

Media Release

Superior Court of Fulton County

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Superior Court of Fulton County's Business Court Division is Now Home to International Commercial Arbitration

Specialized Court in Atlanta designated to hear disputes subject to international arbitration

June 17, 2015, Atlanta, GA—Atlanta recently joined the ranks of major hubs for international commercial arbitration such as New York, Paris, and Miami by designating a specialized court to provide assistance in aid of international commercial arbitrations and to facilitate the prompt enforcement of international arbitral awards. On May 7, 2015, the Supreme Court of Georgia approved a revision to the Business Court Division Rule to allow parties to transfer legal proceedings related to international arbitration agreements and awards to the Business Court Division.

The Business Court Division was established in 2005 for the purpose of providing specialized judicial attention to complex commercial litigation. The Division has developed a strong reputation for promptly resolving disputes. While the Division strives to rule on every motion filed within 30 days of the motion being fully briefed and heard, the average time for resolution of motions in 2013-2014 was approximately 15 days. In a 2011 survey of attorneys who had litigated in the Business Court Division between 2009 and 2011, an overwhelming number of attorney respondents viewed fast and efficient adjudication of Courts to be a positive attribute of the Division.

Atlanta has made great strides to become a preferred venue for international commercial arbitration. The push to create an international arbitration-friendly environment in Atlanta is shared by stakeholders in state and local government, chambers of commerce, academia and the legal community. Georgia State University School of Law, in coordination with Atlanta International Arbitration Society ("AtLAS"), is opening a new state of the art hearing facility, the Atlanta Center for International Arbitration and Mediation, in September of 2015. With the busiest airport in the world, relatively low business costs, and global corporations that call this city home, Atlanta is primed to compete with other large cities like London, Paris, New York, Miami, Singapore, and Hong Kong in the international commercial arbitration arena.

The Georgia Assembly passed a new UNCITRAL-based International Commercial Arbitration Code in 2012, which updated a prior international arbitration code adopted in 1988 (only the second such code enacted by any U.S. state). Georgia also boasts numerous rules friendly to non-U.S. practitioners. Under Georgia's State Bar rules, non-U.S. lawyers may appear on behalf of clients in international arbitrations, and may appear on a *pro hac vice* basis in ancillary court proceedings.



YOLANDA L. LEWIS, DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Designating the Superior Court of Fulton County's Business Court Division as the specialized court to hear and resolve legal issues arising out of international commercial arbitration will enhance procedural efficiency and promotes consistency in the development of international arbitration jurisprudence. This dedicated court will be well versed in the specific and complex issues that arise in international commercial arbitration and can develop streamlined processes with a consistent division of staff to ensure predictability. For more information and resources, please visit our website at <http://www.fultoncourt.org/business/>.



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