

Reflections on London International Disputes Week 2023

Adapting to a Changing World



Introduction: My reflections on LIDW23



This is the first time that we have asked those who made LIDW happen to put pen to paper and reflect on the event. As the contributions flowed in, it highlighted to me that there is no better way to encapsulate LIDW23 than asking those who were there. As the week of 15 May recedes into the collective memories of the international dispute resolution community and planning for LIDW24 gains momentum, with this collection of reflections, the organising committee of LIDW23 would like to take you back briefly to that sunny week in London when we all came together and listened, debated, ate, drank, and made new friends and connections.

LIDW23 was the 4th edition of London International Disputes Week and celebrated not only all that is good about London as a centre for dispute resolution, but also reminded us how important face-to-face interaction is in the post Covid world. The event brought together 4,000 (virtual and in person) members of the international dispute resolution community, drawn from 43 jurisdictions. International Arbitration Day, hosted collaboratively across three law firms provided a focus for the international arbitration community and, the over 80 Member Hosted Events provided something for everyone. From art disputes to crypto insolvency with LIDW participants showing great stamina as those who turned up a bit late at the final event of the (long) week found out, as extra chairs had to be located! Our LIDW evenings provided some special moments too: from the spectacular Royal Courts of Justice drinks reception through the YAYAH/Law Rocks evening, which is fast becoming a favourite feature of the Week, to our in-demand gala dinner at the Dorchester-all memorable both for those of us who practise in London, and for our international visitors.

But none of this would have been possible without the hard work and input of the LIDW Members and the 2023 Organising Committee. A tremendous amount of time is spent in the planning and execution of LIDW, and its all done by busy people giving up their time voluntarily, recognising the importance of the event to London, those who live and work here, and those from overseas who use it as a hub for dispute resolution. We have also been fortunate to have as our sponsors a committed and dedicated group of organisations. Without those contributions LIDW would not be possible, so on behalf of all the co-chairs of LIDW23, thank you very much.

We hope you enjoy these Reflections on LIDW23. Thank you in particular to our contributors who have taken the time to provide their personal thoughts on the Week.

We look forward to seeing you at LIDW24.



Richard Bamforth

Former LIDW Co-Chair
Partner and Head of Arbitration Group
CMS

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London

International

Disputes Week 2024

*"Uniting for global challenge and
opportunity"*

3-7 June 2024

01

Deborah Enix-Ross

President

American Bar Association, 2022-2023

It was an honour to speak at the important and impressive LIDW23. The field of international arbitration, my leadership in the bar, and my friendship with countless colleagues have been tremendously gratifying. And it was especially rewarding to be back in London, a leading center for the handling of international disputes and one of my favorite cities in the world.

I was privileged to share my view that the work we do as lawyers is much bigger and profound than the details of our daily work. Lawyers enable a fundamental operation of our society—the democratic rule of law, which drives our way of life and undergirds freedom and liberty.

As arbitration practitioners, we can promote the rule of law by supporting free, fair, and peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms. The skills that make us successful in the international arbitration field—oral advocacy, understanding cultural differences and the ability to communicate across them—can enable us to bring more diversity to our field, to expand the use of dispute resolution in developing and at-risk democracies, to promote in our communities the values of civics, good governance, and collaboration in order to preserve democracy and the rule of law.

450+

Speakers



02

Robert Jones

Managing Director
Ankura

As a fixture on the Ankura team's calendar, London International Disputes Week provides a world class programme of events and an opportunity to present and engage with international clients on the topics that are shaping the dispute resolution landscape.

As trusted stakeholders within the London and international disputes community, Ankura's testifying expert witnesses, forensic accountants, economists, class actions experts, investigators, data experts, asset tracers and construction experts contributed widely to LIDW in 2023 as delegates, speakers, hosts, and volunteers. We were delighted to participate in the main programme and exhibit our solutions to delegates from all over the world.

In 2023, it was a great opportunity to bring together our teams from across EMEA and the US to host a number of member-hosted events, to cover topics that reflect the variety of disputes handled in London and the expertise of Ankura.

