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NYIAC ELECTS NEW LEADERS, ANNOUNCES FUTURE PLANS

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On January 13, 2021, the New York International Arbitration Center (NYIAC) held its Annual Board Meeting to elect new leaders and to review the past year of navigating through the pandemic. The NYIAC Board of Directors elected **Louis B. Kimmelman** as its new Chair, replacing **Edna Sussman** who had led NYIAC for the last two years. Kimmelman served on NYIAC's Executive Committee and recently retired from Sidley Austin LLP, where he had been co-leader of the firm's Global International Arbitration Practice. Kimmelman will take up the leadership role at NYIAC while also serving as an independent arbitrator and teaching international arbitration.

"I am very honored to have been selected to lead NYIAC – an organization that has done so much to build the international arbitration community in New York and to make New York a global center for international arbitration," commented Kimmelman. "NYIAC is known around the world for its high-quality programing and thought leadership in international arbitration as well as a place for conducting arbitrations and hosting events. Edna Sussman has done an excellent job in making NYIAC a global leader. I hope to build on that record of achievement."

The NYIAC leadership team includes First Vice Chair **Stephen P. Younger** of Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, Second Vice Chair **Peter J.W. Sherwin** of Proskauer Rose LLP, Treasurer **Greig Taylor** of AlixPartners, and Secretary **Rainbow Willard** of Chaffetz Lindsey LLP. New members on the Executive Committee include **Aldo Badini** of Winston & Strawn LLP, **Elliot Friedman** of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, **Martin F. Gusy** of K&L Gates LLP, and **David Z. Pinsky** of Covington & Burling LLP. In addition, the newly elected Directors include **Tai-Heng Cheng** of Sidley Austin LLP, **Miriam K. Harwood** of Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP, **Robert K. Kirshenber**g of Greenberg Traurig LLP, **Kerri Ann Law** of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, and **Ank Santens** of White & Case LLP.

One of NYIAC's goals has been to expand the participants in the international arbitration community who are active in NYIAC's work and programs. This past year NYIAC broadened its constituent base by welcoming several economic consulting firms and third-party funders to the organization, thereby adding their expertise and experience in international arbitration to the NYIAC community. **Dana C. MacGrath**, Investment Manager and Legal Counsel at Omni Bridgeway observed, "NYIAC has brought the New York arbitration community together, and through its hearing services and substantive programming has increased global recognition of New York as a seat of arbitration."

Since March 2020, global business operations have changed, and so have operations at NYIAC. NYIAC pivoted from in person to remote hearings as international arbitration moved online. As a result, NYIAC now offers [remote hearing services](#) for arbitrations, mediations, conferences, and events.

The pandemic also changed how NYIAC delivered its programing. NYIAC took its programing to a virtual platform and presented more than 50 sessions on topics ranging from force majeure and international transactions to the multiplicity of issues that arise in life sciences disputes (available for on demand listening on NYIAC's [Audio Library](#)). "Despite the massive disruption caused by the pandemic, we are pleased that NYIAC was able to continue to serve party hearing needs as well as embark on a stellar series of programs to maintain New York's thought leadership position," noted immediate past Chair Edna Sussman. "We look forward to continuing our central role in the New York arbitration community as we put the pandemic behind us."

Also in 2020, NYIAC made a strategic decision to maximize the opportunities offered by the current New York real estate market. Working with the American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution (AAA-ICDR), NYIAC ended its sublease at 150 East 42nd Street in Midtown Manhattan at the end of 2020. NYIAC is now working to design and build a first-class, bespoke space to host in-person, remote, and hybrid international proceedings in user-friendly facilities. "NYIAC benefitted greatly from collaborating with the AAA-ICDR and building synergies in the marketplace, shared **Rekha Rangachari**, Executive Director. "Support is crucial for a nascent arbitral organization, both from financial sponsors and the global institutions that contribute to New York's

thought leadership. I offer my gratitude and look forward to building new opportunities with colleagues and friends as NYIAC grows and embarks on its next chapter.”

All of these developments enhance New York’s role as a leading global center of international arbitration. The most recent case statistics issued by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the AAA-ICDR confirm the importance of U.S. parties in international arbitration, the popularity of New York as a seat of arbitration and the frequent choice of New York law to govern cross-border contracts.

“NYIAC has become, in a stunningly short time, virtually the heart, in more ways than one, of the already well-established international arbitration community in New York,” **Professor George A. Bermann**, NYIAC Global Advisory Board Co-Chair shared. “NYIAC is of course a premier hearing center, but what most distinguishes it from like institutions is its extraordinarily rich and diverse programming. In the fashion of its founder, the late Hon. Judith Kaye, the Center bursts with energy and imagination, instilled by its inspired and talented leadership – initially of Alexandra Dosman and currently and hopefully for a very long time, of Rekha Rangachari – and buoyed by its law firm and individual membership. It is today frankly inconceivable that the international arbitration community of New York was for so long without it.”

About NYIAC

The [New York International Arbitration Center](http://nyiac.org/) (NYIAC) is a nonprofit organization formed to advance, strengthen, and promote the conduct of international arbitration in New York. NYIAC does not administer arbitrations, but rather provides hearing support services to arbitrations conducted under any institutional rules or conducted *ad hoc*. To learn more about NYIAC and international arbitration in New York, please visit <http://nyiac.org/> or contact NYIAC Executive Rekha Rangachari at rrangachari@nyiac.org.

NYIAC's Founding Firms and Organizations

Alston & Bird LLP	King & Spalding LLP
Baker & McKenzie, LLP	Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP	Latham & Watkins LLP
Chaffetz Lindsey LLP	Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP	Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP	Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP
Covington & Burling LLP	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP	Proskauer Rose LLP
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP	Shearman & Sterling LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
DLA Piper	Sidley Austin LLP
Dorsey & Whitney LLP	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Flemming Zulack Williamson Zauderer LLP	Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP
Foley Hoag LLP	Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	Thompson & Knight LLP
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP	Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz
Norton Rose Fulbright LLP	White & Case LLP
Greenberg Traurig LLP	Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP	Winston & Strawn LLP
K&L Gates LLP	Dispute Resolution Section of the New York State Bar Association
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP	International Section of the New York State Bar Association