



Van den Berg to take the helm at ICCA

Douglas Thomson • Monday, 4 November 2013 (39 minutes ago)

The International Council for Commercial Arbitration has elected Dutch arbitrator **Albert Jan van den Berg** as its next president.



Albert Jan van den Berg

Van den Berg's election by the ICCA governing board was announced on 1 November. He will take office at the ICCA Congress in Miami in April and serve a four-year term.

He replaces Bahrain's **Jan Paulsson**, who has been president since 2010. Paulsson says, "Over many years, no one has surpassed **Albert Jan van den Berg** in terms of his concrete and enduring contributions to ICCA, notably but not exclusively as general editor of the indispensable *Yearbook of Commercial Arbitration*."

Paulsson adds, "His election will surprise no one.

All supporters of ICCA look forward to the infusion of energy and institutional ambition we know we can expect from him."

In his [election manifesto](#), van den Berg said he will be a "transitional" president for the implementation of the organisation's new constitution and by-laws, which will come into effect on 1 January. He also pledged to place ICCA on a firmer financial footing with a "balanced and sustainable" budget.

Van den Berg highlighted a number of areas to be addressed during his term, including the organisation's overstretched human resources. Its small staff has a wide array of responsibilities, he noted.

He also indicated that the organisation's publications committee "may want to do some fundamental rethinking" to maintain the position of ICCA's publications. He warned that the "varying quality of the presentations" at ICCA Congresses, and their ever-growing attendance would need to be addressed, possibly through a more rigorous speaker selection process and additional formats to complement large seminars.

His election comes after a 27-year association with ICCA, beginning with his appointment as general editor of the *Yearbook* in 1986. He has been general editor of the ICCA Congress series since 1993, and a member of what was until recently known as the ICCA Council since 1989. The council was reformed last year as a governing board as part of a general restructuring that also saw the organisation open up its membership to the wider arbitration community. He has also been involved in the 'ICCA New York Convention Roadshow', familiarising judges around the world with the New York Convention. He has also developed a [website](#) dedicated to the Convention.

Van den Berg's career has spanned academia and private practice. He is a professor at Rotterdam's Erasmus University and Beijing's University of Tsinghua, and a member of the faculty of the University of Geneva's Master of Laws in International Dispute Settlement programme; until earlier this year he was visiting professor at the Miami University School of Law. He has been president and secretary-general of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute, and vice president of the London Court of International Arbitration.

Now a partner at Hanotiau & van den Berg, he began his career in 1973 as a private assistant to ICCA's founder, the late Pieter Sanders. Joining Rotterdam firm Van Doorne & Sjollemma Advocaten in 1980, he left in 1998 for Stibbe Simont Monahan Duhot in Amsterdam, joining Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in 1999. In 2001 he set up his current firm with Belgian arbitrator Bernard Hanotiau.

Van den Berg says, "I am very honoured by the confidence that the ICCA governing board members have put in me. I intend to continue the leadership that ICCA has taken in recent years in the direction of more transparency of its organisation. It is exciting to be able to work together with the more than 800 ICCA members in transitioning and implementing the new constitution and byelaws."

ICCA recently began [accepting bids](#) from organisations looking to host its 2018 Congress. The 2016 event will take place in Mauritius.

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