These included construction expert evidence, class actions, the influence of geopolitics in disputes, and disputes arising in relation to joint ventures, cryptocurrency, and sports. As active members of the Equal Representation for Expert Witnesses initiative, we are proud to have worked with other experts and lawyers to highlight the importance of the ERE pledge.

It was also rewarding for those of our team who volunteer on the LIDW organising committee to see the event exceeding all expectations.

As Gold-sponsors of LIDW we are pleased to support LIDW's mission to represent, celebrate and demonstrate London's role as a leading centre in the resolution of international disputes. Having dedicated time to meet international clients in London is a huge advantage of LIDW. Through thoughtful participation, linked to the theme of the conference, we were pleased with the engagement, visibility, and opportunities we created for LIDW and Ankura.

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A lively London International Disputes Week 2023 panel discussed the changing attitudes to arbitration across Sub-Saharan Africa, all last month.

African Law and Business Magazine

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03

Paula Hodges KC

Head of Global Arbitration Practice

Herbert Smith Freehills

Herbert Smith Freehills is a proud Founding Member of London International Disputes Week. In 2023, LIDW featured a dedicated International Arbitration Day for the first time: a flagship arbitration event showcasing the importance of London as a global arbitration centre. We were delighted that Herbert Smith Freehills was one of three LIDW members hosting panel events; we welcomed over 350 guests across the day – a record for our London office.

Reflecting the overall theme of “Adapting to a Changing World”, my keynote speech highlighted a new trend - “Challenging arbitral awards through the backdoor: Mitigating the increasing trend of claims against arbitrators”. Disgruntled parties unhappy with the result of their arbitration are becoming ever more creative in finding ways to overturn awards. An emerging tactic is for these parties to launch a civil action in state courts directly against arbitrators and/or against arbitral institutions, alleging bad faith or breach of public policy as a means of seeking to avoid arbitrator immunity provisions and claiming compensation.

It is impossible for any arbitrator or institution to prevent a disgruntled party from trying their luck, but the LIDW Arbitration Day enabled members of the arbitral community to consider this concerning trend and to discuss steps that can be taken to uphold immunity against meritless claims.

3,000

In-person delegates



04

Without dispute resolution, there is no rule of law. Societies, commerce and life will not work. This is why LIDW23 is important. It has become an occasion for the world to look at the health, development and future of dispute resolution. London is honoured to host this.

A week, carefully curated yet full of individuality and diversity. Convened at a scale that allowed all to look both at individual parts of dispute resolution but also at how those parts fit together to provide a greater whole. Identifying challenges, sharing solutions, building relationships, worldwide.

From the several vantage points I have, I thought LIDW23 delivered brilliantly. In partnership with the global forum of the world's commercial courts (SIFoCC), LIDW engaged with the world's judiciaries. In partnership with the Commercial Litigators Forum (CLF), LIDW engaged not simply with the commercial litigation and

Sir Robin Knowles CBE

Judge of the Commercial Court
of England & Wales

Lead for the Standing International Forum of
Commercial Courts (SIFoCC)
Chairman of the National Pro Bono Centre

arbitration community, but with the many providers of services to dispute resolution, and the growing ecosystem that results.

In partnership with the National Pro Bono Centre, LIDW underlined that strength for the rule of law requires our every effort to support access to justice. The LIDW/ CLF Opening Reception, in the Great Hall of the Royal Courts of Justice, and the LIDW Dinner each supported and encouraged the National Pro Bono Centre. This was an important point not lost on those we welcomed from across the world. Here too LIDW23 led by example. I hope these will become standing parts of LIDW.

London can be proud. It has, and has earned, a leading position in the dispute resolution community. But with that comes responsibility. LIDW helps deliver on that responsibility. Thank you to all involved in LIDW23.



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It is pleasing that this oft-ignored aspect of high-pressure law work is being acknowledged, discussed and acted upon, and the organisers of LIDW deserve much praise for finding a spot in a packed agenda for raising awareness of this critical issue.

Commercial Dispute Resolution Magazine

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05

Christopher M. Campbell

Senior Counsel, Litigation
Baker Hughes

Every profession has its marquee events and venues. Ronaldo and Messi have the champions league, PMs have the House of Lords, and entertainers have the silver screen or the touring stage. For the disputes lawyer, our best work is often done under the veil of confidentiality and rarely do we have the opportunity to commune with like-minded individuals in an open, transparent and pragmatic way. London International Disputes Week provides such an opportunity.

