LCIA names new director general

Douglas Thomson

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The LCIA has named Dutch practitioner Jacomijn van Haersolte-van Hof as its new director general – the first time a non-UK national has held the role.

Van Haersolte-van Hof will take up the position on 30 June when Adrian Winstanley steps down after 17 years in the role to pursue a career as an arbitrator, mediator and consultant.

Winstanley, who was last year awarded the honour of OBE in the United Kingdom for his services to international arbitration, announced his retirement from the LCIA six months ago. The institution began the hunt for his successor by forming a special committee composed of members of the LCIA Board and Court to consider candidates.

LCIA Board chairman J William Rowley QC, who sat on the selection committee, says, “Jackie has exactly what it takes to lead the LCIA through the next stage of its development. She is a self-starter, with drive, responsiveness, proven organisational abilities, collegiality and, vitally, a true understanding and feel for all aspects of international arbitration. We are delighted to be welcoming her as the LCIA’s new director general.”

Rowley also pays tribute to departing director general Winstanley. “The fact that the LCIA has become one of the few truly global arbitral institutions is due in very large part to Adrian’s tremendous leadership, commitment to excellence, and the exercise of great judgment over the past 17 years.”

Van Haersolte-van Hof currently practises as a counsel and arbitrator in The Hague, at her GAR 100 boutique HaersolteHof. She plans to wrap up her counsel work by mid-May but will continue to follow through on cases where she is sitting as arbitrator until their conclusion. She will relocate to London, returning to the Netherlands at the weekends.

She set up HaersolteHof in 2008 after three years as of counsel in the international arbitration group at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Amsterdam. She was previously with Amsterdam firm De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek from 2000 to 2004, and before that Loeff Claeys Verbeke in Rotterdam, which she joined on her qualification in 1992.
She has sat as arbitrator in cases under the ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL rules, as well as those of the Netherlands Arbitration Institute (NAI), on whose supervisory board she sits. She has also arbitrated cases at the Royal Dutch Grain and Feed Trade Association and the Institute of Transport and Maritime Arbitration, both based in the Netherlands.

She was also involved in setting up the arbitral process for the Claims Resolution Tribunal in Zurich, which analysed claims from Holocaust survivors over dormant accounts in Swiss banks.

In addition to her arbitration practice, she is a lecturer in international arbitration at VU University Amsterdam and a member of GAR’s editorial board.

Her 1992 PhD thesis on the application of the UNCITRAL rules by Iran-US Claims Tribunal was one of the first books to be published on the subject.

Van Haersolte-van Hof says, “I am delighted to be taking up this position at the LCIA, and honoured to be succeeding Adrian Winstanley. The LCIA is unique among the leading arbitral institutions in providing the highest quality and reliability of service, while often being first to identify new needs and trends and responding effectively to these. It also manages to combine a truly international perspective with a solid English basis.”

Another member of the selection committee, Christopher Style QC, deputy chairman of the LCIA board, says the panel was partly swayed by Van Haersolte-van Hof’s “broad experience” as counsel and arbitrator and her reputation as “a respected speaker, prolific writer, and a heavy-hitting arbitration expert.” he says.

Her Dutch nationality was also a factor, Style notes. “The LCIA is an international institution and so it is fantastic that for the first time ever we will have a non-Brit as our director general.”

Finally, Style says she is “great fun, well-known and well-liked, and good at relating to arbitrators, counsel, and governments. It is going to be an exciting ride, and I am looking forward to seeing where she will take us.”

Her arrival comes as the LCIA prepares to launch its new set of arbitral rules. It is also set to station its first representative in the Asia-Pacific region, through a cooperation agreement with the newly established Seoul International Dispute Resolution Centre.

William W Park, president of the LCIA court, says, “One cannot overstate the significance of the role of director general in all dimensions of the LCIA’s mission, not only in the capacity of executive director, but also in the LCIA’s core activities of casework, conferences and publications. I have every confidence that Jackie will help us to advance in each of these areas.”

Outgoing director-general Winstanley adds, “Jackie will be working from solid foundations, but will need to face the not-inconsiderable challenges of continuing to excel in an increasingly competitive market, as she works to consolidate London’s
leading role within the industry, and to expand the LCIA's services globally through its overseas ventures."

He adds, “I am delighted that Jackie has accepted the position and I have complete confidence that she will play a pivotal part in bringing further success to the LCIA.”

**Selection panel**

- J William Rowley QC (Chairman of the LCIA Board)
- William W Park (President of the LCIA Court)
- Christopher Style QC (Deputy Chairman of the LCIA Board)
- V V Veeder QC (Vice President of the LCIA Court)
- Judith Gill QC
- Paula Hodges QC
- Adrian Winstanley OBE