
INTRODUCTION

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In my capacity as Director of the Center for International Commercial Arbitration of the Washington College of Law, I am very pleased to write a prologue to this important issue of the *American University International Law Review*, entirely consecrated to international commercial arbitration, one of the most fascinating and rapidly developing fields in the area of international and international business law.

Since 2002, the Center and its predecessor, Washington College of Law's Program on International Commercial Arbitration, have offered a large variety of courses, seminars, and workshops in the area of international arbitration, which presently include, among others, three distinct annual activities: a three-day mock arbitration case seminar under the joint auspices of the American Arbitration Association, the International Chamber of Commerce International Court of Arbitration, and the International Centre for Settling Investment Disputes, a summer program featuring eight different courses on international commercial arbitration, including courses in Spanish, and a lecture given by a leading personality in the area of international commercial arbitration. Precisely, this issue of the *American University International Law Review* includes the text of the Fifth Annual Lecture delivered by Yves Derains. Other lecturers have been Jerry Aksen Esq, Julian Lew QC, Sir Vivian Ramsey, Jan Paulsson Esq, Professor Gabrielle Kaufmann-Kohler, and Johnny Veeder QC. Thus, the Center plays a leading educational and formative role in this field.

We have added to the regular programming of the Center's activities a biennial Symposium on Salient Issues in International Commercial Arbitration, which is held at the Washington College of

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Law and focuses on current international arbitration developments all over the world. In these symposia, leading personalities in the area of international arbitration address new or ongoing trends in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, and Asia, as well as in foreign investment BIT and ICSID arbitration.

This issue of the *American University International Law Review* includes the papers presented by speakers at the Center's First Biennial Symposium on Salient Issues. The interest and quality of the papers and the personalities authoring them speak for themselves, and I have nothing to add in this respect.

It is only left for me to warmly thank the *American University International Law Review* and its Editorial Board for its dedication in editing and preparing this issue, which underlines once more Washington College of Law's strong commitment to the teaching of international law in all its different aspects, which reaches out to students, practitioners, and academics all over the world.