



Reflections on LIDW24:

Uniting for global challenge and opportunity

December 2024

1 Introduction

Message from LIDW24's co-chairs



**Michael
Fletcher**



The first week of June 2024 saw London play host to the fifth edition of London International Disputes Week (LIDW). This was the most international edition of LIDW yet, with nearly 8,000 delegates drawn from 109 jurisdictions. When the LIDW Strategy Group planned this year's event, we aimed to ensure a diverse international attendance by welcoming the disputes world to London.

We appreciated that to achieve this aim, LIDW24 needed to offer a broad range of events in which international delegates could share their experiences of resolving disputes across the globe and share insights on the future; artificial intelligence (AI) was a common theme, and there were several events involving disputes relating to outer space.

London's role as the host city for the largest global disputes week reinforces its leadership position in international dispute resolution. In discharging that leadership duty, the LIDW Main Conference, Arbitration Day and member-hosted events sought to create an inclusive environment where delegates could learn, share and connect with their peers worldwide.

The week's theme was "Uniting for Global Challenge and Opportunity", and the international community took that theme to heart during the week. We were delighted to welcome many new faces to LIDW and returning visitors worldwide.

Throughout the week, members hosted delegates for breakfast, lunch and drinks, ensuring plenty of opportunities to network, reconnect and build relationships. With events held at some of London's most spectacular venues, including the Inns of Court, flagship hotels and some of the City's finest corporate real estate – offering stunning views

alongside informed insights – delegates experienced the diversity of London's architecture as they mixed between heritage buildings and cutting-edge modern facilities. They also had the chance to meet and learn from LIDW24's sponsors and supporters, whose contribution to LIDW24 was vital to its success.

The social calendar complemented the professional programme with five days of events. The week started with an opening reception, played host to a gala dinner and featured the energy of legal charity Law Rocks' 15th anniversary at a battle of the bands held in one of London's leading nightclubs. At the same time, there was also an early morning fun run in the City. We were also pleased that LIDW's 'Young and Young at Heart' initiative has grown, with a specific conference and sold-out supper clubs for more junior lawyers to make new connections.

LIDW goes from strength to strength each year. Thank you to all those who contributed to its success, particularly every member of the Strategy Group who worked tirelessly to deliver it.

LIDW will remain a not-for-profit organisation, working collaboratively to benefit London's disputes community and promote English law. We were also delighted to be able to give something back to the broader community this year, supporting social mobility and access to justice as we made donations to the Citizens Advice Bureau at the Royal Courts of Justice, the Sutton Trust and the National Pro Bono Centre.

We were pleased to hand over the baton as co-chairs of LIDW to our successors, Loukas Mistelis and Jonathan Cary, who are already working intensively with continuing co-chair Henrietta Jackson-Stops to lead the planning of LIDW25.



**Luke Tucker
Harrison**



**Henrietta
Jackson-Stops**

2 Thank you LIDW24 sponsors



We want to thank all our highly-valued sponsor organisations that have helped make this our biggest LIDW yet and our institutional supporters, member firms, and their teams for their unprecedented participation and commitment. We look forward to their future support at LIDW25.

Our platinum sponsors



Our gold sponsors



Our silver sponsors



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Facts & figures LIDW24 by the numbers



LIDW24 attracted a record number of delegates, organisations, law firms and corporations, with an all-time high number of jurisdictions represented from across the globe.



22,000

Registrations for
events across
the week



8,000

Delegates
attending sessions
across the week



57

Jurisdictions in
person and online at
the main conference



295

Law firms and
chambers
participating

339

Organisations
attending the main
conference



109

Jurisdictions
represented
across the week



1,360

Delegates
from outside
the UK





Throughout the past year, thanks to our media advisers, Portland Communications, we increased our media coverage for LIDW by expanding partnerships with national and international outlets, resulting in a diverse range of articles and heightened publicity for key conference announcements. We also diversified our media promotion, including more interviews, podcasts, and video content than ever before. During the week of LIDW24, we had strong journalistic attendance and our social media strategy on LinkedIn led to over 12,000 followers.

Key media statistics

120,000

+41%*

LinkedIn impressions during June 2024

147

+41%*

Articles in print, broadcast and online

Editorial coverage in:

THE TIMES



48

+50%*

New outlets covering LIDW24

17

+240%*

Jurisdictions with LIDW24 coverage

6

Press releases issued during LIDW24

* compared to LIDW23

5

Rear view mirror Ben Rigby looks back on LIDW24



LIDW Main Session, QEII Centre



More extensive. More international. More popular. Those are the accolades for which 2024's edition of London International Disputes Week will be remembered, writes Ben Rigby, giving his personal view of the Week.

