

Over the last few years, there has been a growing interest among aspiring attorneys and law students in the burgeoning field of international arbitration. Traditionally, arbitration has been a practice for the senior and high-achievers of the legal profession, which often consisted of retired judges, law professors and senior partners. However, the increase of specialized International Arbitration Master programs and a plethora of networking groups/forums solely for the younger generation of attorneys and law students is a testament to the practice's expanding popularity among the younger generation. Traditional norms are being challenged and the Young Arbitrators Copenhagen ("YAC") is at the forefront of this growing change. As a forum founded by young lawyers, it has the undoubted vigour and drive to reach out to the young generation to create awareness and interest in international arbitration.

As a new entrant to the international arbitration profession, I have always felt that it was important to expand my network and learn from my peers. As a Dane with a multi-cultural background, I have yearned for international opportunities. During my high school years at the Copenhagen International School, I was drawn to international negotiations and conflict resolutions. I was an active participant in the School's Model United Nations society and took part in various events in Europe and North America. The opportunity to negotiate with participants from different cultures created a genuine interest to seek an international career. My first exposure to international arbitration was at an alternative dispute resolution course at the Law Faculty of the University of Copenhagen. I was intrigued to learn more about how international arbitration created a level-playing field to bring two (or more) parties from different nationalities to the table to resolve their dispute. During my Master studies at UC Berkeley School of Law, I was able to learn from my fellow classmates' experiences in international arbitration. Many encouraged me and helped point me in the right direction on how I could expand my knowledge of the profession. Following graduation in 2011, I worked as an intern at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The experience inculcated my understanding of the sensitive and challenging role arbitral institutions have in administering arbitral disputes. My superiors and peers at the institution recommended exploring the opportunity to work with a known arbitrator so as to obtain a different perspective. I eventually landed a role in Singapore to work for Michael Hwang SC, a renowned international arbitrator, and gained first-hand insight into the practice from the arbitrator's perspective.

International arbitration is an exciting and evolving practice that can benefit from new perspectives from the younger generation. YAC, in this regard, would be an ideal forum for such an initiative and I look forward to participating in its upcoming events.

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