

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
FOR COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION

YEARBOOK  
COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION  
VOLUME XXXI – 2006

GENERAL EDITOR  
ALBERT JAN VAN DEN BERG

with the assistance of  
International Bureau of the  
Permanent Court of Arbitration  
The Hague

**A C.I.P. Catalogue record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.**

ISBN 90 411 2437 3

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Published by Kluwer Law International,  
P.O. Box 316, 2400 AH Alphen aan den Rijn, The Netherlands.  
sales@kluwerlaw.com  
http://www.kluwerlaw.com

Sold and distributed in North, Central and South America  
by Aspen Publishers, Inc.  
7201 McKinney Circle, Frederick, MD 21704, USA

Sold and distributed in all other countries by  
Turpin Distribution Services Ltd.,  
Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade,  
Bedfordshire SG18 8TQ, United Kingdom

*Printed on acid-free paper*

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Printed in The Netherlands

## INTRODUCTION

Volume XXXI of the Yearbook retains its traditional format, but this year its contents demonstrate in some respects the impact of the World Wide Web and the Internet on the documentation of international commercial arbitration. The policy of the Yearbook is to go beyond the Internet to collect and organize a broad selection of arbitral awards, arbitration rules and court decisions, and to present them to the reader in an accessible format, including translations, indices and categorized lists. However, where such material is now readily available in a reliable and easily accessible form on the Internet, only selected texts are reproduced in the Yearbook.

In addition to its printed format, the Yearbook, along with ICCA's *International Handbook on Commercial Arbitration* and selected volumes of ICCA's *Congress Series*, is made available by subscription in two electronic formats. They are published by Kluwer Law International as part of the materials on the *Arbitration CD-Rom: Resources on International Commercial Arbitration* and the online service <[www.kluwerarbitration.com](http://www.kluwerarbitration.com)>.

The *International Handbook on Commercial Arbitration* functions alongside the Yearbook in providing up-to-date information on arbitration law and practice in more than sixty countries. National Reports together with the relevant legal texts are published in the Handbook. The Table of Contents of the Handbook is reproduced in Part I of the Yearbook where, until the introduction of the Handbook, National Reports were published. In Part IV of the Yearbook, readers of the Yearbook are informed of newly enacted arbitration legislation through summaries of the salient features of the legislation. In this volume, information is provided on Austria, Cambodia, Italy and Malaysia.

Part II – A, Arbitral Awards, contains a selection of ad hoc awards and awards made under the auspices of the German Maritime Arbitration Association (GMAA), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Netherlands Arbitration Institute (NAI). The ad hoc arbitral award (*Altmann, et al. v. Austria*) returning five Klimt paintings held in Austria to the heirs of the original owners illustrates the acceptance of the use of arbitration in the settlement of cultural property disputes. The selection of awards also includes three awards where the arbitral tribunal found that it lacked jurisdiction: GMAA award of 8 November 2005, ICC award no. 10904 and the ad hoc UNCITRAL award of 2 June 2005. Other recurring topics are the applicable law and, in particular, the application or exclusion of the 1980 United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG); limitation periods and time limits, particularly with respect to the notification of defects; and the calculation of the arbitration and legal costs.

## INTRODUCTION

For several years the Yearbook has not included excerpts of awards made under the auspices of ICSID and its Additional Facility, as well as other “investment awards” made under BITs and NAFTA, because the full texts of such awards are posted, within a short time after being issued, on various well-known websites. A new feature in Part II – A, however, is a “Digest of Investment Treaty Decisions and Awards”, compiled by Devashish Krishan and Ania Farren. The Digest comprises publicly available final decisions and awards in investor-state arbitrations conducted pursuant to investment treaties and provides basic information on the decisions and awards, subject matters and the places on the Internet where they are posted.