With its theme, “Uniting for global challenge and opportunity”, LIDW visibly demonstrated the progress made in the dispute resolution world over 2023 while anticipating changes expected in current and future years.

LIDW24 boasted nearly 8,000 attendees from over 100 jurisdictions, demonstrating its substantial international representation. This was evident from the start, in a day dedicated to celebrating international arbitration, hosted by Kirkland & Ellis, Covington & Burling, and Clyde & Co. in the City of London.

A trip of distinguished speakers opened this flagship event, showcasing the importance of London as a global arbitration centre. Jan Paulsson, Judge O. Thomas Johnson, and Lord David Wolfson KC opened the day, followed by twelve in-person panels on jurisdictions and regions from Europe to Latin America.

The second day of LIDW saw nearly 700 delegates from over 60 jurisdictions convene at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London for the Main Conference, marking another record-breaking year for the prestigious event.

The conference, featuring keynote addresses from Lady Chief Justice Baroness Carr and Meg Kinnear of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), also heard from senior legal figures like former Australian prime minister Julia Gillard AC of Datrys Mediation, and Lord Goldsmith KC of Debevoise & Plimpton, the former UK attorney general.

There was also extensive judicial support, with Dame Sara Cockerill, the former head of the Commercial Court in London, participating. Sir Andrew Henshaw, another judge, also spoke with authority at the Conference, while Sir Robin Knowles CBE participated in a member-hosted event.

Uniquely, LIDW also hosted the Arbitral Institutions' Congress at Middle Temple, taking views from Asian, Middle Eastern, and CIS institutions, as well as Europe and South America. Larger institutions, like the International Chamber of Commerce and the London Court of International Arbitration, also played a leading role.

Alongside institutions, the participation of leading sets of commercial and Chancery chambers like Twenty Essex and Maitland Chambers, among many others, and related arbitrator-led businesses, like Arbitra International and Arbitration Chambers, showed arbitrator engagement was just as welcome as judicial participation.

Uniquely for sponsors, relatable, accessible, and commercial content was prominent throughout the Week, with speakers blending seamlessly into LIDW programming, showing how expert services, litigation support, legal technology and legal services come together in London. They spoke alongside leading in-house lawyers whose wisdom was interwoven at all levels of events.

Examples included KLDISCOVERY's work with Fieldfisher, while Opus 2 combined with Gatehouse Chambers blending technology and technical awareness with practice experience.

The Young and Young at Heart programme was also significantly expanded, opening up more engagement opportunities for younger participants, from supper clubs to networking events, a gala dinner, informal drinks, and LawRocks. All this added to an unmatched sense of community.

To further foster that community spirit, LIDW24 introduced two new networking hubs, the International Arbitration Centre and the International Dispute Resolution Centre, to encourage delegate interactions. Also, legal tech hub showcased products from legal tech businesses, enhancing the week's dynamic and interactive nature. Roll on LIDW25!

– Ben Rigby is a freelance legal journalist and media consultant.



LIDW's 2024 International Arbitration Day was launched with a trio of keynote speakers, namely Jan Paulsson, Judge O. Thomas Johnson and Lord David Wolfson KC, each of whom delivered a keynote address at the host law firms, Clyde & Co, Covington & Burling, and Kirkland & Ellis, respectively.

Paulsson's message about "overlawyering" in his keynote speech sprang from a historical analysis of arbitration's growth from a niche speciality to large teams blending experience, and specialisms, across all stages of the process, mirrored by arbitrator investment in tribunal secretaries and administrative resources.

At its heart, was a warning to beware of overly complex proceedings and to prioritise ethical decision-making to avoid profit-driven arbitration strategies by law firms.

More positively, he saw a role for technology, particularly AI, in preparing pleadings, which he anticipated may "write themselves" in the future. Paulsson surveyed international commercial courts as key players in cross-border disputes and likely competitors. In such a climate, arbitration could be replaced by what he called "a daisy chain of international courts."

US judge O. Thomas Johnson defended the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system as an aid to investment, querying whether proposals for its removal were realistic: "You can question the reality of international law, but you cannot question the reality of the courts that act in their name. What we do is real."



Balkans panel discussion



Judge O. Thomas Johnson

"No one today questions the proposition that international law through many thousands of international treaties [...] sets rules for the treatment of alien property," he said, drawing on his experience of the US-Iran Tribunal and citing reforms to ICSID, including on transparency and appeals, as positive moves.

Critics from civil society argue that the ISDS system is biased in favour of investors. However, Johnson countered by stating that state actions taken in the public interest are always weighed against the associated costs. He emphasized that regulating the use of property almost always comes with a cost and the crucial question is who should bear it.