It was an honour to be asked to address the main audience and share my perspective as an in-house counsel, and to share that perspective alongside some of the most renowned names in the industry representing organisations from around the globe. I also enjoyed how the London legal community supports LIDW.

In addition to the usual social events that accompany such conferences, there did appear to be a spirit of collaboration and making these events of value and to highlight different aspects of London legal life.

What it signals to me, is that London both maintains its role as an important HUB for international commercial disputes, and is interested in innovating solutions and discussing topics which are front of mind for active participants in the industry.

Simply put, the future for London disputes professionals appears strong – LIDW remains an event that I look forward to year round.



10,000+

Individual event attendances

06

Nitesh Jain

Partner
Trilegal

LIDW23 not only lived up to its expectations, but has left us yearning for the next instalment! Trilegal has been part of this journey of LIDW with several firm members participating over the years. London International Disputes Week was not just another networking event but in true sense, lived up to its commitment, passion, and forward-thinking approach to dispute resolution. The tone for this year's LIDW was set by Rt. Hon. Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury addressing the gathering with his keynote speech focusing on technological advancements in the realm of dispute resolution. Kudos to the organisers for carefully selecting this year's theme to address dispute resolution in the changing world with focused panel discussions on increasing disputes in the crypto sector, reliance on technology and artificial intelligence in resolving disputes and claims arising from the war in Ukraine.

What particularly caught our attention this year was the focus and encouragement for India as a jurisdiction for dispute resolution. The mix of practitioners, valuation experts, in-house counsel, graphical representation companies and barristers made the mix of people related to arbitration quite universal and helped make this year's LIDW an important week in the calendar to meet with everyone related to the field.

What sets LIDW apart from other events is that it is truly international and looks outside as much as it looks in. The mix of panels, networking drinks, and the true cherry on the cake, the gala dinner (which was so packed, we were all cheek to jowl!) has us convinced that international arbitration is here to stay. Being actively involved with LIDW, we also hosted our own session with experts from Singapore, London and India focusing on the future of cross border disputes and it was a full house at 8am!

We eagerly look forward to coming back next year!

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LIDW has adapted to the changing world around it, like the professions it represents. It is a progressive evolution that reflects the evolving needs of the organisation and its lawyers, corporate clients, and consumers

Global Legal Post

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07

LIDW proved to be a very engaging and fruitful week in many respects. A particularly relevant aspect of LIDW is that it encompasses the entire spectrum of international dispute resolution. Arbitration, court litigation, class actions and mediation were all under the spotlight during the week. The set-up of having in depth sessions on various topics within each of these practice areas, provided for plenty of interesting discussions and connections with other experts in these fields.

With London being such a convenient location and well connected for international travel, a great feature of LIDW was the ability to engage with fellow practitioners and experts from all over the world who were in attendance. An additional benefit of London is, of course, the possibility to combine a visit with meeting various other colleagues in the legal profession that are based in the capital.

This captures two of the key points that were echoed by participants on why London continues to be such a successful hub for the resolution of international disputes: its key position in terms of the availability and quality of expertise in international disputes, as well as the ready access to various means of resolution that the capital has to offer.

100+

Panel sessions

Rufus Abeln

Advocaat

Ysquare B.V.



KLDiscovery (KLD) approached the LIDW with great enthusiasm as we are always keen to support industry initiatives. When we were offered the chance to be the platinum sponsor, we needed to make sure this investment aligned with our objectives of raising our company's brand awareness, engaging with key individuals in the litigation and dispute world, and sharing knowledge on the latest issues.

We were not disappointed and the Tuesday session at Northumberland Avenue encapsulated all that was good about the event; it was well organised and together with the carefully curated lighting and music made for a unique atmosphere with a full auditorium throughout the day. Feedback on the panel sessions was incredibly positive as the participants openly discussed their key challenges. We were pleased to field one of our own industry thought-leaders on one of the panels which further enhanced our presence at the event.