Part II – B contains the US Supreme Court decision of 26 February 2006 in *Buckeye v. Cardogna* where it was held that it is for the arbitrator, not the court to decide the question if a contract containing an arbitration agreement is void for illegality. This very recent decision has already been extensively referred to in subsequent US District and Circuit Court decisions applying the 1958 New York Convention. This Part also contains the decision of the US District Court, District of Columbia of 31 October 2005 in *Loewen v. USA* where the court found that the claim to set aside a NAFTA award was time-barred.

As of this volume, the decision was taken no longer to reproduce in Part II – C the reporting in UNCITRAL’s CLOUT on the Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration, as CLOUT can be consulted on UNCITRAL’s own website (<[www.uncitral.org](http://www.uncitral.org)>) together with a variety of indices to facilitate research.

In a further step, only a limited selection of new arbitration rules are reproduced in this volume, as arbitral institutions now make their rules available on their websites, often in several languages, shortly after they are adopted. Part III – A includes the text of the newly amended Rules of the International Arbitration Centre of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, with an Introduction by DDr. Werner Melis; ICSID and its Additional Facility; and the International Commercial Arbitration Court of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, with an Introduction by Prof. Alexander Komarov. Information is also provided on newly amended rules of a number of other arbitral institutions, with reference to where they may be found on their websites.

Part V – A, reporting on the 1958 New York Convention, constitutes the bulk of the Yearbook. Ninety-five cases from fifteen countries are included this year, including for the first time, cases from Israel. Decisions from Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong and India reflect the parallel application of the UNCITRAL Model Law as adopted in these jurisdictions together with the

## INTRODUCTION

Convention. The 1961 European Convention and the 1975 Panama Convention are also applied in conjunction with the 1958 New York Convention. The reporting includes cases from Austria, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain, all translated from their original language into English.

Recurring issues in the 1958 New York Convention decisions include waiver and estoppel, arbitrability of issues arising under a particular law, set-off, non-signatories to the arbitration agreement, sovereign immunity, Bilateral Enforcement Treaties and Bilateral Investment Treaties. Among the selection of US decisions, eight decisions relate to a tax strategy marketed to clients of an accounting firm which would entail a series of foreign investments and re-investments. When the US Internal Revenue Service determined that the “losses” generated by this strategy could not be used to reduce income tax liability, numerous clients sued in state courts. In the reported cases, the various defendants, relying on the 1958 New York Convention, removed the suit to federal court and sought to have the case referred to arbitration. In five of the cases, the district courts held that the action was properly removed to federal court under the Convention:

United States District Court, Central District of California, Southern Division, 14 December 2004 (US no. 529) *Reddam*;  
United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division, 6 January 2005 and 9 January 2006 (US no. 530) *Chew*;  
United States District Court, Central District of California, Southern Division, 29 March 2005 (US no. 535) *Hansen*;  
United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, 19 May 2005 (US no. 541) *Galtney*;  
United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, 30 November 2005 (US no. 559) *Wilson*.

In the three remaining decisions, the district courts held that on the facts, the action could not be removed from state court as it neither involved property located abroad, envisaged performance abroad nor had some other reasonable relationship with a foreign state:

United States District Court, District of Oregon, 13 September 2005 (US no. 552) *Maletis*;  
United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division, 28 November 2005 and 30 December 2005 (US no. 558) *Ling*;

## INTRODUCTION

United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division, 5 December 2005 (US no. 560) *RA*.

Part V – C contains the decision of the UK High Court of 20 October 2005 concerning the ICSID award in *AIG v. Kazakhstan* and immunity from execution of assets held on behalf of the National Bank of Kazakhstan.

Each component of Part V (Part V – A on the 1958 New York Convention, Part V – B on the 1961 European Convention, Part V – C on the 1965 Washington Convention, and Part V – D on the 1975 Panama Convention) contains an up-to-date list of Contracting States and Signatories to the respective Convention. In addition, Part V – A contains an Index of Cases Reported in Volume XXXI (2006) which links the cases to the Commentaries on the New York Convention prepared by the General Editor (see Volume XXVIII (2003) for the most recent Commentary).