Speaking as a former justice minister, Lord Wolfson KC was at pains to stress alternative dispute resolution's role to consumers and corporations. Noting the success of online dispute resolution, which, in the case of eBay, resolves millions of disputes a year, he suggested that arbitration could equally improve access to justice.

Modernisation, whether through legislation, which Wolfson was keen on - citing the need for the Arbitration Bill to become law - or by AI, occupied much of his thoughts.

Those themes - and variations - were rehearsed throughout a day in which regional discussions predominated across all three host firms, focusing on the key markets that London arbitration serves.

The day concluded with a reception at Kirkland & Ellis and the LIDW opening reception at De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms. We thank our sponsors for their support, especially Ankura, BRG, FTI Consulting, HKA, and JS Held, who all spoke on the Day.

- Our thanks to our media partners for their reporting of this event.



The morning session of the Main Conference at London International Disputes Week (LIDW) morning session opened with Luke Tucker Harrison,

co-chair of the LIDW Strategy Group, highlighting the event's record attendance and global reach, with delegates from over 45 jurisdictions. Harrison emphasised London's crucial role in dispute resolution and the importance of human input, even as artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly significant.

Following on from the first keynote speech – delivered by Baroness Carr, the Lady Chief Justice of England & Wales – the first panel, moderated by Moira Thompson from Slaughter and May, discussed “Risk & Reputation in a Values-Driven World,” focusing on the balance organisations must strike between advancing sustainability, meeting ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) objectives, and handling related disputes. Panellists Nicola Cobb (FTI Consulting), Shaheed Fatima KC (Blackstone Chambers), and Simon Mundy (Financial Times) provided insights on these challenges.

Cobb, from her expert analysis, gave an FTI perspective and noted the growing complexity of global reporting obligations, while Fatima emphasised the expanding scope of ESG litigation, affecting both public and private sectors worldwide. Mundy pointed to the increasing media focus on ESG issues, urging businesses to communicate genuinely rather than using public relations. Climate change had immediate physical impacts in the places most affected by it, and while far from the headlines, those impacts were genuine – and so was the urgency of discussing them.

The session also included a recorded address by Professor Richard Susskind OBE, who spoke on AI's transformative impact on dispute resolution. Susskind encouraged viewing AI as a tool to optimise client value



Josh Bayliss

rather than merely a technology. The panel that followed, moderated by Minesh Tanna (Simmons & Simmons), featured discussions from Stephen Dowling (TrialView), Rachael Muldoon (Maitland Chambers), and Jonathan White (Epiq).

They explored AI's role in legal work, including the implications of the EU AI Act and the UK's pro-innovation approach. Muldoon stressed the necessity of a regulatory framework, while Dowling and White predicted that AI would facilitate automated mediation, smart contracts, and greater access to justice.

As Rachael Muldoon of Maitland Chambers said, “AI will only replace the lawyers who fail to embrace it” because, as Susskind noted, developments in AI would lead to “irreversible, pervasive change” by 2030 in “finding “new and different ways of giving our clients what they want, with the same outcome” offering the products of that work in a way that was “less” painful, less costly, [and] less time-consuming.”

Throughout the conference, LIDW sponsors were prominent speakers with valuable perspectives from Stephen Dowling of TrialView and Jonathan White of Epiq on AI, adding to audience understanding.

The morning concluded with a discussion with Virgin Group CEO Josh Bayliss, who shared insights on navigating business uncertainty and maintaining a long-term perspective. Bayliss preferred resolving disputes locally, reinforcing the city's reputation as a hub for international dispute resolution, by saying, “I want to have my fights in London.”



Risk & Reputation in a Values-Driven World panel discussion



Luke Tucker Harrison



LIDW24 Main Conference The afternoon sessions



The afternoon sessions of the LIDW 2024 Main Conference provided a comprehensive exploration of international disputes, from enforcement to investor-state disputes to litigation funding and in-house counsel concerns. The first panel, chaired by Mr Justice Henshaw of the Commercial Court, addressed the global landscape for enforcing judgments and awards.

Panellists included James Berger of DLA Piper, Jennifer Craven from Pinsent Masons, and Ali Al Hashimi of Global Advocacy and Legal Counsel. Craven and Berger highlighted the importance of considering enforcement early in proceedings – or even before them – rather than treating it as a post-judgmental formality. Berger emphasised the advantages of taking a multi-jurisdictional approach, particularly in the US, where the discovery process aids in locating assets overseas.

Al Hashimi noted the complexities of litigating in the UAE, citing the various overlapping regimes that can complicate enforcement efforts. The use of forensic experts, detailed consideration of applicable laws, and the importance of asset tracing and recovery were all discussed.