During the refreshment breaks, attendees who had travelled to London for LIDW milled around our sponsor's stand giving us the opportunity to engage with existing and potential clients and it was heartening to hear that they were keen to learn about our thoughts and experience on how to maximise the use of technology and to save precious time and money for their clients. As the Platinum sponsor, our corporate video content was played in front of the whole audience giving us the brand awareness that we aimed for and added another engaging viewing dynamic for the audience.

It is important to mention that whilst we wanted to maximise the business returns from the event, we were impressed with range of panel sessions across London. Topics such as global operations and the use of AI (generative AI and Chat GPT appeared a lot) were especially pertinent to us. In summary, LIDW23 proved to be a rewarding and informative week.

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The enduring attraction of this event and the quality of debate underlines London's pre-eminence as a centre for international dispute resolution — in discourse and innovation, international litigation and arbitration.

Law Society Gazette

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09

LIDW23 was my second LIDW, with none of the lingering angst of the pandemic that still prevailed in 2022. I found day one, which was divided up between three law firms, which in turn had divided up the world into regions, particularly interesting and enlightening. The sun shining over the roofs of London is a lasting image I have from the evening receptions, which is a treat, especially given the weather that London is known for!

The remainder of the week was equally interesting and entertaining. It was apparent that a lot of thought had gone into curating a week of diverse events, at diverse venues, showcasing a range of topics and speakers. A perfect week in London; I will be back next year.

Dr. Mariel Dimsey

Secretary-General

Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre



750+

International delegates

LIDW offers a fantastic equilibrium of events, discussions, and networking. Personally, I found great value in both the flagship conference, notable for its panel discussion on the role and priorities of in-house counsel in international litigation and arbitration, and the meticulously coordinated side events.

Insights gained from collaborating with LIDW:

- I was impressed by LIDW's inclusive and receptive approach towards foreign arbitral institutions. In partnership with BCLP, the SCC Arbitration Institute organised a joint conference in conjunction with LIDW. The event was promoted through LIDW's website to its members and participants several weeks before its commencement. The result was a remarkable turnout, with an engaged audience.
- LIDW includes distinct formats, such as, for instance, a panel showcasing nine arbitral institutions, masterly moderated by prof. Loukas Mistelis. Speaking on this panel was a rewarding experience, as it involved engaging with numerous questions and delving into institutional policies that set the future trends in the international arbitration.
- Lastly, London stands as an international arbitration hub, extending its welcome to all arbitral specialists and international legal practitioners. My time there not only forged new friendships but also inspired a few ideas for SCC's development projects.

