

**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF
ARBITRATORS**



CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction – Law and Custom	3
Benefits of Membership	4
The Role of the Company	5
Governance, Structure and Membership	7
Activities of the Company	9
Pupillage Scheme	12
A Brief History of Livery Companies	13
Contacting Us	15

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
Incorporated by Royal Charter

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www.arbitratorscompany.org

Introduction – Law and Custom



The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators is a collegiate forum for all practitioners and proponents of arbitration, mediation, adjudication and all other forms of private dispute resolution.

The Company actively supports the profession of arbitration and other forms of private dispute resolution. It offers professionals from varied disciplines opportunities to exchange ideas and information in convivial surroundings. It exercises the role of a Livery Company within the traditions of the City of London and encourages members to participate in the governance of the City of London and to support the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and the Aldermen.

Through its charitable trust, the Company provides educational grants and prizes to students of private dispute resolution. It also provides welfare support where needed. The Company also runs a unique pupillage scheme, enabling those intending to practise as arbitrators, mediators and adjudicators to gain practical experience with top professionals in the world of private dispute resolution.

Its outreach projects include educational activities in inner city schools with the aim of improving skills and aspirations and encouraging wider participation in the business of the City of London.

Benefits of Membership

The Livery is a centuries old tradition that continues to thrive in the twenty-first century because its members are forward looking as well as appreciating the past. Joining the Arbitrators' Company provides:

OPPORTUNITY to be part of an historic tradition stretching back over 1,000 years and to become a Freeman of the City of London.

ACCESS to a number of City of London functions and the opportunity (as a Liveryman) to take part in the election of the Lord Mayor & Sheriffs of the City.

OPPORTUNITIES to meet with fellow members from across the dispute resolution profession.



OPPORTUNITIES to give something back to the City by supporting the Company's educational and other charitable activities.

ACCESS to the Company's own professional and social programme, including the Masters' Lecture and the magnificent Annual Banquet usually held at Mansion House.

OPPORTUNITIES to contribute to the continued success of the UK and the City of London as an international centre of professional excellence.



The Role of the Company

Dispute Resolution The City of London has long been an international centre for Arbitration. The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators is established as a collegiate forum for practitioners and proponents of arbitration, mediation, adjudication and all other forms of private dispute resolution. As one of the twelve companies forming the Financial Services Group we aim to support the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and the Aldermen in the governance of the City of London and in the promotion of London and the UK as a centre for the provision of private dispute resolution services; the Company is also a source of advice and guidance internationally.



Royal Charter The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators was granted Livery at a meeting of the Court of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London at Guildhall on 17th March 1981. On 17th March 2011, Her Majesty The Queen approved the grant of a Royal Charter to the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators. The Royal Charter creating the Company as 'one Body corporate and Politic' was sealed on 24th April 2012.

Charity Charitable work is at the heart of the Company and is an important part of the Livery. The main sources of income come through regular donations from members of the Company and through fund raising activities.

Education The Company is committed to promoting education in its widest sense and particularly in supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds who have fewer opportunities than others. The educational objectives of the Company are administered by the Education Committee and funded by the Company's Charitable Trust.



Social Through its diary of social events, members of the Company have the opportunity to discuss issues affecting their practice areas and to socialise in convivial settings. These are not limited to formal events but extend to visits, excursions, musical and sporting events and members are encouraged to participate in the social life of the Company.

Lectures The Master's Lecture, held in London each year, is a prestigious event in the Arbitrators' calendar attracting prominent speakers from the arbitration and legal professions. This and other similar events provide opportunities for members and their guests to get together, listen to stimulating talks and exchange views about the current subjects of interest.

Governance, Structure and Membership

Governance

The responsibility for the activities of the Company rests with the Master, who is elected and holds office for one year, and his two Wardens, the Senior and the Junior Warden, who are elected at the same time as the Master and likewise hold office for one year. They are advised by the Clerk who is responsible for administration. They are supported in their tasks by the Court of Assistants, up to 24 members of the Company who meet four times a year and by a number of committees.



Membership

The Company welcomes applications from those with an interest in private dispute resolution and who are ready and willing to support the Company's aims and make an active contribution to its work. It is the policy of the Company to elect members regardless of age, race, disability, religion or belief, gender or sexual orientation.