The Yearbook concludes with the Bibliography which this year includes several works on dispute settlement in the WTO, sports arbitration, European community law and detailed commentaries on the ICC Arbitration Rules and the new Swiss Rules.

Each year, as General Editor, I express my gratitude to the network of correspondents whose interest and generosity make it possible for the Yearbook to effectively portray the broad spectrum of international commercial arbitration as it evolves. That this expression is repeated year after year serves to emphasize the dedication and loyalty of the many contributors who make the Yearbook possible. The correspondents are too numerous to thank individually in this Introduction. They are mentioned and acknowledged in the Introductions to the various Parts and in footnotes where appropriate.

Another annual feature of this Introduction is an expression of appreciation to the ICCA Editorial Staff. I wish to express again my deep appreciation to the ICCA Editorial Staff for all the work done in compiling and editing the volume of the Yearbook. Throughout the year, Ms. Alice Siegel, sub-editor; D.ssa Silvia Borelli, assistant managing editor; and Ms. Judy Freedberg, managing editor, request and gather material, make selections, provide translations, prepare excerpts and transform all this into a meticulously edited volume.

A very special word of thanks goes to Judy Freedberg who will go on retirement on 1 July 2007. For more than twenty-five years she has been the linchpin of the ICCA publications. She came on board in 1979. Her involvement in the ICCA publications has been extra-ordinary. It is no exaggeration that without her, the ICCA publications would not have achieved the size and status

## INTRODUCTION

they have today. ICCA in particular and the world of international arbitration in general owe Judy a formidable debt of gratitude.

On behalf of ICCA, thanks go to the Permanent Court of Arbitration and its Secretary-General, Tjaco T. van den Hout, who, for nearly a decade, have hosted the Editorial Staff at the headquarters of its International Bureau at the Peace Palace. The administrative and technical support of the entire PCA staff is greatly appreciated.

In all of its publications, ICCA is advised by ICCA's Editorial Board. The Editorial Board is presently composed of Dr. Gerold Herrmann, President of ICCA (Austria); Mr. Antonio Parra, Secretary-General of ICCA (United States); Mr. Jan Paulsson, General Editor, *International Handbook on Commercial Arbitration* (France); Mr. Martin Hunter (United Kingdom) and the undersigned as General Editor of the ICCA publications.

Since the inception of the Yearbook, readers throughout the world have been a major source of material. Therefore, may I continue to call on you, as reader and Yearbook user, to submit texts concerning:

- recent changes in arbitration legislation;
- newly enacted arbitration rules;
- arbitral awards (the confidentiality of which is ensured);
- court decisions of general interest and, in particular, court decisions applying the UNCITRAL Model Law or the New York, European, Washington or Panama Convention.

