The Common Heritage of the International Arbitration Community: 
IBA Arb 40 Competition for the Most Meaningful Personal Stories*

Competition Rules

Article 1: Eligibility Criteria for Submissions

To be eligible, a submission must:

(a) be from members of the international arbitration community of all ages, and from members as well as non-members of the IBA. This includes (but is not limited to) students, paralegals, practitioners, arbitrators, institutions, professional bodies and organisations, secretaries, in-house counsel, experts, funders, and arbitration service providers;

(b) be in English or accompanied by an appropriate English translation;

(c) fall within one or more of the categories listed in Article 2;

(d) be true and accurate, and reflect the participant’s or participants’ (in the case of co-authors) own personal experience;

(e) be within a limit of 750 words;

(f) be respectful and professional and contain no inappropriate or insensitive language, including but not limited to discrimination, personal attacks, etc.;

(g) contain no information that is confidential, privileged, or that which may allow a third-party reader to identify confidential or privileged information; and

(h) anonymize the events and/or actors described in it, as appropriate, including the name and other details of the competition participant, to ensure confidentiality and blind review.

Article 2: Categories of Submissions

Participants are invited to submit entries which fall within one or more of the following Categories:

(a) “Making History”: stories about significant milestones in modern international arbitration history, including seminal cases, key doctrines, publications, the development of arbitral institutions and other organizations, etc., and the impact of these milestones on how arbitration is practiced today.

(b) “Lost in Translation”: stories relating to differences in languages, cultures, time zones, travelling, and other aspects about the international nature of arbitration, with a focus on practical tips and takeaways.

* The common heritage (of mankind) is an international law concept representing the notion that certain global elements regarded as beneficial to humanity as a whole should not be unilaterally exploited by individual states or their nationals, nor by corporations or other entities, but should be exploited under a common regime for the benefit of mankind as a whole.
(c) “How it All Started”: stories concerning students, interns, junior associates, as well as mooting and interviews, with a focus on the experiences of the rising stars in international arbitration and/or advice to prospective entrants into international arbitration.

(d) “We’re in this Together”: stories from arbitrators, counsel, tribunal secretaries, experts, and arbitral institutions related to hearings, filings, and document production, particularly in connection with solutions to commonly (and less commonly) experienced difficulties.

(e) “Virtual Reality”: stories about lessons learned from the recent phenomena of virtual hearings and other digital interactions.

(f) “The Arbitration Socialite”: stories about the importance of networking events, mentoring, coffee breaks, dining, celebrations, etc.

(g) “Timeless Innovation”: stories about novel and creative initiatives and solutions that have purported to shape or will shape arbitration practices, and about what it takes to come up with such initiatives.

(h) “Call for Diversity”: stories about diversity in international arbitration, as well as about the challenges faced by its individual members and the work that remains to be done.

(i) “The Arbitration Think-tank”: stories about the role and importance of arbitration academia, research and publications, including by academics, practitioners and students.

(j) “The Peacemakers”: stories about how arbitral proceedings or their participants have facilitated the amicable settlement of disputes, by bringing the parties together, managing crises and preventing them from escalating, as well as preserving relationships and future collaboration.

(k) “The Additional Award”: worthwhile stories that do not fall within the above categories.

**Article 3: Submissions**

Submissions may be made free of charge.

Participants must provide their name, affiliation, and contact details in the registration form but omit this information from their submission entry, to ensure blind review of submissions by the Jury.

A submission may be made by multiple participants (i.e. co-authors), so long as each participant is identified in accordance with this Article 3.

Participants may opt for their submissions to be published anonymously or under a pseudonym, if selected for publication.

Participants may classify their submissions into one or more of the Categories listed in Article 2.

Competition entries must be submitted electronically by completing the registration form found at [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/arb40competition](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/arb40competition) by 11:59 pm EST on 31 May 2022.

The number of submissions a participant may submit is not limited.
Article 4: Jury Composition

The Jury shall be composed of Members of the IBA Arb 40 Subcommittee or persons selected by it.

Article 5: Selection Process

Submissions that meet the above conditions will be sent to members of the Jury for review and consideration.

Each submission will be reviewed by two Jury members. The review process by the Jury will be blind.

The Jury will score each submission on the basis of the following criteria:

(a) learning output and contribution to the body of international arbitration knowledge (20 points);

(b) interest to community at large, relevance to “a common heritage and spirit” and meaningfulness (20 points);

(c) novelty (10 points);

(d) coherence and presentation (10 points).

The Jury has the discretion to add or remove considerations to guide their assessment of submissions.

The Jury has the discretion to re-classify a submission into one or more of the Categories listed in Article 2.

A Jury member shall not participate in the review process if he or she becomes aware of any conflicts of interest.

The Jury’s decisions are final.

Members of the Jury are bound by confidentiality.

Article 6: Prizes

The winner of each Category will be awarded an honorary award as Category Prize. The overall winner amongst all the Categories will be awarded an honorary Grand Prize. The jury may award more or less than one honorary Category Prize and/or honorary Grand Prize.

All Prize-winning submissions will be included in the compendium. The Prize-winners will be invited to present and discuss their stories in an entertaining webinar.

The organizers will communicate directly with the Prize-winners.

Article 7: Donations

In appreciation of the submissions received, and in the spirit of giving back to the international arbitration community, the competition sponsors will make donations. These donations will fund the gifting of
arbitration-related books and resources to selected universities around the world, selected by the IBA Arb 40 Subcommittee.

**Article 8: Reservation of Rights**

The organizers reserve the right to select, redact, or otherwise modify the submissions.

The organizers reserve all rights, including the right to take any steps to ensure compliance with these rules, reject submissions or cancel the competition at any time. Affected participants will be informed as soon as possible.

**Article 9: Copyright**

Copyright shall be assigned to the IBA and the IBA will have the exclusive right to first publication, both to reproduce and/or distribute submissions throughout the world in electronic, printed or any other medium, and to authorize others (including Reproduction Rights Organisations such as the Copyright Licensing Agency and the Copyright Clearance Center) to do the same. Following first publication, such publishing rights shall be non-exclusive, except that publication elsewhere will require permission from and acknowledgement of the IBA. Such permission may be obtained from IBA Content at editor@int-bar.org.