The next panel, presented as a fireside chat, discussed resolving disputes involving states and state entities. Ben Giaretta of Fox Williams moderated a conversation between former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard AC of Datrys Mediation and Lord Peter Goldsmith KC PC of Debevoise & Plimpton. They examined the role of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) in mitigating conflicts. Goldsmith praised ISDS as a means to resolve disputes legally, avoiding the need for “gunboat diplomacy,” while Gillard also spoke warmly about mediation’s advantages, including looking at outcomes from her experience at Datrys.

Reflecting on her legal and political experience, Gillard supported the need for ISDS but highlighted current strains. She noted that some countries agreed to ISDS under conditions where they had little negotiating power. As such, the system now faces challenges, particularly when disputes extend beyond economic investments to issues like climate change and nationalist agendas. Ultimately, ISDS relied on well-informed governments and legislators, reflecting LIDW’s theme of unity in the face of global challenges and opportunity.

The next session focused on litigation funding, with Julian Chamberlayne of Stewarts chairing the



Global Landscape for Enforcing Judgments and Awards panel



Litigation Funding panel

discussion. The panel, including Mrs Justice Cockerill, Helen Fairhead of Norton Rose Fulbright, and Tom Goodhead of Pogust Goodhead, evaluated the proposed Litigation Funding Agreements (Enforceability) Bill, introduced in response to a Supreme Court ruling that affected litigation funding in England and Wales, by ruling some agreements were unenforceable given existing secondary legislation.

While the panel acknowledged the Bill’s fairness as one response to the Supreme Court’s ruling, which was widely commented on by the market, they also critiqued some aspects of current litigation funding models, like proposals for statutory caps on litigation funding returns.

The final panel was led by in-house lawyers, which addressed, under the Chatham House Rule, whether current dispute resolution methods resolved client problems.

Taking a quote from Sir Geoffrey Vos as its rubric – “Dispute resolution cannot be about paying lawyers. [It] is about solving people’s problems...” from the appellate case of *Churchill v Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council*, a leading case on ADR, a panel of corporate counsel debated the issues, led by Campbell Jackson of EY, and including Suber Akther of Siemens Energy, David Connolly of IHG Hotels & Resorts, and Sapfo Constantatos of Standard Chartered Bank.



LIDW24 Main Conference Keynote address: Baroness Carr



In her keynote address, the Lady Chief Justice, the Rt Hon. the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill, highlighted London's status as a global leader in dispute resolution, emphasising the city's enduring legacy and evolving expertise.

Quoting the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, she reinforced London's position as "a good forum to shop in" for dispute resolution; she asserted that London remained and will continue to be a global centre for such activities.

This year's LIDW theme, 'Uniting for Global Challenge and Opportunity,' provided the framework for her speech. She outlined the integration of various forms of dispute resolution and the importance of learning from other global jurisdictions to improve practices.

She emphasised the Roman saying that "everything perfect comes in threes," using it as a metaphor to describe the synergies between negotiation, arbitration, and litigation, forming the foundation of London's excellence in dispute resolution.

Carr elaborated on London's expertise in these fields. Mediation, as an enhanced form of negotiation, had deep roots in the City, supported by pioneering organisations like the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR). She also noted the historical use of Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE), particularly in the Technology and Construction Court (TCC), which has been a part of London's legal landscape since the 1930s.

Turning to arbitration, Baroness Carr highlighted the role of the London Court of International Arbitration

(LCIA), established in the early 1890s, and the London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation.

Referencing the Arbitration Act 1996 as landmark legislation, she expressed optimism that reforms to that Act would proceed under a new government. The 1996 Act was described as "a landmark piece of legislation which helped to propel London to its position as the foremost destination for international arbitration today".

Litigation, mainly through the Commercial Court, remained another cornerstone of London's legal landscape. Baroness Carr traced its origins back to the 19th century, when its establishment responded to the rise of arbitration, ensuring that commercial disputes could be efficiently adjudicated. She praised the court's ongoing role in supporting and complementing arbitration through its powers and expertise.

A central theme of Carr's address was the "cross-fertilisation" between different forms of dispute resolution, enriching each field. She argued that this fluid movement between roles is increasingly essential, particularly as the judiciary begins to mandate the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

She cited the recent Court of Appeal decision in *Churchill v Merthyr Tydfil CBC*, which confirmed the courts' power to compel parties to engage in ADR, illustrating a shift that could broaden the judiciary's influence on resolution processes.

"Judges are increasingly likely to be called upon – further to the requirement to manage cases to further the CPR's overriding objective – to consider whether to mandate the use of ADR. And not just to consider whether to do so, but also the broader question of which form of dispute resolution to mandate."

Carr underlined the need for London to “combine different forms of dispute resolution more effectively” to maintain its world-leading position as a centre of dispute resolution.

