

## ICC Recommends 1st Female President Of Arbitration Court

By **Diamond Naga Siu**

*Law360 (November 3, 2020, 5:15 PM EST)* -- The International Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday recommended a partner at Latham & Watkins LLP to be the next International Court of Arbitration president in 2021, setting the attorney on track to be the first woman to lead the ICC court.

Claudia Salomon is currently the vice president of the ICC International Court of Arbitration and has long been involved with the ICC, including serving as the co-chair of the task force on financial institutions and international arbitration and serving as the U.S. court member for the ICC court.

"It was just an opportunity that I wanted to pursue in order to lead the organization into its next century," Salomon told Law360 on Tuesday.

Salomon said she really believes in the importance of the ICC, especially because it's different from other arbitral institutions in that it's truly global and not connected with any nationality or geography.

She is a member of the New York bar but attributes her interest in international arbitration to a mentor who told her more than 20 years ago that international arbitration was the "wave of the future."

"That made sense to me, and I had an opportunity to begin to work on international arbitration cases in Arizona," she said. "And then I went to Prague in October 2001 on five days' notice originally for a month, and then I stayed for three years."

Salomon said that after taking "a bit of a leap," she ended up working on one of the largest investment treaty cases for the Czech Republic and stayed in Europe, working on international arbitration cases throughout the continent.

Salomon also currently serves as the global co-chair of her firm's international arbitration practice, but she will have to step down before the World Council election next year that would make her position official.

"Claudia is a wonderful partner, friend, and mentor and has made many contributions to the firm and our international arbitration practice," Michele Johnson, the global chair of Latham's litigation and trial department, said in a statement.

"We warmly congratulate her on this history-making achievement and wish her all the best as she takes on this new role," Johnson said.

Salomon would assume the role on July 1, once current ICC court President Alexis Mourre steps down after his second term ends on June 30.

"I'm just truly thrilled to have the opportunity to lead the organization," Salomon said.

The ICC executive board began their search process for a successor in March and began interviewing candidates in October, according to their announcement. The recommendation now awaits endorsement by the ICC executive board during their meeting next month.

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.