

# VIAC – Questionnaire for Arbitrators

**1. Name:** Shahla F. Ali

**2. Citizenship:** United States; Hong Kong Resident

**3. Contact information:**

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**4. Current position:**

Professor of Law; Associate Dean (International); Director, LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law

**5. Education:**

PhD, Jurisprudence & Social Policy, UC Berkeley

JD, UC Berkeley Law

Graduate Certificate in Chinese-American Studies, Hopkins-Nanjing Center

MA, Landegg, Consultation & Conflict Resolution, Honors

BA, Stanford University

**6. Practiced experience in arbitration**

- How many arbitrations have you participated in (domestic/international); under which Rules?

12 Ad hoc/Institutional Arbitrations (FINRA, HKIAC, CIETAC, UNCITRAL): 8 domestic/ 4 international

32 Administrative Tribunals Arbitrations (HKIAC, CIETAC, ADNDRC): 2 domestic / 30 international

- How often have you acted as Chairman?

Ad hoc/Institutional: 2

Administrative: 32

- How often have you acted as Sole Arbitrator?

32

- How often have you acted as Co-Arbitrator?

10

- How often have you acted as Counsel?

NA

- How often have you acted in a different function (e.g. Administrative Secretary)?

NA

**7. Publications and other activities in arbitration (e.g. training sessions, seminars, conferences, articles and others):**

## GOVERNMENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION BODIES

- Senior Fellow, Asia Global Institute, HKU
- Asian Mediator Resource Person, Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), International Finance Corporation/World Bank Group for Community Bank Disputes
- Member, Department of Justice, Regulatory Subcommittee on Mediation, DOJ, 2014-
- Member, Financial Dispute Resolution Appointments Committee, FDRC 2014-2020
- Co-facilitator, HK Waste Management Public Dialogue, HK Stock Exchange

## RECOGNITION

State Bar of California

Women in International Arbitration Committee, HKIAC

Academic Council, Institute for Transnational Arbitration, USA

World Arbitration and Mediation Review, Advisory Board

ICCA; Arbitral Women; CI Arb East Asia

## VISITING APPOINTMENTS ARBITRATION TEACHING

Spring 2022	Pepperdine Caruso School of Law/Strauss Institute, <i>Mediation</i> , Adjunct Professor
Jan 2019	UCLA School of Law, <i>Lawyer as Peacemaker</i> , Invited Guest Lecturer
July 2015-16	Beijing University/STL Shenzhen/IEEM Macau, <i>Investor State Dispute Settlement</i>
Nov 2014	National University of Singapore, <i>International Arbitration Academy</i>
July 2010	Duke University/University of Hong Kong, <i>International Arbitration Law</i>
June 2010	Santa Clara Summer Program, <i>Public International Law of Investor State Arbitration</i>

## SELECTED BOOKS/TRANSLATIONS

1. Ali, S. (2021) FORMING TRANSNATIONAL DISPUTE SETTLEMENT NORMS: SOFT LAW AND THE ROLE OF UNCITRAL'S REGIONAL CENTRE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (Edward Elgar)
2. Ali, S. I. Bantekas, M. Gomez, P. Ortolani, (2020) COMMENTARY ON THE UNCITRAL MODEL LAW ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION (Cambridge University Press)
3. Ali, S., Ginsburg, T., Eds. (2013) INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION IN ASIA (Juris Publishers).
4. Ali, S. (2013) CONSUMER FINANCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN A COMPARATIVE CONTEXT: PRINCIPLES, SYSTEMS AND PRACTICE (Cambridge University Press)
5. Ali, S., (2018) COURT MEDIATION REFORM: EFFICIENCY, CONFIDENCE AND PERCEPTIONS OF JUSTICE (Edward Elgar).
6. Ali, S. (2016) GOVERNING DISASTERS: ENGAGING LOCAL POPULATIONS IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF (Cambridge U. Press).
7. Ali, S. (2010; 2012 reprint). RESOLVING DISPUTES IN THE ASIA PACIFIC: INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION IN EAST ASIA AND THE WEST (Routledge).
8. Translation: Ali, S. (2001).  
张文显主编·《法律学》北京：高等教育出版社，（重印 全国高等学校法学专业和新课程教材 (Zhang Wen Xian, Jurisprudence, Beijing Higher Education Press, 1999)