She suggested a document similar to the US Federal Guide to Judicial Management of ADR may be necessary, given the many forms of ADR on offer.

She asked her audience to consider judicial training, as well as broader training in the legal profession, to familiarise all with a diverse range of dispute resolution processes, having earlier touched on the importance of international collaboration, mainly through the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts, much inspired by Lord Thomas, a predecessor of hers.

With members from 57 jurisdictions representing 70% of the G20, the Forum enables commercial courts worldwide to share and learn best practices. She praised London’s role in this initiative as an example of global legal leadership.

She concluded her speech with a call for greater cooperation among London’s dispute resolution

centres—courts, arbitral institutions, and mediation providers. Carr cited the example of the Commercial Court Users Group, which she said had “helped ensure the Commercial Court is a globally leading dispute resolution centre”.

She added: “Might we learn from this approach? Could one way in which London looks to continue to develop better practice, to offer itself as a world-leading centre for dispute resolution, be for the three main forms of dispute resolution – mediation, arbitration and litigation – to come together and consider how they can best complement each other and learn from each other?”

She mooted establishing a London committee that brought together all such representatives. Such unity, she said, would help London remain at the forefront of global dispute resolution, stating, “If we unite in this way, are we not likely to be better placed to thrive in the face of global challenges and to take advantage of future opportunities?”

After all, she said, “We just need to remember that perfection comes in threes”.





Meg Kinnear, the Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), delivered the closing keynote address to 2024's London International Disputes Week Main Conference.

Kinnear strongly defended investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS), emphasising its crucial role in addressing international development challenges and debunking common misconceptions, while also urging the entire investment arbitration community, including parties, states, counsel, arbitrators, and institutions, to take responsibility for improving ISDS.

Kinnear's speech, one of the closing highlights of her departure from the role after a 15-year tenure, reflected the evolution of international investment

law. It provided insights into the global economic challenges and emphasised the imperative for reforms in ISDS.

In her address, Kinnear aimed to debunk several "ISDS urban myths." Contrary to popular belief, investors did not always win in disputes, with a success rate of about 50%.

She pointed out that ISDS was utilised by large corporations, individuals, and small enterprises, representing about 22% of the cases. Additionally, she emphasised the transparency of ISDS, noting it often surpasses transparency in domestic law systems in member states, contrary to the myth of supposed opacity.

Another myth dismissed by Kinnear was the idea "that states are voting with their feet and fleeing the investor-state system". She highlighted the growth of ICSID, which now boasts 158 member states, reflecting continued confidence in the system rather than evidencing an alleged exodus.

She said, "The vast majority of states value international agreements and ISDS. They recognise that this is a part of strengthening investment climates and recognise the extreme need to do so, especially now."

In contrast, these myths, she said, were "frequently incorrect and usually outdated stereotypes that somehow manage to persist in the public eye, sometimes even in professional dialogue, despite empirical evidence and logic to the contrary."

She stressed the rapid evolution of international investment law, which she described as having undergone more changes in a shorter period than almost any other international law discipline.

Addressing global challenges, Kinnear referenced the World Bank's January 2024 Global Economic Prospects report, which starkly outlined the world's economic hurdles. To Kinnear, only "strengthened multilateral cooperation will attract capital, will facilitate trade integration, will strengthen contract enforcement".

In turn, the World Bank's research found that "effective and impartial legal systems are critical to the success of policy interventions that accelerate investment and economic growth," she added.



She emphasised: “When states are held accountable for their conduct, there is a very strong incentive to follow the rule of law and that in turn creates a positive investment climate and ICSID is one of the important pieces to [ensure] that happens”.

To Kinnear, “the existence of ICSID ensures that the promises made by States – whether in treaties, contracts or foreign investment laws, will be binding and can be enforced, when necessary,” adding that such a concept was “as basic as the notion that there is no right without a remedy”.

Further, she detailed the recent steps taken by ICSID to reform ISDS, notably the comprehensive amendment of ICSID rules completed in 2022. These amendments addressed concerns about the timeliness of arbitral procedures, increased transparency in arbitration, and the introduction of stand-alone mediation rules.

On one major bugbear – the timeliness of arbitral procedures, she said this was not unique to ICSID, rather it spanned all disputes, domestic and international, but was “especially important in a system that prides itself on timeliness and flexibility and where the stakes are so high”.

Nonetheless, she added, “It is also an excruciating problem to address” and suggested some cumulative changes may assist.

She described these and other changes as crucial in maintaining ISDS’s relevance and effectiveness, noting the broad support from member states alongside the embedded nature of these rule changes, which did not require further ratification.

