

Partner, London

International Litigation and Arbitration



T: 44.20.7519.7191
F: 44.20.7519.7070
karyl.nairn@skadden.com

Education

B.Juris. (Honors), University of Western Australia

L.L.B. (Honors), University of Western Australia

L.L.M., University of London

Bar Admissions

Solicitor, England & Wales (1991)

Queen's Counsel (2013)

Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia (1988) and the Federal and High Court of Australia (1989)

Karyl Nairn is co-head of Skadden's Global International Litigation and Arbitration Group. She focuses on complex international commercial arbitration and litigation, as well as investment treaty arbitration, while acting for governments and corporations across a range of industry sectors, including finance and banking, oil and gas, mining, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications.

Ms. Nairn regularly is appointed as counsel or arbitrator in complex international disputes in cases conducted under the auspices of leading international arbitral institutions. In addition to her advocacy work in arbitrations, she manages complex cross-border litigation and investigation matters, both in England and offshore jurisdictions, with a particular focus on joint venture/shareholder issues and disputes arising out of complex M&A transactions.

Ms. Nairn served as a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration from 1999 to 2015, including as a vice president. She is a member of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and currently serves on the Appointments Committee of ICC Australia. She has been a member of the LCIA Court since 2016 and was appointed as a vice president in 2019.

Recent representative matters as counsel include:

- acting as lead counsel for NextEra Energy Global Holdings BV and NextEra Energy Spain Holdings BV in the successful prosecution of ICSID claims under the Energy Charter Treaty arising out of changes to Spanish law in the renewable energy sector;
- advising a company and former directors in proceedings before the U.K. Supreme Court concerning the scope of directors' duties under English law;
- acting as lead counsel in a series of multibillion-dollar LCIA arbitrations and related British Virgin Islands proceedings between the shareholders of a major mobile telecommunications company;
- representing a group of trustee companies in connection with multibillion-dollar claims brought in an offshore jurisdiction;
- acting as lead counsel for the Republic of South Sudan in ICSID proceedings brought by Sudapet Co. Ltd. concerning the disputed ownership of significant oil field interests;
- advising a multinational company in connection with follow-on damages claims in the English Court arising out of cartel allegations;
- acting as lead counsel for a shareholder group in an UNCITRAL arbitration in London in a multibillion-dollar dispute involving one of the world's largest telecommunications companies;
- acting as global coordinating counsel in relation to an arbitration in Turkey between a Middle Eastern media company and a sporting association; and
- advising a leading industrial designer in connection with U.S. and English Court proceedings involving IP and contract claims.

Karyl Nairn QC

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Recent appointments as an arbitrator include sitting:

- in an ICC arbitration arising out of the acquisition of a pharmaceuticals business (Singapore seat);
- in a matter arising out of a mining concession (London seat);
- in connection with a gas pricing dispute (London seat); and
- in connection with a gas pricing dispute (Singapore seat).

Ms. Nairn is ranked in the top tier of “leading individuals” for international arbitration in *Chambers Global*, *Chambers Europe* and *Chambers UK*. She also was named to *Best Lawyers in the UK* for her arbitration work and *The Legal 500* named her to its U.K. Hall of Fame, describing her as being “in a league of her own.” Ms. Nairn was named one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Law by *Legal Business* magazine and was highly ranked in the *Chambers 100* list of the top 100 lawyers in the U.K. She also was named a 2021 Litigation Star for U.K. - International Arbitration by *Benchmark Litigation* and named to the *Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration 2021* Global Leaders list.

Associations

The Law Society of England and Wales

The Law Council of Australia

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law

The International Bar Association

Vice President, The London Court of International Arbitration

The American Arbitration Association

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Member, ICC Commission on Arbitration

Chair, Development Board, JUSTICE

Member, Advisory Council, SIAC

Trustee, Dance Heginbotham, New York

Trustee, Intermediate

Trustee, Foundation for Australia and New Zealand Arts (FANZA)

Publications

Joint Editor of *Arbitration World*, Jurisdictional Comparisons, 4th, 5th and 6th Editions, published by *Thomson Reuters* (2012, 2015 and 2019)