For full publication list, see: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf\\_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per\\_id=403698](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per_id=403698)

### **8. Membership in arbitral institutions / functions in arbitral institutions/organizations:**

HKIAC; SIAC KCAB; THAC; CIETAC; ADNDRC; SCIA; FINRA, AIAC, Global Arbitrators List, Office of the Ombudsman for UN Funds and Programs, Energy Community Panel

### **9. Languages**

Mother tongue: English

Working languages (i.e. languages in which you have both a spoken and written command so that you may conduct arbitral proceedings in this language):

Mandarin (advanced), Farsi (basic), Russian (basic)

**10. In which legal systems have you trained?**

- Civil Law
- Common Law
- Austrian Law
- Hungarian Law
- Swiss Law
- Czech Law
- Polish Law
- Ukrainian Law
- German Law
- Slovakian Law
- European Law

Other   CISG  

**11. What is your main jurisdiction of practice?**

Global; East Asia

**12. In which jurisdictions are you admitted to the bar?**

California

**13. Special expertise or specializations (please list a maximum of five):**

- Antitrust/Unfair competition
- Damages
- Insolvency
- Natural resources
- Aviation
- Distribution
- Insurance
- Power plants
- Banking & Finance
- Domain name disputes
- Intellect. property (IP)
- Private Intern. Law
- Capital markets
- Employment
- Investment arbitration
- Public Intern. Law
- CISG
- Energy
- ISDS/Foreign inves.
- Real estate
- Civil fraud disputes
- Engineering
- Joint ventures
- Shipping
- Commercial disp. / transactions
- Entertainment
- Licensing
- Sports
- Commodity market
- Healthcare & Pharmac.
- Life sciences
- State/Public contracts
- Company/Corporate/M&A
- Hotel/Gastro./Tour.
- Maritime arbitration
- Technology
- Construction
- Inform. technology (IT)
- Media
- Telecommunication
- Contract law
- Infrastructure
- Mining
- Transport
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Date of birth: June 1976**

VIAC offers arbitration practitioners the possibility to present themselves on its website. VIAC reserves the right to publish any presentations submitted and to remove it as the case may be. Parties are free to nominate an arbitrator of their choice and so is the VIAC Board when appointing an arbitrator. These presentations do not constitute recommendations but may assist the parties in choosing an arbitrator willing to conduct proceedings according to the Vienna Rules. The fact that an arbitration practitioner appears on this list, does not authorize this person to use the title "VIAC-arbitrator".

X I have completed this questionnaire to the above to the best of my knowledge and believe they are accurate.

X I hereby consent that the data provided in this questionnaire may be processed for the appointment of arbitrators and published by VIAC. This includes in particular publication on the website of VIAC as well as use in any presentations, etc. This consent may be withdrawn at any time by contacting VIAC at our general contacts, in particular by email addressed to office@viac.eu. The consequence of any such withdrawal will be that my data will no longer be processed by VIAC. For further information, see our privacy statement at <http://www.viac.eu>.

1 December 2023

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Date

# SHAHLA F. ALI (夏蘭)

## Independent Arbitrator, FCI Arb

B.A., MA, JD, Ph.D; State Bar of California  
Rm 811 Cheng Yu Tung (Faculty of Law)  
University of Hong Kong,  
Pokfulam Road; Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 98612104; Email: [sali@hku.hk](mailto:sali@hku.hk); WEB: [shahlaali.com](http://shahlaali.com)  
US Citizen; Hong Kong Permanent Resident



## SPECIALIZATION

- Commercial/Sale of Goods
- Trade/Finance
- Securities
- Community/Investor
- IP; Domain Name

## EDUCATION

PhD/JD, *Jurisprudence & Social Policy*, UC Berkeley

Graduate Certificate in Chinese-American Studies, Hopkins-Nanjing Center

MA, Landegg, *Consultation & Conflict Resolution*, Honors

BA, Stanford University

## ADMISSION

State Bar of California;  
American Society of International Law; Institute for Transnational Arbitration; ABA; FCI Arb

