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NEW YORK STRONG AS PREFERRED SEAT OF INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

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Newly released data reaffirms New York's leading role in international arbitration in the Americas in cases administered by the [International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce \(ICC\)](#) and the [American Arbitration Association-International Centre for Dispute Resolution \(AAA-ICDR\)](#), notwithstanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and hearings shifting from in-person to remote platforms.

According to the [ICC Secretariat's Dispute Resolution 2020 Statistics](#), the ICC registered 929 new cases involving 2,507 parties, with 25 percent of the parties from the Americas. The U.S. maintained its top rank position with 232 parties (amounting to 9 percent of all parties worldwide) and was tied for second most popular national venue with France and advancing past the U.K., with Switzerland in first place.

The ICC also reported a marked increase in arbitrator appointments from the U.S., with 153 compared to 107 in 2019. U.S. nationals were the second highest selected category of arbitrators after U.K. nationals, with 220 appointments and 14.5 percent of all confirmations or appointments, highlighting the diverse pool of professionals in the U.S. with expertise in resolving international disputes. This follows the trend of several international arbitration practitioners pivoting from big law practice to full-time independent arbitrator status, including those from NYIAC's Board of Directors, [Louis B. Kimmelman](#) of Sidley Austin LLP, [Grant Hanessian](#) of Baker McKenzie LLP and [Michael Nolan](#) of Milbank LLP. Grant Hanessian comments, "That so many of us have recently decided to become full-time arbitrators certainly evidences the continued, and increasing, strength of New York as an international arbitration center." [Claudia Salomon](#), former NYIAC Board Member, is the first woman - and first U.S. national - to serve as President of the ICC Court in its almost 100-year history. She observes, "the ICC 2020 statistics show the continued trust that U.S. companies have in ICC's dispute resolution services and the strength of the arbitration infrastructure in New York and other cities in the United States."

New York continued its growth as a global center of international arbitration. Significantly, New York displaced Singapore to rank as the fourth most popular seat for ICC arbitrations, preceded by Paris, London, and Geneva. Of the 88 cases seated in the U.S., 49 were in New York, a record high at 55.6 percent, with the remainder in various locales. Moreover, contracts with a U.S. choice of law were in second place as the most popular choice of law (behind English law). At least half of these cases selected New York governing law, reinforcing the importance of New York law as the choice of parties to govern commercial agreements. This increase underscores the importance of the ICC's New York office, SICANA, and the New York International Arbitration Center (NYIAC), each celebrating its bronze (eighth) anniversary this year. Louis B. Kimmelman, who also serves as NYIAC Chair, notes, "We believe that New York is and will continue to be a global center for resolving international commercial disputes. New York offers parties outstanding international arbitration practitioners and arbitrators and a body of commercial law that has been developed and applied by New York courts in many reported decisions."

Statistics released by the AAA-ICDR equally confirmed New York's dominance of the international arbitration market. The [ICDR 2020 Case Data Infographics](#) reported that the institution registered 704 claims involving parties from 100 countries and totaling 6.1 billion U.S. dollars, including 260 multi-party cases. Among the leading U.S. venues, New York's caseload continues to rank first (153), followed by Miami (106), Houston (28), Los Angeles (28), and Chicago (16).

Building upon New York’s prominence, NYIAC thrives as a global venue for thought leadership and an active international arbitration community. Noteworthy this year and in step with the diversity pledges of international stakeholders, NYIAC adopted a Diversity & Inclusion Policy executed by each member of its Board of Directors. This Policy affirms NYIAC’s commitment to building a culturally diverse, inclusive, and pluralistic community in New York and beyond, fundamental to the practice of international arbitration. NYIAC recognizes and affirms its collective belief that diversity, inclusion, and opportunity should be reflected in all aspects of the work done and its commitment to implement these values. [Rekha Rangachari](#), NYIAC Executive Director, shares, “We’re innovating at NYIAC in real time to match the evolving practice and demands of stakeholders in international arbitration. From our New York perch, we share our voice to support initiatives creating important global dialogue, and in turn, change, including [ArbitralWomen](#), the [Equal Representation in Arbitration \(ERA\) Pledge](#), [Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers \(REAL\)](#), and the [Campaign for Greener Arbitrations](#).”

Recent NYIAC programming has taken deep dives into managing ESG dispute risks in mining, electronic discovery in international arbitration, and insolvency and arbitration in the context of the IBA Toolkit, in parallel with networking sessions to help practitioners build their profiles in the remote environment. Tune in on October 4 for [NYIAC’s Annual Grand Central Forum](#), where panelists will address practical and real life scenarios in a dialogue that highlights the arbitrator, advocate and judicial perspectives on options for obtaining interim measures in aid of international arbitration. On November 15-19, NYIAC together with the [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators \(CI Arb\) New York Branch](#) present the 3rd Edition of [New York Arbitration Week](#), with registration details and sponsorship forthcoming. [Lea Haber Kuck](#), Partner at NYIAC Founding Firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and New York Arbitration Week Co-Chair notes, “We are excited to once again showcase why New York is a leading global seat for international arbitration and our hybrid format will allow us to share our stellar programming with our friends all over the world.”

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 Director Rekha Rangachari at rrangachari@nyiac.org.

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