

London chambers appoints new head of arbitrator wing

Jack Ballantyne



Tariq Mahmood and Ramakrishnan Viraraghavan SC

London chambers 33 Bedford Row has appointed **Tariq Mahmood** to head its recently launched arbitrator wing – while adding three more barristers to the group.

Mahmood took up the position as head of arbitration and ADR at 33 Bedford Row and leading the team known as Arbitrators@33BedfordRow, on 10 July.

The now nine-strong team of arbitrators includes three recent additions: London-based Indian practitioner **Ramakrishnan Viraraghavan SC**, who joined 33 Bedford Row as a barrister on the same day, and **Hammad Baig** and **Maurice O’Carroll** who were already members of chambers.

Mahmood says it will be a “privilege” to lead the “full service” team, which takes instructions as counsel, arbitrator and mediator. “Arbitrators@33BedfordRow has a diverse group of arbitrators and mediators who speak different languages, have trained and practised in different jurisdictions,

have senior judicial experience and bring a range of different industry and other expertise to our group.”

A British national, Mahmood is dual-qualified in England and Pakistan. He practises as a barrister, arbitrator and commercial mediator and focuses on UK and Ireland, Pakistan, the Gulf and the Asia-Pacific region. He has particular experience in energy and commodities disputes.

He has worked as a consultant to the Council of Europe in relation to their arbitration training and assisted the attorney general of the Pakistan-administered jurisdiction of Azad Jammu and Kashmir with the drafting of amendments to its constitution.

Mahmood also co-wrote a chapter on guerrilla tactics in international arbitration for *The Comparative Law Yearbook of International Business* to be published later this year and is a committee member of the Asia-Pacific Forum for International Arbitration.

Viraraghavan, meanwhile, has more than 33 years of experience as a barrister appearing in commercial arbitrations, particularly in South Asia and the Far East.

He has also appeared in the Indian courts in arbitration-related litigation, including the removal of arbitrators and challenges to awards. A fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Viraraghavan was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2013 and appointed senior counsel in India in 2017.

Former Indian Supreme Court Justice **Veeraswami Ramaswami** told *GAR* that he has been impressed by Viraraghavan’s “systematic planning, preparation and professionalism” in the arbitration and arbitration-related litigation they had worked on together.

O’Carroll’s practice focuses on commercial, employment, and public and planning disputes. He was called to the Scottish bar in 1995 and in England & Wales earlier this year.

Baig practises as an arbitrator in commercial disputes, with a particular focus on tax matters. This includes fraud, cross border VAT and customs and excise law, on which he keeps a personal blog. He was called to the bar in 2010.

Former BVI Commercial Court judge, arbitrator and Canadian senior team member **Barry Leon** says he is “thrilled by the warm words of support” since the launch of Arbitrators@33BedfordRow earlier this year.

He adds the team offers “diversity in subject matter and industry expertise, diversity of geographic, cultural and racial background, and diversity in experience. We are confident that we are on the right path to offering what increasingly is being sought by those involved in choosing arbitrators and mediators.”

The other four members of Arbitrators@33BedfordRow are Australian academic **Tony Cole**, US arbitrator **Katherine Simpson** and Irish barristers **Dermot Flanagan SC** and **Arran Dowling-Hussey**.