Kinnear also discussed the newly adopted Code of Conduct, drafted in collaboration with UNCITRAL, which addresses issues such as ‘double hatting’ among arbitrators and requires extensive disclosure to maintain the integrity and impartiality of the arbitration process.

She also welcomed “an increasingly diverse group of arbitrators,” including female ones, saying this mattered “if the system is to be seen as legitimate to a global audience”.

In closing, Kinnear called for collective responsibility among counsel, states, and arbitrators to face global challenges and enhance the ISDS system, fulfilling LIDW’s “uniting to face global challenges and opportunities” theme.



She emphasised the need for efficient, well-informed policymaking and proactive dispute prevention to improve the international investment climate. Kinnear reiterated the importance of ongoing reform and adaptation in international investment law to meet evolving needs and challenges, underscoring the critical role of ISDS in fostering global economic growth and development, in which all had a stake, saying, “We need to keep a sharp focus on how the system works and to continue to improve.”



The many institutional supporters who helped publicise the event were crucial for LIDW's success.

That diversity of support could be seen in the success of events like LCIA Tylney in Town in London, a free afternoon symposium hosted by the LCIA at which news and views were shared on international commercial arbitration and dispute resolution developments.

Other events hosted by supporters included an event co-hosted by YIAG and A&O Shearman that gave practical pointers for delegates to address mental health and well-being issues in international arbitration.

Other regional institutions also played their part; the Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) has participated in several events at LIDW, including International Arbitration Day, with SCCA president Jan Paulsson giving a keynote speech. The SCCA also participated in a panel discussion on the role of arbitration in Saudi Arabia's transformation.

The Arbitral Institutions Congress, meanwhile, was an excellent opportunity for frequent users of arbitration to establish stronger relationships with the institutions, providing an enhanced experience when using the institutions' services in the future. Many supporters attended the Congress.

LIDW was pleased to have the support of the following institutional supporters, among others:

- Africa Arbitration Academy
- ACICA (Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration)
- Africa Construction Law
- AGDM Arbitration Centre
- African Arbitration Association
- Arbitration Foundation of South Africa
- AIJA (International Association of Young Advocates)
- ArbCEE
- ArbitralWomen
- ArbTech
- Arbitration Channel
- Azerbaijan Arbitration Association
- BANI Arbitration Center
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law
- BVI International Arbitration Centre (BVIIAC)
- Center for Arbitration and Mediation of the Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada (CAM-CCBC)
- CCC-ICLP International ADR Center
- Cyprus Arbitration Day
- Center of Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Israel
- Centro de Arbitraje de México
- CAM Santiago
- CEPANI
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Cayman International Mediation and Arbitration Centre
- CPR – the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution
- Collective Redress Lawyers Association (CORLA)
- DIS (German Arbitration Institute)
- Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC)
- Energy Disputes Arbitration Center (EDAC)
- Equal Representation in Arbitration
- Finland Arbitration Institute
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC)
- International Arbitration and Mediation Centre Hyderabad (IMAC Hyderabad)
- International Centre for Dispute Resolution of the American Arbitration Association (AAA-ICDR)
- International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Indian Dispute Resolution Centre
- Jordan International Arbitration Centre
- Istanbul Arbitration Days
- Istanbul Arbitration Week
- KCAB International
- King's College London
- The Law Society of England and Wales
- London Solicitors Litigation Association (LSLA)
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- London Chamber of Arbitration and Mediation
- Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration
- New York International Arbitration Centre
- Pakistan International Disputes Week
- P.R.I.M.E Finance
- Rising Arbitrators Initiative
- REAL - Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers
- Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)
- Riyadh International Disputes Week
- SCC Arbitration Institute (SCC)
- Saudi Centre for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA)
- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)
- Space Arbitration Centre
- Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Centre
- Swiss Arbitration Association
- Swiss Arbitration Centre (SAC)
- Tashkent International Arbitration Centre
- Vancouver International Arbitration Centre
- Vienna International Arbitration Centre
- Vietnam International Arbitration Centre
- Vilnius Arbitration Days
- Young Canadian Arbitration Professionals
- Young International Arbitration Group
- Young ICCA

14 LIDW24 events Member-hosted events



With over 100 member-hosted events on Wednesday and 80 more the following day, there was genuinely something for everyone at LIDW's member-hosted events, which exceeded expectations.

Sponsors were well represented among the member-hosted events, with TrialView linking up with Serle Court to present a thoughtful and thought-provoking delve into the psychological aspects of AI adoption in international arbitration, which examined technology adoption and decision-making in an arbitral context, with top-notch speakers in Toby Landau KC and Dr Ula Cartwright-Finch.

