

Deborah Tomkinson

— Director of Corporate Strategy & Counsel, FCiarb

Professional practice

Deborah is the Director of Corporate Strategy at Peter & Kim, responsible for strategic development and special projects. She also brings her expertise in international arbitration to case work as Counsel.

Prior to joining Peter & Kim, Deborah was the Secretary-General of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA). In that role for over 12 years, Deborah was instrumental to ACICA's strategic growth and development and its recognition as a leading arbitral institution.

Deborah has also held roles at national and international law firms both in Australia and the UAE, with a focus on dispute resolution and management, primarily in the construction & infrastructure and energy & resources sectors.

She has served as a Council Member of the International Federation of Commercial Arbitration Institutions (IFCAI), a Vice President of the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group (APRAG), a R.E.A.L Ambassador and as a member of the ICCA Cross Institutional Task Force on Gender Diversity in Arbitral Appointments and Proceedings and the ERA Search Committee.

Accolades/Ranking

- Lawyers Weekly, Women In Law Awards: Finalist, Executive of the Year (2024)
- Who's Who Legal Arbitration Australia & New Zealand: Recommended (2024)
- Who's Who Legal Arbitration Future Leaders (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)
- The Legal 500 Private Practice Powerlist – Arbitration: Australia and New Zealand (2022)

Career

- Director of Corporate Strategy & Counsel, Peter & Kim (August 2024 - present)
- Secretary-General, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (November 2013 – August 2024)
- Deputy Secretary-General, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (September 2012 – November 2013)
- Dispute Resolution Manager, Australian Disputes Centre (September 2012 – December 2016)
- Senior Associate, Ashurst (June 2011 – August 2012)
- Senior Legal Consultant / Legal Consultant, DLA Piper (January 2008 – January 2011)
- Solicitor / Graduate Lawyer, Clayton Utz (December 2005 – December 2007)
- Graduate Lawyer / Paralegal / Summer Clerk, Coudert Brothers LLP (December 2002 – December 2003, January 2005 – September 2005)



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ADMISSIONS & COURTS

- New South Wales, 2006
- High Court of Australia, 2006

LANGUAGE

- English

NATIONALITIES

- Australian

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Arbitration
Private International Law
Commercial Contracts

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Construction & Engineering
Infrastructure
Real Estate
Energy & Power

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Education

- Diploma of International Commercial Arbitration, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (2012)
- Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Macquarie University (2003)
- Bachelor of Business Administration, Macquarie University (2003)

Professional associations

- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Law Society of NSW

Representative cases

- Representing a large oil pipeline consortium in a multi-million-dollar LCIA arbitration concerning the operation of a quality bank system.
- Representing a Dutch industrial services company in Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) proceedings with respect to claims relating to wrongful termination and defective work on an offshore project.
- Acting for a Dubai-based property developer in DIAC arbitration proceedings in relation to claims for breach of contract and misrepresentation regarding a multi-million dollar purchase of land.
- Acting for a Kuwaiti-based aviation company in relation to DIFC-LCIA proceedings with respect to the breach of a services agreement.
- Advising a US Hotel Management corporation in relation to the enforcement of arbitral awards and issues of sovereign immunity in the UAE.
- Acting for an Australian steel corporation in Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC) proceedings in connection with an investment services contract.
- Advising a major Australian oil and gas exploration and production company in relation to arbitral proceedings in relation to a network of contracts subject to an umbrella arbitration agreement.
- Acting for an Australian state government agency in a facilitation process to resolve multiple disputes related to defects arising under a design, construct, operate and maintain deed for a road project.
- Representing a Dubai based property developer in DIFC Court proceedings in relation to claims in excess of AED180M.
- Acting for a foreign property developer in relation to multiple proceedings brought by off-plan purchasers in the First Instance Court of Dubai, Dubai Court of Appeal and the Dubai Court of Cassation.
- Acting for and advising a US based pharmaceutical company in relation to an FCPA due diligence review of an acquired company with respect to its operations in the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.
- Acting for a Turkish construction company in relation to circa AED200M claims for extensions of time, additional works and delay costs. Advising in relation to the commencement of arbitral proceedings under UAE law.
- Acting for a large Australian construction contractor in relation to a circa AUD150 million claim in respect of the renovation and construction of a shopping centre in the Supreme Court of NSW and NSW Court of Appeal.

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- Acting for a large Australian commercial contractor in respect of a damages claim for misleading and deceptive conduct in relation to a dam spillway project, including proceedings run in the Supreme Court of NSW and resisting an application for special leave to appeal to the High Court of Australia.

Publications

- Research & Editorial Team, Evidence in International Arbitration Report, ACICA & FTI Consulting, 2023
- Research & Editorial Team, 2020 Australia Arbitration Report, ACICA & FTI Consulting, 2021
- Co-author. Promoting Efficacy in arbitration practice: Australia's pro-arbitration regime and key developments in the ACICA Arbitration Rules, Lexus Nexis Dispute Resolution Guide Feature Article, 2017
- Co-author. Shifting Sands: Current Developments in the Global Dispute Resolution Landscape, The Australian Corporate Lawyer, 2016, Volume 26, Issue 2
- Co-author, Arbitration World International Series: ACICA Chapter, 5th Edition, Thomson Reuters, 2015
- Co-author, Dispute Resolution in the Energy Sector: A Practitioner's Handbook (Alternative Dispute Resolution Chapter), Globe Law and Business, 2012

Speaking Engagements

- GAR Live: Sydney 2024
- AFIA Symposium, Brisbane 2024
- Australian ADR Conference, Sydney 2024
- ACICA & Ciarb Australia International Arbitration Conference 2021

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