

## London chambers launches arbitrator wing

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28 February 2019



Barry Leon and Tony Cole

Canadian former judge **Barry Leon** and Australian academic **Tony Cole** are among six independent arbitrators joining a newly opened wing of London chambers 33 Bedford Row.

The new wing – known as Arbitrators@33BedfordRow – was announced this week.

It also includes Irish barrister **Dermot Flanagan SC** and US arbitrator **Katherine Simpson**, who joined the set as door tenants last October.

**Tariq Mahmood**, who has been a member of 33 Bedford Row since 2016, and **Arran Dowling-Hussey**, who joined as a door tenant in 2017, are also part of the new wing.

Co-head of chambers **Neil Mercer** said in a press release that the six arbitrators are “highly regarded” for their work in arbitration, mediation and other forms of dispute resolution.

Leon formerly served as presiding judge of the British Virgin Islands Commercial Court from 2015 to 2018. Before that, he was head of the international arbitration group at Perley-Robertson Hill & McDougall in Ottawa for six years, having previously been a partner at Toronto firm Torys for many years.

He has also served as a chair of ICC Canada’s arbitration committee and is an arbitrator at Arbitration Place in Toronto.

Leon tells GAR: “It is a great group of talented people with diverse international backgrounds and diverse arbitrator practices, coming together in London under one banner as independent arbitrators and mediators. I think 33 Bedford Row is showing terrific initiative, confidence and vision in establishing Arbitrators@33BedfordRow.”

A dual Australian-UK national, **Tony Cole** specialises in cross-border commerce and international investment law and has acted as arbitrator or adjudicator in disputes spanning the aviation, maritime, construction, education and financial sectors. He also recently joined the panel of arbitrators at US-based dispute resolution services provider JAMS.

A reader at the University of Leicester, he [is currently overseeing](#) a £1 million, five-year research project into the social and psychological underpinnings of commercial arbitration in Europe.

Qualified in New York since 2005, Cole has practised in White & Case’s offices in that city. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) and has provided guidance on arbitration to the European Parliament’s legal affairs committee.

Cole says he was attracted by “the diversity of experience” of the arbitrators at the chambers and their “wide range of backgrounds, expertises and personal styles.”

“To me that diversity is what arbitration is fundamentally about: parties being able to find the particular arbitrator that best suits their case and preferences,” he says.

Dowling-Hussey, an Irish national, is a barrister, arbitrator and mediator. He is a member of the board of trustees of the CI Arb and is a former member of its board of management. He has co-authored a textbook on Ireland’s arbitration law that is now in its third edition and has been an associate lecturer in law at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen since February 2018.

Simpson has experience as a tribunal secretary in investment and commercial arbitrations chaired by prominent arbitrators including **Karl-Heinz Böckstiegel**, **William W Park** and **Klaus Peter Berger**, with amounts in dispute up to US\$2.5 billion. She has served in UNCITRAL, SCC and ICSID cases as well and assisted in commercial cases involving state-linked entities at the ICC, LCIA, DIAC, DIS and Chinese European Arbitration Centre.

Admitted to the New Jersey and Maryland bars, she teaches international arbitration at the University of Michigan. She obtained her doctorate from the University of Cologne and can conduct proceedings in German.

Simpson is also a member of CIArb and ArbitralWomen as well as the peer review board for the *ICSID Review – Foreign Investment Law Journal* published by Oxford University Press.

Flanagan, who is based at 1 Arran Square in Dublin, has practised as a barrister in Ireland since 1987 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2000. As counsel, he specialises in environmental, compulsory acquisition, planning and infrastructure law disputes. He sits as arbitrator and mediator in England and Wales. Flanagan recently spoke to the Dubai International Financial Centre academy of law on infrastructure disputes.

Mahmood, a British national, is dual-qualified in England and Pakistan. He has worked as a barrister, arbitrator or tribunal secretary and has a focus on the UK and Ireland, Pakistan, the Gulf and the Asia-Pacific region. He has also assisted the attorney general of the Pakistan-administered jurisdiction of Azad Jammu and Kashmir with the drafting of amendments to its constitution.

He is a member of the committee of the Asia-Pacific Forum for International Arbitration and recently worked as a consultant to the Council of Europe on their arbitration training.

Mahmood says he and his colleagues are “delighted and honoured” to be working at 33 Bedford Row.

“We are confident that London will continue to be a major global centre for dispute resolution,” he says.