Ankura, meanwhile, hosted an event for general counsel working with boards to deliver growth in international businesses, bringing together Charles Russell Speechlys, McLarty Associates (a related company), and Kumi Consulting to discuss the global geopolitical and ESG risk horizon, towards which the panel provided practical tools and smart strategies to help reduce uncertainty on the subject.

That same sense of connection was fostered at another event featuring speakers from McLarty Associates, WilmerHale, and Ankura, each of whom had strong public sector experience and private sector insights, illustrating the flexibility of the LIDW format, the connections made between different law firms, and the diversity of content on offer.

Specialist practice areas were also richly rewarded. Keeping things cordial in tech disputes: how to structure deals to promote ongoing working relationships after a dispute, was one such event, which saw Shieldpay partner with Browne Jacobson and 4 Pump Court. There were similar examples for each of LIDW's valued sponsors.

Law firms were equally adept at offering member-hosted events. Norton Rose Fulbright hosted four sessions, of which two stood out. One session provided clients with everything they needed to know about carbon credits and what investors needed to do to mitigate potential risks in renewable energy projects in emerging markets.

The first looked at voluntary carbon markets' role in energy transition, estimated to be worth US\$250 bn by 2030 – but untested, relatively new and largely unregulated, with differing standards and methodologies for carbon accounting, leaving clients vulnerable to litigation risk.



Young Professionals' Networking Breakfast hosted by Norton Rose Fulbright



Investor-State Awards panel hosted by Debevoise & Plimpton

Voluntary carbon markets, like other new industries, will face challenges as they develop. A panel including HKA, Norton Rose Fulbright, Essex Court Chambers, and Total Energies discussed those challenges – including their forensic and legal risks.

Interest and innovation were also present in sponsor matchings with members, with KLDiscovery tackling efficiency and technology integration with legal practice alongside Fieldfisher. At the same time, Opus 2 and Gatehouse Chambers hosted a session on challenges to arbitral awards.

First-time members, Freeths, hosted panels that sparked engaging discussions on pivotal topics in international arbitration and insurance litigation, alongside Aon, Gatehouse Chambers, Jus Mundi, ArbTech, Essex Court, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Stockholm University and others.

Did members appreciate the events? Their ingenuity, enthusiasm, and vitality in offering such a wide spread of events was palpable. One firm, Herbert Smith Freehills, might have spoken for many, writing on LinkedIn, "As a founding member of LIDW ... It was fantastic engaging in and hosting events that sparked dynamic debates on key issues impacting emerging markets and cross-border disputes."

15 LIDW24 events

Member-hosted events and testimonials



The final day of our member-hosted events saw a morning run, hosted by Fieldfisher, carefully crafted to pass multiple London landmarks along the scenic River Thames.

It was followed by a series of short seminars and round tables on topics ranging from fraud to offshore trust disputes; from class actions to the risks and rewards of investing in emerging markets – while key markets, like insurance, insolvency and technology, were also well catered for. There was even room for a visit to Quinn Emanuel, to view the work of their Artists-in-Residence, Abi Joy Samuel and Claudia Yu.



Panel on AI hosted by Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

Testimonials from international attendees

“The event provided a great opportunity to learn from different experiences and engage with leading professionals. The discussions were insightful and thought-provoking, and I found the networking opportunities to be invaluable.”

Ricardo Aprigliano Demarest Advogados, São Paulo, Brazil

“LIDW continues to be one of the main events for the international disputes’ community. The insightful discussions, networking opportunities and experts’ sessions left me inspired and equipped to tackle future challenges in dispute resolution, it was truly an invaluable experience.”

Dr Bader Al Busaiyes Al Suwaiket & Al Busaiyes Lawyers & Legal Consultants, Saudi Arabia

“LIDW stands out for its diverse range of topics and speakers, providing informative sessions. The event offers excellent networking opportunities and delivers high-quality, informative discussions for dispute resolution professionals.”

Hashem AlAidarous AlAidarous, UAE

“London International Disputes Week offers an unparalleled mix of events and an invaluable opportunity for lawyers based outside of London to meet colleagues from across the world. The quality of the panels and speakers is outstanding and only matched by the quality of the attendees who join for a week of exceptional events.”

Jonathan Schaffer-Goddard Holwell Shuster & Goldberg, New York City, New York, USA

“LIDW 2024 offered a great blend of learning and networking opportunities. The seminars around topical and emergent issues organised by the participating law firms were thought-provoking and insightful. The social events on the sidelines provided an opportunity to build professional relationships. I eagerly look forward to the 2025 iteration.”

Festus Onyia Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie, Lagos, Nigeria

16 LIDW24 events The social side



LIDW's social events – for the Young and Young at Heart (YAYAH) – also added to the attraction of the event. From Supper Clubs to Gala Dinners, there was something for every taste, and interactions that enabled new contacts to be made and networking to flourish.

