

Mauritius centre announces advisory board

Laura Roddy
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Mauritius

The arbitration centre linked to Mauritius's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has unveiled a new advisory board chaired by **Sarah Grimmer**, as it continues to raise its profile internationally.

The board of the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Centre – known as [MARC](#) – will be consulted on matters relating to the centre's development and best practices in relation dispute resolution as well as on projects and initiatives to develop ADR.

Grimmer is secretary general of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and a former senior legal counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. She also has experience of working at the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris, where she spent three years as assistant counsel.

She has also been a member of the international arbitration group at Shearman & Sterling in Paris.

Other members of the board also have institutional experience. They include **Mark Appel**, a former senior vice president of the ICDR-AAA who now practises as an arbitrator in London; **Sophie Henry**, executive director of the CMAP Centre of Mediation and Arbitration in Paris; and former HKIAC managing counsel **Maria Krystyna Duval**.

There are also leading practitioners from London, Paris, Frankfurt and Singapore, some of whom have Mauritian nationality or links. Well-known names include **Jalal El Ahdab**, partner at Ginestie Paley-Vincent & Associés in Paris; **Wesley Pydiamah**, partner at Eversheds Sutherland In Paris; **Nish Shetty**, partner at Clifford Chance in Singapore and leading arbitrator **J Christopher Thomas QC**.

Grimmer calls it “an honour” to serve as first chair of the advisory board and notes the “range of experience and talent” among her fellow board members

[The president](#) of the MARC Court is leading British arbitrator **Neil Kaplan QC**, who, like Grimmer, is based in Hong Kong and is a former chair of the HKIAC. He says he is “delighted” that “so many experienced and talented” people have agreed to serve on the board sure that it will keep MARC at the forefront of international developments and best practices.”

“I look forward to receiving their advice and guidance in this exciting new phase of MARC’s development,” he says.

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry pioneered institutional arbitration in Mauritius in 1996 with the establishment of what was then called the MCCI Permanent Court of Arbitration. It changed its name in 2012, four years after Mauritius passed a new arbitration act and embarked on an initiative to establish itself as a platform for arbitration in sub-Saharan Africa.

The centre has had a steady flow of cases over the years (it handled 15 in 2016, of which half were domestic and half international). However, it has enjoyed a lower profile internationally than the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre, MIAC, which was established after the 2008 act as a link-up between the LCIA and Mauritius government.

From this year, MARC has become more visible with the formation of its new court presided over by Kaplan and including leading international practitioners. It is also expected to release new rules.

One of the members of the board, **Duncan Bagshaw** of Stephenson Harwood in London, is a former registrar at LCIA-MIAC.

The MARC Advisory Board

- **Jalal El Ahdab** (partner at GMPV, Paris)

- **Mark Appel** (international arbitrator and mediator at Appel Dispute Resolution LLC and a member of ArbDB Chambers, London)
- **Duncan Bagshaw** (barrister and associate at Stephenson Harwood, London)
- **Maria-Krystyna Duval** (former HKIAC managing counsel and visiting fellow at King's College, London)
- **Rajiv Sharma Fokeer** (partner at FTPA Avocats, Paris)
- **Sophie Henry** (executive Director, CMAP Centre of Mediation and Arbitration, Paris)
- **Raju Jadoo** (secretary general, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- **Patrick Lane** (international arbitrator, member of the Maisels Group and 39 Essex Street Chambers, London)
- **Jamsheed Peeroo** (barrister at Peeroo Chambers, Mauritius and UK)
- **Wesley Pydiamah** (partner at Eversheds Sutherland, Paris)
- **Daniel Sharma** (Partner at DLA Piper, Frankfurt)
- **Nish Shetty** (Partner at Clifford Chance, Singapore)
- **J Christopher Thomas QC**, (international arbitration and head of the International Dispute Resolution Programme at the National University of Singapore's Centre for International Law)