Brussels  
November 2006

Albert Jan van den Berg  
General Editor

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

VOLUME XXXI – 2006

<b>Introduction</b>	
Albert Jan van den Berg, General Editor	v
<b>Table of Contents</b>	xi
<b>Part I – National Reports</b>	1
<i>Note General Editor</i>	
Table of Contents of <i>International Handbook on Commercial Arbitration</i>	1
<b>Part II – A. Arbitral Awards</b>	11
<i>Ad hoc</i>	
• Award of 15 January 2006 <i>Maria V. Altmann, et al. v. The Republic of Austria</i>	13
<i>Ad hoc – UNCITRAL</i>	
• Award of 2 June 2005 <i>Econet Wireless Ltd. v. First Bank of Nigeria, et al.</i>	49
<i>Germany</i>	
<i>German Maritime Arbitration Association</i>	
• Award of 8 November 2005	66
<i>International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)</i>	
• Case no. 10377 of 2002, final award	72
• Case no. 10904 of 2002, final award on jurisdiction	95
• Case no. 11333 of 2002, interim award	117
• Case no. 11440 of 2003, final award	127
• Case no. 11849 of 2003, final award	148
Yearbook Comm. Arb'n XXXI (2006)	xi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Netherlands</i>	
<i>Netherlands Arbitration Institute</i>	
• Partial final award of 17 May 2005 and final award of 5 July 2005	172
<b>Index of Arbitral Awards</b>	191
<i>Introduction</i>	191
<i>Index of Arbitral Awards</i>	193
<b>Digest of Investment Treaty Decisions and Awards</b>	
<i>By Devashish Krishan and Ania Farren</i>	199
<b>Part II – B. Court Decisions on Arbitration</b>	319
<i>United States</i>	
• United States District Court, District of Columbia, 31 October 2005 <i>Raymond L. Loewen v. United States of America</i>	321
• Supreme Court of the United States, 21 February 2006 <i>Buckeye Check Cashing, Inc. v. John Cardegnna, et al.</i>	326
<b>Part II – C. Court Decisions Applying the UNCITRAL Model Law</b>	335
<b>Part III – A. Arbitration Rules</b>	337
<i>Introduction</i>	339
<i>International Arbitral Centre of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (Vienna International Arbitral Centre, VIAC)</i>	
• New Vienna Rules, by DDr. Werner Melis	341
• Rules of Arbitration and Conciliation, 1 July 2006	348
<i>International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)</i>	
• Rules of Procedure for the Institution of Conciliation and	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Arbitration Proceedings (Institution Rules), 10 April 2006	372
• Rules of Procedure for Conciliation Proceedings (Conciliation Rules), 10 April 2006	375
• Rules of Procedure for Arbitration Proceedings (Arbitration Rules), 10 April 2006	388
• Rules Governing the Additional Facility for the Administration of Proceedings by the Secretariat of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Additional Facility Rules), 10 April 2006	412
• Schedule A: Fact-finding (Additional Facility) Rules, 10 April 2006	414
• Schedule B: Conciliation (Additional Facility) Rules, 10 April 2006	421
• Schedule C: Arbitration (Additional Facility) Rules, 10 April 2006	436
 <i>International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation</i>	
• Introduction to the Revision of the Rules of the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (ICAC), by Prof. A.S. Komarov	456
• Rules of the International Commercial Arbitration Court at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, 1 March 2006	462
 <b>Part III – B. Iran-US Claims Tribunal</b>	 491
<i>Introduction</i>	493
 <b>Part IV – Recent Developments in Arbitration Law and Practice</b>	 495
<i>Introduction</i>	497
Austria	497
Cambodia	500
Italy	502
Malaysia	503
 Yearbook Comm. Arb'n XXXI (2006)	 xiii

