



60-SECOND INTERVIEW

Rainbow Willard ACI Arb

Now an Associate at Chaffetz Lindsey LLP in New York, Rainbow shares her experiences as a woman in the ADR profession

Why did you specialise in ADR?

I primarily practise international arbitration, and I chose this focus because of the flexibility. I really like how the governing law, the law of the seat, the procedural rules and the facts change with every case. They always interact in novel, exciting ways. I also love having the opportunity to work closely with people from a variety of backgrounds, countries and cultures. The practice requires me to constantly cultivate an adaptability of mind, an openness and an ability to communicate across generations and cultures.

What is the biggest challenge you face as a female arbitration practitioner?

The expectations on women can be a lot higher than for men. People expect a lot of 'extras' from us, in addition to our being great lawyers and managers. For example, the night before I had to conduct several cross-examinations in a large-scale investment treaty arbitration, a team member woke me up at 3am asking to borrow a pair of tights. At another hearing, a team member interrupted me in the middle of monitoring real-time testimony to ask for an ibuprofen. I don't know many (if any) male advocates who have had similar experiences. It's hard to balance being a great advocate with providing those extras.

What is it like working in a predominantly male profession?

The profession is really changing. In my generation, many more women are practising as arbitrators and advocates – the doors are opening a little wider every day. Nonetheless, I often look up



More women are practising – the doors are opening a little wider every day

and realise that I'm the only woman in the room, but the important thing is not to be intimidated by it. Just because I'm the only woman doesn't mean I'm not welcome. By being present in these spaces, and working to find common ground with my male peers, I hope to contribute in a small way towards growing the space for more women to work in ADR.

What advice do you wish you'd received at the start of your career?

Don't try to blend in. What makes you unique also makes you memorable. As a young lawyer, I sometimes tried to be like everyone else, often because I thought it was a good way to accommodate the people I worked with. As I've grown into my practice, I've learned that being authentic and unique is the best way to be recognised – I can fit in without blending in.

Rainbow participated in the #CIArbWomenInADR project, which illustrated the importance of diversity in ADR. Find out more at ciarb.org

EDUCATION

CI Arb partners with SCCA



The Saudi Center for Commercial Arbitration (SCCA) and CI Arb have announced a partnership through which CI Arb's Pathway in International Arbitration will be delivered under the SCCA's auspices in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Both organisations have a commitment to the development and promotion of ADR. Through the pathway, SCCA's Arbitrator Roster will be mapped to CI Arb's membership, which will enable successful candidates in Riyadh to obtain a vital qualification in arbitration.

C.ARB WELCOME

Congratulations to the newest Chartered Arbitrators of 2019: Nadine Debbas Achkar (Lebanon Branch) and Caroline Kenny (Australia Branch)



Opener in Oman

In March, CI Arb Director General Anthony Abrahams delivered the opening speech at Sultan Qaboos University's Arbitration Day in Muscat. Anthony spoke about the importance of arbitration, its growth in the Middle East, the significance of quality ADR training and the global role that CI Arb plays.