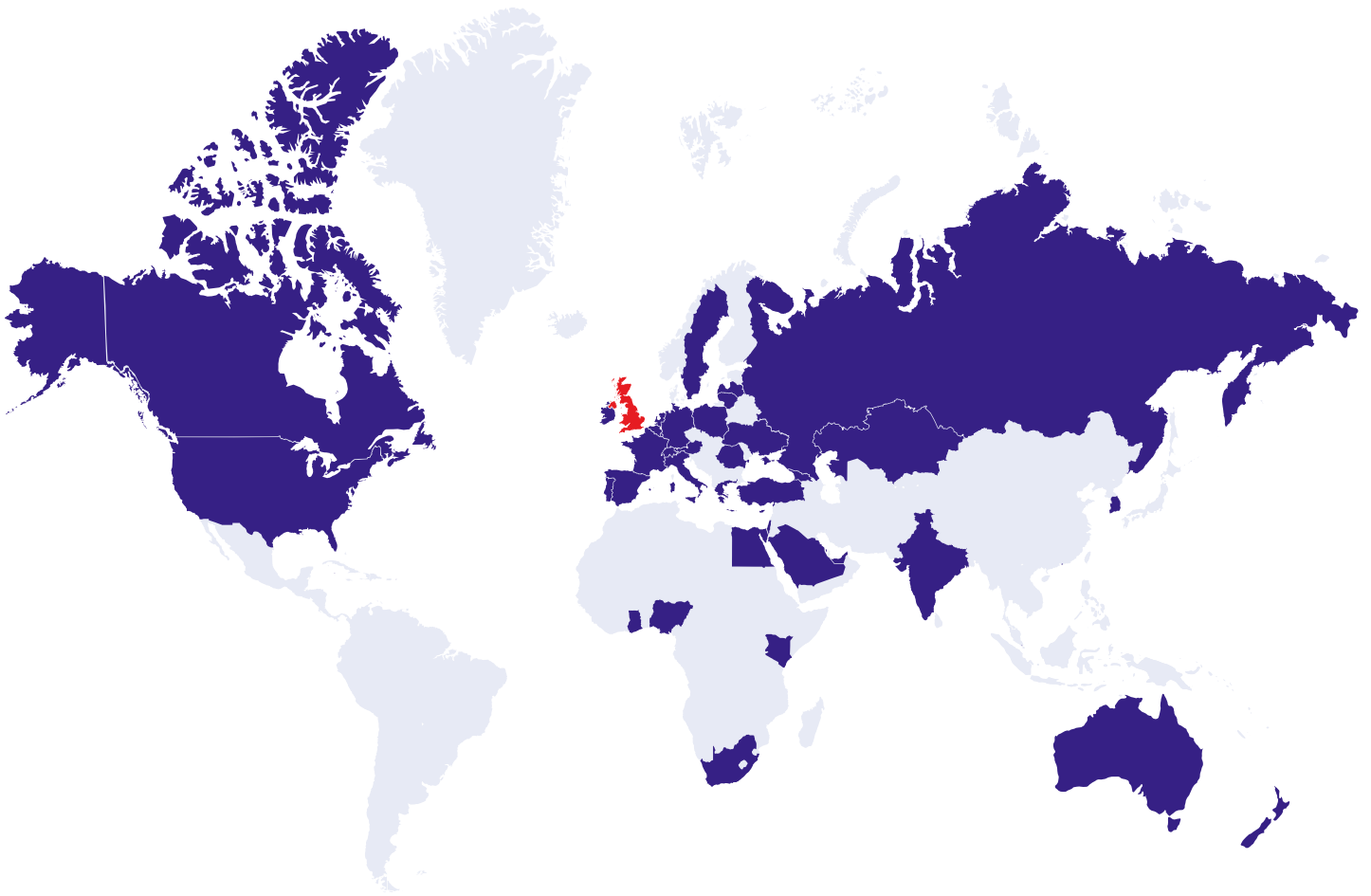
I am already looking forward to the 2024 edition!

43

Jurisdictions represented



LIDW23 at a glance



4th Edition

of LIDW

4000

in person and virtual attendees

Over 80

member hosted events



| Looking forward to LIDW24

And now, having reflected on LIDW23, it is time to look forward to the 5th edition of LIDW, taking place 3-7 June 2024. Our aim is to provide a forum in London for the world's pre-eminent practitioners, disputes organisations and the industries that support dispute resolution to meet, learn, do business, and draw inspiration from what London has to offer.

Our theme for LIDW24 is "Uniting for global challenge and opportunity" and we look forward to bringing together our largest audience yet to debate, learn, and explore a full range of topics from leading experts in their fields. The theme recognises the challenging geopolitical and economic times we live. It also seeks to foster a spirit of innovation through the use of technology, new dispute resolution mechanisms, and collaboration.

We are building on growing momentum to create a week of high quality academic and practical content accompanied by an enhanced social programme. This year we incorporate two networking hubs into the week to maximise the networking opportunities for delegates. Our international reach is growing, and we hope to see more of the international community coming to London next year. We are actively seeking the views of, and will have more sessions geared towards the in-house community.

This year the LIDW strategy group and its sub committees comprise over 60 professionals drawn from a range of law firms, barristers chamber and disputes support organisations. The team is supported by a specialist ESG sub-committee whose aim is to ensure that LIDW24 is sustainable and inclusive.

Next year's edition will once again bring you, in the heart of London, International Arbitration Day, together with a one day conference featuring globally renowned speakers, and a full programme of member hosted and social events. Litigation, arbitration and mediation will all feature. We will celebrate the legal expertise the global dispute resolution community has to offer and aim to lead the conversation about the future of dispute resolution globally.

We all look forward to welcoming you to London in June next year!

**Michael Fletcher, Luke Harrison,
Henrietta Jackson-Stops**
Co-chairs, LIDW24 Strategy Group

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3-7 June 2024



X @LIDW_



London International Disputes Week (LIDW)

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