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Part V – A. Court Decisions on the New York Convention 1958</b>	507
<i>Introduction</i>	509
<i>List of Contracting States (as of 18 October 2006)</i>	512
<i>Index of Cases Reported in Volume XXXI (2006)</i>	
<i>Albert Jan van den Berg</i>	519
<i>Australia</i>	
• No. 26. Supreme Court of New South Wales, Equity Division, Commercial List, 17 March 2005 <i>ML Ubase Holdings Co Limited v. Trigem Computer Inc.</i>	537
• No. 27. Supreme Court of Victoria, Commercial and Equity Division, Commercial List, 30 May 2005 <i>Stericorp Ltd v. Stericycle Inc</i>	549
• No. 28. Federal Court of Australia, New South Wales District Registry, 15 August 2005 <i>Walter Rau Neusser Oel und Fett AG v. Cross Pacific Trading Ltd., et al.</i>	559
<i>Austria</i>	
• No. 14. Oberster Gerichtshof, 31 March 2005 <i>C v. Dr. Vladimir Z.</i>	583
<i>Belgium</i>	
• No. 13. Hof van Cassatie, 15 October 2004 <i>Colvi N.V. v. Interdica</i>	587
<i>Canada</i>	
• No. 20. Federal Court of Appeal, 24 January 2005 <i>TMR Energy Limited v. State Property Fund of Ukraine</i>	595
• No. 21. Federal Court of Canada, 27 April 2005 <i>Trans-Pacific Shipping Co. v. Atlantic &amp; Orient Shipping Corporation (BVI), et al.</i>	601
• No. 22. Supreme Court of Canada, 22 July 2005 <i>GreCon Dimter Inc. v. J.R. Normand Inc., et al.</i>	611
<i>China</i>	
• No. 3. Supreme People’s Court, 12 November 2003	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Hong Kong Heung Chun Cereal &amp; Oil Food Co. Ltd. v. Anhui Cereal &amp; Oil Food Import &amp; Export Co. Ltd., et al.</i>	620
• No. 4. Supreme People’s Court, 5 July 2004 <i>Wei Mao International (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd. v. Shanxi Tianli Industrial Co. Ltd.</i>	624
<i>France</i>	
• No. 36. Cour d’appel, Paris, 29 September 2005 <i>Directorate General of Civil Aviation of the Emirate of Dubai v. International Bechtel Co. Limited Liability Company</i>	629
• No. 37. Cour d’appel, Paris, 15 June 2006 <i>Legal Department of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Iraq v. Fincantieri – Cantieri Navali Italiani, et al.</i>	635
<i>Germany</i>	
• No. 84. Hanseatisches Oberlandesgericht, Bremen, 30 September 1999 <i>Claimant v. Defendant</i>	640
• No. 85. Oberlandesgericht, Schleswig, 30 March 2000 <i>Claimant v. Defendant</i>	652
• No. 86. Oberlandesgericht, Düsseldorf, 19 January 2005 <i>Claimant v. Defendant</i>	663
• No. 87. Oberlandesgericht, Dresden, 30 March 2005 <i>Seller v. German Buyer</i>	671
• No. 88. Court of Appeal, Koblenz, 28 July 2005 <i>Claimant v. Defendant</i>	673
• No. 89. Bundesgerichtshof, 21 September 2005 <i>Claimant v. Defendant</i>	679
• No. 90. Oberlandesgericht, Hamm, 27 September 2005 <i>Consultant v. German company</i>	685
• No. 91. Bundesgerichtshof, 4 October 2005 <i>Franz J. Sedelmayer v. Russian Federation, et al.</i>	698
• No. 92. Bundesgerichtshof, 4 October 2005 <i>Franz J. Sedelmayer v. Russian Federation, et al.</i>	707
• No. 93. Oberlandesgericht, Dresden, 2 November 2005 <i>Claimant v. German company</i>	718
Yearbook Comm. Arb’n XXXI (2006)	xv