Having started with an Opening Reception at the De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, and continuing with a drinks reception for up to 700 attendees following the Main Conference, Wednesday's Gala Dinner took place on 5 June at the Royal Lancaster, enabling delegates to meet in a sociable setting; the evening started with a cocktail reception, followed by a seated dinner and an after-party, providing ample opportunities for delegates to connect with fellow attendees.





Thursday saw the LIDW YAYAH social event return for a third year, this time in collaboration with Law Rocks, at one of London's iconic venues, Scala in King's Cross, with the organisers, Law Rocks, celebrating the legal music charity's 15th anniversary.

Six bands celebrated 15 years well spent, and US\$7 m raised for good causes. Among the bands celebrating were opening duo, the Whiskey Kittens, while CMS house band, The Stragglers, who won such event in 2009, were hugely well received.

Jones Chase's Hot Damn! sporting Roman legionary costumes, followed them while US band, Pro Hac Vice, flew in via Texas to add to the international legal glamour. Hot WIP from Trowers & Hamlin, closed the night out, which finished in the early hours of the morning.



18 Message from the co-chairs Thanks and acknowledgements



On behalf of the co-chairs, Luke Tucker Harrison, Michael Fletcher, and Henrietta Jackson-Stops, we hope you enjoyed LIDW24.

We pay tribute again to our supporters and sponsors, as well as our member firms, too many to list individually, but each of whom contributed to the success of the whole.

We are grateful for the media coverage of the Week from partners like Global Legal Post, CDR, the Law Society Gazette and others, and their contribution to LIDW, including this publication.

Thank you also to all the speakers, panellists and participants for sharing your insights and knowledge.

We would also like to thank, once again, our sponsors for their ongoing support – EY, TrialView, Ankura, Berkeley Research Group, Epiq, FTI Consulting, HKA, IMS Legal Strategies, J.S. Held LLC, KLDDiscovery, Opus 2, Shieldpay, Alvarez & Marsal, Bond Solon Training, DISCO, Evelyn Partners, Forward Global, Greyhawk Intelligence Group and Independent Mediators.

LIDW24 was brought to you by the team that makes up the LIDW Strategy Group, its subcommittees, TMB Events and Portland.

– Thanks to our event organisers, TMB Events, without which the Week would not have been possible, and our volunteers who worked so well with them.





**Henrietta
Jackson-Stops**



The end of LIDW24 brings about the start of preparations for LIDW25 – there is no rest! Since LIDW24 has been both a great success in all quantifiable and qualitative aspects and the fifth anniversary of LIDW, we have spent the summer analysing what went well and where we can do even better.

LIDW24 exceeded our ambitions regarding the number of delegates from around the world who came to London for the week. We want to build on that success and momentum to make LIDW25 the best yet.

So, what will LIDW25 offer? The shape of the week will be familiar: an International Arbitration Day, the main conference for 700 delegates at the QEII conference centre in the heart of Westminster, and a busy programme of more than 150 member-hosted events. Alongside that, we plan an improved opening reception with more pizzazz and a busy and diverse social calendar for everyone, but we are also looking after the Young and the Young at Heart.

We will not rest on the knowledge that 102 jurisdictions were represented at LIDW24 – we want to reach further with an even higher number of international delegates present. We will build on the relationships we have with our supporters and friends across the globe to ensure that the dispute resolution community knows that the only place to be in the first week of June is London.

We also want to ensure that the in-house disputes community is better represented at LIDW25 with a programme that speaks to its interests and needs. Without our sponsors, the whole endeavour would not be possible, and we will continue to ensure that our sponsorship packages provide various opportunities for

engagement and brand exposure across the week with the ambition of offering more opportunities across the year.

Our LegalTech hub, which was in nascent form at LIDW24, is to be built upon showcasing London as not only a jurisdiction of choice for resolving disputes, but one that offers and adopts cutting-edge technology in that process.

Next year's conference theme is Innovation in Dispute Resolution: Navigating Global Risks. In a world of continuing uncertainties (with the so-called geopolitical polycrisis) and fast-paced technological change, the need to continually reassess how we best resolve disputes whilst navigating global challenges could not be more relevant.

We look forward to working with you all – members, sponsors, delegates, speakers – to explore and discuss these challenges and opportunities in the week of 2-6 June 2025. Save the date for the next edition of the world's leading disputes week!



**Jonathan
Cary**



**Loukas
Mistelis**



London International
Disputes Week

**We look forward to
welcoming you to LIDW25
2-6 June 2025**

*This report was written, designed and produced by Ben Rigby
and Fraser Allan for the LIDW Strategy Group.*

December 2024