The Freedom

Membership, historically called the Freedom, is open to professionals and others engaged in or supportive of any form of private dispute resolution. Applicants are expected either to have relevant experience as a dispute resolution practitioner or to be involved in dispute resolution or to be interested in developing such experience or involvement. Applicants may be involved in academic study, be members of a relevant professional body or by other means may support or promote private dispute resolution. Applications must be supported by two members of the Company. Members will be welcomed from throughout the UK and overseas provided they respect the ceremony, service and commitment required and the involvement with the City of London and support the Company's philanthropic aims and charitable works.



Livery

A Freeman who has been a member for a minimum period of twelve months, has obtained the Freedom of the City of London and meets certain other criteria may apply to become a Liveryman of the Company. At the present time the maximum number of Liverymen of the Company is set at 300. It is necessary for all candidates to demonstrate their commitment to service in the Company and its charitable objectives before progressing to Livery. Admission to the Freedom of the Company and to the Livery is a matter for the Court of Assistants. The majority of activities of the Company are open to all members although some are restricted to Liverymen.

Activities of the Company

Dispute Resolution The Company aims to maintain a programme of activities which promotes arbitration, mediation, adjudication and other forms of dispute resolution in the City of London and elsewhere. It provides members with the opportunity of hearing from distinguished experts in the field and to exchange ideas and views in convivial surroundings.



Charitable Trust The Company has established a charitable trust through which it expects to build substantial funds, with the aim of supporting its educational work with young people and generally in the field of arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution.



Working with Young People Livery Schools Link is a voluntary organisation that aims to promote support for schools especially in the Inner London area by Livery Companies of the City of London and their members, helping to prepare young people for the world of work. The Company is a supporter of King Edward School, Witley, and Clara Grant School, Tower Hamlets. Members of the Company are encouraged to offer assistance by mentoring, participating in educational workshops or advisory or financial assistance to schools to assist children from less advantaged backgrounds to receive an enhanced educational experience at school, to learn about skills and professions that are open to them, and to have their personal aspirations raised, thereby increasing employment and career options.

Education

There is a firm commitment to supporting education in the field of alternative dispute resolution. In alternate years the Company organises a Mediation Skills weekend and an Arbitration weekend, in each case generously sponsored and hosted by a leading City law firm. Each event is open to universities and law colleges throughout the UK and is intended to assist in training law students to better understand the skills needed to become effective dispute resolution practitioners and to give students the opportunity to exhibit and develop their skills. Student teams present cases and conduct negotiations before experienced panels of professionals and judges who provide constructive feedback to all participants. The winners have the opportunity to compete in the Paris ICC mediation competition.



Supporting HM Services and Cadets The Company provides support for HMS Mersey. This ship is the youngest of the original batch of River class patrol vessels built for the Fishery Protection Squadron, the oldest unit in the Royal Navy. She patrols the waters of the UK and up to 200 miles in the Atlantic ensuring that fishing boats and trawlers stick to internationally-agreed quotas. The affiliation aims to promote the well-being and interest of the ship and to provide assistance and support. Each year a member of the crew is nominated to receive the 'Sailor of the Year Award'.



The Company also supports 13 Company, Greater London Army Cadet Force, South West Sector. The affiliation is intended to encourage the Officers, Adult Instructors, Cadets and detachments of 13 Company by the recognition of their achievements. We offer awards each year to the Cadet ‘Peacemaker of the Year’; to the Detachment judged to have made the best contribution to the local community and for outstanding contribution by one of the many adult volunteers. We also look for opportunities to showcase the Cadets through their participation in some of our events.



Financial Services Group

The Company is one of twelve modern livery companies which form the City’s Financial Services Group. The Group’s mandate is to apply their individual and collective expertise to advise the Lord Mayor in support of both inbound and outbound official visits, to keep the Mayor’s office updated with current information and thereby enhance the impact of the Lord Mayor’s representation of the City. The Arbitrators, while covering all areas of Private Dispute Resolution, provide unique and valuable expertise in the field of international arbitration. This covers both international disputes brought to London as a neutral venue where the parties frequently make use of UK based law firms, counsel and experts, and arbitrations conducted in many centres abroad where, similarly, UK based representatives and advisers are regularly involved. All this brings substantial overseas earnings to the UK and adds to the prestige and reputation of the City.