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• No. 94. Oberlandesgericht, Dresden, 7 November 2005 <i>Claimant v. German company</i>	720
• No. 95. Oberlandesgericht, Munich, 28 November 2005 <i>Construction company v. Painting contractors</i>	722
<i>Hong Kong</i>	
• No. 19. High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Court of First Instance Construction and Arbitration Proceedings, 6 March 2002 <i>Shandong Textiles Import and Export Corporation v. Da Hua Non-ferrous Metals Company Limited</i>	729
<i>India</i>	
• No. 41. Supreme Court, 12 August 2005 <i>Shin-Etsu Chemical Co. Ltd. v. Aksh Optifibre Ltd., et al.</i>	747
<i>Israel</i>	
• No. 1. Jerusalem District Court, 23 November 2004 <i>Epis S.A., et al. v. Medibar Ltd.</i>	786
• No. 2. Supreme Court, 7 September 2005 <i>hotels.com v. Zuz Tourism Ltd., et al.</i>	791
<i>Italy</i>	
• No. 167. Corte di Cassazione, First Chamber, 17 April 2003 <i>Lanificio Mario Zegna SpA v. Ermenegildo Zegna Corporation, et al.</i>	798
• No. 168. Corte di Cassazione, First Chamber, 8 April 2004 <i>Vigel S.p.A. v. China National Machine Tool Corporation</i>	802
<i>Netherlands</i>	
• No. 29. Voorzieningenrechter, Rechtbank, The Hague, 27 May 2004 and Gerechtshof, The Hague, 24 March 2005 <i>Marketing Displays International Inc. v. VR Van Raalte Reclame B.V.</i>	808
<i>Spain</i>	
• No. 43. Tribunal Supremo, Civil Chamber, First Section, 20 March 2001 <i>Angel v. Bernardo Alfageme, S.A.</i>	821
• No. 44. Tribunal Supremo, Civil Chamber, 23 July 2001	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Kern Electrónica, S.A. v. Goldstar Company Limited</i>	825
• No. 45. Tribunal Supremo, Civil Chamber, First Section, 13 November 2001 <i>Centrotex, S.A. v. Agencia Gestora de Negocias, S.A. (Agensa)</i>	834
• No. 46. Tribunal Supremo, Civil Chamber, First Section, 20 July 2004 <i>Antilles Cement Corporation v. Transficem</i>	846
<i>United Kingdom</i>	
• No. 70. High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench Division, Commercial Court, 27 April 2005 <i>IPCO Nigeria Limited v. Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation</i>	853
• No. 71. High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench Division, Commercial Court, 29 April 2005 <i>The Republic of Ecuador v. Occidental Exploration and Production Company</i>	867
• No. 72. High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench Division, Commercial Court, 4 November 2005 <i>Svenska Petroleum Exploration AB v. Government of the Republic of Lithuania, et al.</i>	906
• No. 73. Court of Appeal (Civil Division), 21 February 2006 and 8 March 2006 <i>Ajay Kanoria, et al. v. Tony Francis Guinness</i>	943
• No. 74. Court of Appeal (Civil Division), 8 March 2006 <i>Amir Weissfisch v. Anthony Julius, et al.</i>	955
• No. 75. High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench Division, Commercial Court, 24 March 2006 <i>Yisroel Meir Halpern v. Nochum Mordecai Halpern, et al.</i>	964
<i>United States</i>	
• No. 526. United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, Western Division, 30 September 2004 <i>Theresa Ballard v. Illinois Central Railroad Company, et al.</i>	978
• No. 527. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 10 November 2004 and 29 December 2005 <i>Gerling Global Reinsurance Corporation, U.S. Branch v. Sompo Japan Insurance Company</i>	983
Yearbook Comm. Arb’n XXXI (2006)	xvii

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- No. 528. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 25 November 2004  
*Oltchim, S.A. v. Velco Chemicals, Inc.* 992
- No. 529. United States District Court, Central District of California, Southern Division, 14 December 2004  
*J. Paul Reddam, et al. v. KPMG LLP, et al.* 997
- No. 530. United States District Court, Southern District of Mississippi, Jackson Division, 6 January 2005 and 9 January 2006  
*John S. Chew, Jr., et al. v. KPMG, LLP, et al.* 1010
- No. 531. United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 15 March 2005 and United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, 19 April 2006  
*Sankyo Corporation (Japan), et al. v. Nakamura Trading Corporation* 1034
- No. 532. United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, 18 March 2005  
*Jane Doe v. Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd.* 1049
- No. 533. United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 18 March 2005  
*Jacada (Europe), Ltd. v. International Marketing Strategies, Inc.* 1054
- No. 534. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 28 March 2005  
*SiVault Systems, Inc. v. WonderNet, Ltd.* 1066
- No. 535. United States District Court, Central District of California, Southern Division, 29 March 2005  
*Stephen L. Hansen v. KPMG, LLP, et al.* 1070
- No. 536. Supreme Court of New York, New York County, 4 April 2005  
*CanWest Global Communications Corp. v. Mirkaei Tikshoret Limited* 1078
- No. 537. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 15 April 2005 and 20 May 2005  
*Coimex Trading (Suisse) S.A. v. Cargill International S.A.* 1090
- No. 538. United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, 2 May 2005  
*Kerry Mangin (US), et al. v. Murphy Oil USA, Inc. (US), et al.* 1096
- No. 539. United States District Court, District of Kansas, 10 May 2005



