

Salomon in line to succeed Mourre at ICC

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Claudia Salomon

Latham & Watkins partner **Claudia Salomon** has been recommended for election as president of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, paving the way for her to become the first woman to hold the role in the institution's 100-year history.

The ICC said today that a selection committee had recommended Salomon, a US national, to succeed **Alexis Mourre** as ICC Court president when his term ends in June next year.

The recommendation is subject to the endorsement by the ICC executive board at its meeting next month, after which she must be formally elected by the ICC world council next year.

Salomon, who is a vice president of the court, will step down from the partnership at Latham & Watkins ahead of the election.

She says: “It is a true honour and privilege to have been selected to succeed Alexis Mourre. I want to thank the selection committee for their trust. I look forward to building on Alexis’ success to assure that the ICC Court remains the most preferred arbitral institution worldwide.”

Mourre says: “Claudia is an outstanding practitioner of universal reputation, and it has been a true pleasure and a great privilege working with her as vice-president of the Court since July 2018. With her expertise, experience, and unique leadership, she will bring the Court to a new level and further strengthen its position as the best and most preferred arbitral institution in all regions of the world.”

Mourre became president of the court in 2015, taking over from **John Beechey**. He was re-elected in 2018 but announced in March this year that he would not seek re-election when his second term expired.

To find his replacement, the ICC executive board established a 15-member selection committee chaired by **Michael McIlwrath**, in-house counsel at Baker Hughes, to conduct a public appointment process with pre-selected candidates invited to interview in October.

ICC secretary general **John Denton** said: “I have no doubt that in naming Claudia, the selection committee has put forward the best candidate to lead the ICC Court into its next century as the leading provider of trusted and neutral dispute resolution services that provide greater recourse to justice and enable greater peace and prosperity worldwide.”

Salomon has been a partner at Latham in New York since 2013 and co-chairs its international arbitration practice.

Before that, she spent eight years at DLA Piper in New York, where she was also co-chair of the firm's arbitration team. She has also previously served as co-chair of the ICC commission on arbitration and ADR's taskforce on financial institutions and international arbitration.

Salomon's practice as counsel and arbitrator includes energy, construction, technology, post-M&A and joint venture disputes.

She is currently acting as counsel in ICC disputes for Los Angeles-based Puma Biotechnology over a US\$195 million licence agreement to promote a breast cancer drug in Greater China; and for US events company Live Nation over a terminated US\$462 million deal to acquire a stake in a Mexican promoter.

Salomon is also advising US hedge fund Mason Capital on its US\$200 million treaty claim against South Korea.

Latham's global chair of litigation **Michele Johnson** says: "Claudia is a wonderful partner, friend, and mentor and has made many contributions to the firm and our international arbitration practice. We warmly congratulate her on this history-making achievement and wish her all the best as she takes on this new role."