



**16 April 2019**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ACICA ELECTS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT**

Brenda Horrigan has been elected by the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) as its first female President. Brenda, Partner and Head of the Herbert Smith Freehills International Arbitration practice in Australia, was a member of the ACICA Executive for a year prior to her appointment as President. Her appointment at the AGM held on 15 April 2019 reflects ACICA's commitment to increasing diversity in the field of arbitration as reflected in its signature to the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge following its release in 2016 (see [media release](#)). Females constitute nearly half of the ACICA Executive which, in addition to Brenda, include Georgia Quick (Partner, Ashurst) who continues in her role as a Vice President, Judith Levine (Senior Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration) who was elected this year as an Executive Director and Secretary General Deborah Tomkinson.

ACICA leadership team comprises individuals from various sectors with extensive international and domestic arbitration and dispute resolution expertise. This year a number of new members have been welcomed. Brenda replaces Alex Baykitch AM (Partner, King & Wood Mallesons), who stepped down from the role as President at the AGM after successfully heading the institution for the past five years. Khory McCormick (Consultant, Bartley Cohen Lawyers) retired this year from his long-held position as a Vice President with Jonathon Redwood (Barrister, Banco Chambers) being elected into this role. Andrea Martignoni (Partner, Allens) was re-elected as ACICA's third Vice President. Martin Cairns (Director, Sapere Research Group) was elected as Treasurer following the recent retirement of former Treasurer Tony Samuel (Managing Director, Sapere Research Group). Ian Govey AM was also re-elected as an Executive Director and ACICA's Deputy Secretary General, Jonathon De Boos (CPB Contractors) continued in this role. David Fairlie, a prior member of the Executive for many years also retired from the Board at the AGM.

Of her appointment Brenda comments: "I have enjoyed being Executive Director of ACICA, and being the first woman elected as President is a privilege. I thank Alex Baykitch AM for his outstanding contributions to ACICA over the last five years and am delighted to have been appointed President of such a valued organisation.

This is an exciting time for ACICA. In light of the real growth in the practice in Australia, ACICA is well positioned to respond to growing demand for arbitration and dispute resolution services, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. I look forward to continue working with such a dynamic, efficient arbitral body at the forefront of judicial education and co-operation in international arbitration."

ACICA President Alex Baykitch said: The ACICA Board is very fortunate to have Brenda appointed as ACICA's next President. Brenda brings tremendous international experience

to the role and has shown a strong commitment to increasing ACICA's profile internationally. She will be a great asset to the executive team."

ACICA Secretary General Deborah Tomkinson commented: Brenda has been actively involved with ACICA as a Director over the last three years and the secretariat is delighted to have her expand her involvement by leading the executive team. We look forward to working closely with her in her role as President. The institution also extends its gratitude to Alex Baykitch AM, Khory McCormick, David Fairlie and Tony Samuel, who have dedicated a great deal of time and expertise to ensuring ACICA's growth and development over many years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with them."

**End.**

### **Media Enquiries**

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### **ABOUT ACICA**

Established in 1985, ACICA's objective is to facilitate the efficient resolution of commercial disputes in Australia and internationally by arbitration, with the aim of delivering expediency and neutrality of process, enforceability of outcome and commercial privacy to parties in dispute. ACICA maintains sets of arbitration and mediation rules under which administers these processes. ACICA can also acts as an appointing authority. In 2011, ACICA was designated by the Australian government as the sole default appointing authority competent to perform the arbitrator appointment functions under the amended *International Arbitration Act 1974* (Cth).

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