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Guang Dong Light Headgear Factory Co., Ltd. v. ACI International, Inc.</i>	1105
• No. 540. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 23 May 2005 <i>Liberty Re (Bermuda) Ltd. v. Transamerica Occidental Life Insurance Company</i>	1125
• No. 541. United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, 19 May 2005 <i>William F. Galtney, Jr., et al. v. KPMG, LLP, et al.</i>	1133
• No. 542. United States District Court, Middle District of Louisiana, 8 June 2005 <i>Robert E. Berg v. Sage Environmental Consulting of Austin, Inc.</i>	1147
• No. 543. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 9 June 2005 <i>Hughes, Hooker &amp; Co., et al. v. American Steamship Owners Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association, Inc., et al.</i>	1152
• No. 544. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 27 June 2005 <i>Republic of Ecuador, et al. v. ChevronTexaco Corporation, et al.</i>	1162
• No. 545. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 18 July 2005 <i>Empresa Generadora de Electricidad ITABO, S.A. v. Corporacion Dominicana de Empresas Electricas Estatales</i>	1195
• No. 546. United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, 18 July 2005 <i>Freudenberg-Nok, G.P. v. Auto Juntas, S.A.</i>	1206
• No. 547. United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, 1 August 2005 <i>Mark Newby, et al. v. Enron Corporation, et al.</i>	1211
• No. 548. United States District Court, District of Delaware, 2 August 2005 <i>China Three Gorges Project Corporation v. Rotec Industries, Inc.</i>	1231
• No. 549. United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, 3 August 2005 <i>Harco National Insurance Company v. Millenium Insurance Underwriting Limited</i>	1236