## ARBITRATION PANELS/ LISTS

HKIAC; SIAC KCAB; THAC; CIETAC; ADNDRC; SCIA; FINRA, AIAC, Global Arbitrators List, Office of the Ombudsman for UN Funds and Programs, Energy Community Panel

## LANGUAGES

- English (fluent)
- Mandarin (Advanced)
- Farsi (Intermediate)
- Russian (Basic)

## ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE

Shahla Ali, recognized as a “rising name in Asian arbitration” and a “well known international arbitration practitioner” is Professor and Associate Dean and Director of the Program in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution at the University of Hong Kong’s Faculty of Law. She serves as a bilingual arbitrator (English/Chinese) with the UN Funds and Programs, HKIAC, SIAC, KCAB, THAC, CIETAC, SCIA, SHAC and mediation/neutral with the World Bank/IFC, Energy Community, ICC and HKMAAL. She has been described by parties as an “excellent” arbitrator having served on more than 40 ad hoc and institutional arbitrations and administrative tribunals as tribunal chair, co-arbitrator and sole arbitrator and panelists under the UNCITRAL, HKIAC, HKAO and CIETAC rules. She has studied and practiced in China, Hong Kong, Israel, the US.

In addition to her Asia-Pacific experience, Shahla worked as an attorney with Baker & McKenzie in its San Francisco office where she focused on international trade, corporate transactions and regulatory compliance. She is the author or co-editor of 9 books, and more than 50 articles and chapters in the area of cross border dispute resolution. Internationally, she has consulted with USAID, IFC/World Bank and the UN on access to justice, peace process negotiation, arbitration reform and served as a delegate to UNCITRAL’s WG II, and IBA’s Working Group on Investor State Mediation Rules. Regionally, she has served as a member of the Department of Justice’s Mediation Regulatory Framework Subcommittee, the Financial Dispute Resolution Appointments Committee, HKIAC’s Women in International Arbitration Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum

## SELECTED ARBITRATION CASE EXPERIENCE

- Co-arbitrator in a USD 15 million share agreement dispute between China, US, BVI, HK entities under the UNCITRAL rules, HKIAC
- Presiding sole arbitrator in a UNCITRAL CISG trade dispute between China and US parties, HKIAC
- Arbitration panel member in a FINRA USD 6.5mil securities dispute.
- Co-arbitrator in a USD 200,000 CISG manufacturing dispute between Dutch and Chinese entities, CIETAC, Hong Kong (in Mandarin)
- Co-arbitrator in a USD 950,000 million trust dispute involving allegations of breach of duty and unsuitability, FINRA
- Presiding arbitrator in a 2013 dispute regarding domain name rights to ican.com, HKIAC, Hong Kong
- Presiding arbitrator in several disputes regarding domain name rights to whirlpoolchina.com, tvb22.com, rimowasales.com and paulsmith-france.com, HKIAC, Hong Kong (in Mandarin Chinese)
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute involving domain name rights to teenee.com, CIETAC, Beijing (in Mandarin Chinese)
- Co-arbitrator in an expungement case, FINRA, San Francisco

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **University of Hong Kong**, Professor & Associate Dean (International); Director, LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Hong Kong (2008 to the present); teach CIArb accredited International Arbitration Law
- **Baker & McKenzie, LLP**, Associate, International/Trade Group, San Francisco, USA (2006-2008)
- **United Nations Office of Human Resource Management/QED**, Mediation trainer, NY
- **U.S. District Court, Alternative Dispute Resolution Program**, San Francisco, CA
- **California Administrative Office of the Courts**, Office of the General Counsel, SF
- **U.S. District Court, Northern District of California**, Extern for Judge Wayne Brazil
- **Gregorio, Haldeman & Piazza**, Mediation case manager, SF, CA

## ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

- CIArb Fellow; Arbitrator Chairperson Training, FINRA
- MA degree in Consultation & Conflict Resolution, Landegg University, Switzerland

## GOVERNMENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION BODIES

- Global Arbitrators List, Office of the Ombudsman for United Nations Funds and Programs
- Energy Community Panel of Mediators
- Senior Fellow, Asia Global Institute, HKU
- ICCA; Arbitral Women; CIArb East Asia
- Asian Mediator Resource Person, Office of the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), International Finance Corporation/World Bank Group for Community Bank Disputes
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