Pupillage Scheme

The Pupillage Scheme offers practical experience and mentoring to those seeking to progress their careers in private dispute resolution, in the UK and internationally, whether or not this involves further professional qualifications.

Pupillage is usually a two year programme, although this may be extended by a further twelve months. It is spent shadowing a mentor who may practice in the areas of arbitration, mediation or adjudication or a combination of these. The principal objective is to provide practical experience of procedural matters, hearings and awards in arbitration and decisions in adjudication and the opportunity to observe and assist at mediations.

The pupils are selected following an interview. Selection is based on a set of criteria, with the emphasis firmly on quality and not quantity. Candidates will usually already have a professional qualification and will usually be in the post-experience stage.

Pupils will be expected to keep a logbook and to liaise regularly with their mentor. The Company has a programme to encourage contact and communication between pupils, so that they can share experiences. An annual get-together for pupils is also organised.



The Company's Charitable Trust provides loans and/or grants to worthy candidates who wish to embark upon education in private dispute resolution.

For further details please see the website www.arbitratorscompany.org

A Brief History of Livery Companies

The history of livery companies in the City of London goes back to at least the twelfth century. They have their origins in the guilds that were set up to regulate the provision of services and manufacture and selling of goods in the City of London. Disputes were settled by arbitration in their halls, which were also used by the guild members as meeting places for their trade. In medieval times, the term “livery” was used for the allowance of food, drink and clothing provided to the officers and retainers of great households. Gradually, the term became used for the clothing and decorations worn as symbols of the guilds, which became known as livery companies.

Today there are over one hundred livery companies, with a total of more than 40,000 members, each linked to the professions, trades and crafts that have operated in the City over the years. Linking all these Companies is a spirit of philanthropy and service. Livery Companies today support and in some cases still regulate their trades and professions; they help to educate and train new entrants to and students of those trades; they contribute to the governance of the City of London and they offer charitable support to help people all over the world, particularly their education and welfare. Together the various Companies give over £40 million a year to charitable causes and support over three hundred schools, colleges and universities.

Livery Companies play a vital part in the government of the City of London. Liverymen choose and elect the Lord Mayor of London and the Sheriffs of the City. They participate in many functions of the City and of the Corporation, including the Lord Mayor’s Show. Each year the Lord Mayor nominates beneficiaries of the Lord Mayor’s Appeal, a standing charity, for which funds are raised by commercial sponsors and the livery companies.

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

There is evidence that arbitration and mediation were in use in early China, Ancient Greece and in the Roman Empire. Historians have found that the Phoenicians used mediation to resolve trading disputes. During the Middle Ages the Papacy fulfilled the role of arbitrator in disputes which arose between Kingdoms and nations across Europe. In England and elsewhere arbitration was in regular use to decide commercial disputes and the Masters of the early Guilds, the forerunners of today's Livery Companies, often acted as arbitrators in disputes between guild members and between those members and their customers.

The development of modern international arbitration is often traced from the Jay Treaty of 1794 between the United Kingdom and the newly independent United States of America. This established three arbitral commissions to settle claims arising out of the American Revolution. In 1871 under the Treaty of Washington, arbitration was used to settle claims relating to British neutrality during the American Civil War.

In 1892 the City of London Chamber of Arbitration was inaugurated, with the support of the London Chamber of Commerce, establishing a tribunal for the arbitration of domestic and 'trans-national' commercial disputes within the compass of the City. It now functions as the London Court of International Arbitration and offers not just arbitration and mediation but other forms of dispute resolution, including adjudication and expert determination.

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators was created by the grant of Letters Patent on 17th March 1981 and became the ninety-third in the list of Livery Companies of the City. Thirty years later, on 17th March 2011, the Company was informed that Her Majesty The Queen had approved the grant of a Royal Charter to the Company at a Privy Council meeting. The Royal Charter creating the Company as 'one Body corporate and Politic' was sealed on 24th April 2012.

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Contacting Us

More details about the Company and the procedure involved in becoming a member may be obtained from the Clerk to the Company:

E-Mail: clerk@arbitratorscompany.org

Also see the Company's website for further details:

www.arbitratorscompany.org