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- No. 550. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 3 August 2005 and United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 15 February 2006  
*JSC Surgutneftegaz v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* 1241
- No. 551. United States District Court, District of New Hampshire, 9 August 2005 and 20 September 2005; United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit, 11 July 2006  
*Marks 3-Zet-Ernst Marks GmbH & Co. KG v. Presstek, Inc.* 1256
- No. 552. United States District Court, District of Oregon, 13 September 2005  
*Chris C. Maletis III, et al. v. Perkins & Company, P.C., et al.* 1273
- No. 553. Court of Appeal of California, Second Appellate District, Division Four, 7 October 2005  
*Oh Young Industrial Co., Ltd. v. E & J Textile Group, Inc.* 1285
- No. 554. United States District Court, Central District of California, 7 October 2005  
*AtGames Holdings Ltd. v. Radica Games Ltd., et al.* 1294
- No. 555. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 13 October 2005 and United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 13 June 2006  
*Solé Resorts, S.A., de C.V. v. Allure Resorts Management, LLC* 1298
- No. 556. United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit, 8 November 2005  
*Eugene Scanlon, et al. v. M/V SUPER SERVANT 3, et al.* 1311
- No. 557. United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 22 November 2005  
*Jiangsu Changlong Chemicals, Co., Inc. v. Burlington Bio-Medical & Scientific Corporation* 1316
- No. 558. United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division, 28 November 2005 and 30 December 2005  
*Michael Ling, et al. v. Deutsche Bank AG, et al.* 1320
- No. 559. United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, 30 November 2005  
*Donald R. Wilson, Jr., et al. v. Deutsche Bank AG, et al.* 1331
- No. 560. United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division, 5 December 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>RA Investment I, LLC, et al. v. Smith &amp; Frank Group Services, et al.</i>	1338
• No. 561. United States District Court, District of New Jersey, 13 December 2005 <i>AT&amp;T Corp. v. American Ridge Insurance Company, et al.</i>	1348
• No. 562. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 14 December 2005 <i>Weizmann Institute of Science v. Janet C. Neschis, et al.</i>	1352
• No. 563. United States District Court, Western District of Washington, 16 December 2005 <i>Korea Wheel Corporation v. JCA Corporation</i>	1367
• No. 564. United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, 22 December 2005 <i>Jorf Lasfar Energy Company, S.C.A. v. AMCI Export Corporation</i>	1370
• No. 565. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 28 December 2005 <i>InterDigital Communications Corporation, et al. v. Nokia Corporation</i>	1375
• No. 566. United States District Court, Western District of Michigan, Southern Division, 29 December 2005 <i>Sparks Belting Company v. BDL Maschinenbaugesellschaft GmbH, et al.</i>	1380
• No. 567. United States District Court, Northern District of California, 3 January 2006 <i>GlobalSantaFe Drilling Company v. Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania, et al.</i>	1386
• No. 568. United States District Court, District of Columbia, 18 January 2006 <i>Moscow Dynamo v. Alexander M. Ovechkin</i>	1396
• No. 569. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 24 January 2006 and United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 14 April 2006 <i>Oriental Republic of Uruguay, et al. v. Chemical Overseas Holdings, Inc., et al.</i>	1403
• No. 570. United States District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, 2 February 2006 <i>Sheridan Schofield v. International Development Group Co., Ltd., et al.</i>	1414
• No. 571. United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 8 February 2006	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Best Concrete Mix Corp., et al. v. Lloyd's of London Underwriters, et al.</i>	1422
• No. 572. United States District Court, Northern District of California, 24 February 2006 <i>Medical Insurance Exchange of California v. Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London, et al.</i>	1429
• No. 573. United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, 6 March 2006 <i>R.M.F. Global, Inc., et al. v. Elio D. Cattan, et al.</i>	1439
• No. 574. United States District Court, Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont Division, 15 March 2006 <i>Gulf Petro Trading Company, Inc., et al. v. Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, et al.</i>	1445
• No. 575. United States District Court, District of Columbia, 17 March 2006 <i>TermoRio S.A. E.S.P., et al. v. Republic of Colombia</i>	1457
• No. 576. United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, 5 April 2006 <i>Gheroghe Tuca v. Ocean Freighters, Ltd.</i>	1474
• No. 577. Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, First Department, 25 April 2006 <i>Gabriel Capital, L.P., et al. v. CAIB Investmentbank Aktiengesellschaft, etc., et al.</i>	1482
• No. 578. United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 16 May 2006 <i>Libancell S.A.L. v. The Republic of Lebanon</i>	1486
• No. 579. United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 8 June 2006 <i>Ken Acosta, et al. v. Master Maintenance and Construction Inc., et al.</i>	1494
<b>Part V – B. Court Decisions on the European Convention 1961</b>	1503
<i>List of Contracting States (as of 18 October 2006)</i>	1507

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Part V– C. Court Decisions on the Washington Convention 1965</b>	1511
<i>List of Contracting States and Signatories (as of 20 October 2006)</i>	1513
• No. W1. High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench Division, Commercial Court, 20 October 2005 <i>AIG Capital Partners, Inc., et al. v. The Republic of Kazakhstan</i>	1520
<b>Part V – D. Court Decisions on the Panama Convention 1975</b>	1553
<i>List of Contracting States (as of 27 October 2006)</i>	1555
<b>Part VI – Articles on Arbitration</b>	1557
<b>Part VII – Bibliography</b>	1559
<i>I. General</i>	1561
<i>II. Countries</i>	1574
<i>III. Journals on Arbitration</i>	1582
<b>List of ICCA Officers and Members</b>	1591