. For more than 30 years, Sara has been serving clients around the world involved in large-scale construction, renewable energy, hospitality, mixed-use retail, infrastructure and military projects. These include high-rise residential buildings, industrial plants, biofuel refineries, hotel development and renovations, condominium hotels, resorts, multifamily housing, high-rise office buildings, educational facilities, airports, light and heavy rail mass transit systems, bridges, military barracks, power plants, and wastewater treatment plants. She has arbitrated matters in proceedings administered by the International Center for Dispute Resolution (ICDR, the international division of the American Arbitration Association), the International Chamber of Commerce, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and other tribunals.**



**Yanett Quiroz**

**Yanet Quiroz Valdovinos was recently promoted to Vice President of the ICDR-AAA, overseeing Mexico, Canada and the Central and West sides of the United States, and the Energy sector. She will oversee the outreach and development of these regions and sectors.**



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**She is located at the Houston office. Before becoming a Vice President, she was Director of the ICDR-AAA for almost ten years and provided case management services to parties and clients worldwide.**

**Yanett is an attorney licensed in Mexico. She holds a Law and International Master's degree from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico. She is a member of the Mexican Bar (BMA) and the National Association of Corporate Counsel (ANADE).**

**From 2004 to 2014, she served as the Secretary Central for the Mediation and Arbitration Commission of the Mexico City National Chamber of Commerce (CANACO).**



**Ann Ryan Robertson (See above)**



**Marieke Witkemp (See Above)**



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This event is made possible by the financial support of Seyfarth Shaw LLP, through the efforts of Dr. James Dorrough-Lewis and Mr. Jacob Carr.

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