



***Irene Welser*** is the Senior Partner of CERHA HEMPEL and heads the Contentious Business Department. She has been an equity partner for 30 years.

Irene is a passionate counsel and team leader in big-scale arbitrations. She is well known for never leaving the big picture out of sight and fiercely fighting for her clients. As an arbitrator, she adopts an efficient approach avoiding unnecessary formalism. Her strong academic background ensures the awards she writes thoroughly tackle the legal issues involved. Irene has participated in 70 international and national arbitrations pursuant to the ICC, Vienna and UNCITRAL Rules.

Shareholder disputes, construction, liability, contract, insurance and energy law as well as M&A and oil & gas disputes are key areas of her practice. She is also general counsel to corporate clients and so combines her litigation and arbitration proficiency with a firm understanding of how to avoid and/or settle disputes. Irene is an author and co-author of numerous books and articles related to arbitration. In 2003, she was appointed the youngest honorary professor ever at the University of Vienna. Irene Welser is a Board Member of the Vienna International Arbitral Centre. In this capacity, she has been involved in the development of the new VIAC Rules 2021.

Irene Welser is a regular speaker at international conferences and recognized educational institutions (*e.g.*, Austrian Attorneys' Academy or the Summer Arbitration Academy of the University of Vienna).

She has lectured on arbitration across the world and is an active part of the international arbitration community. Irene is a proud member of Arbitral Women. Irene is chair emeritus of the Litigation Arbitration & Dispute Resolution working group of LEX MUNDI. She is not only co-editor of the Austrian Yearbook on International Arbitration but is the only author who has contributed to each and every edition of this yearbook since its launch in 2007. Her clients benefit from her strong personality and her devotedness to success that often finds innovative solutions to tricky issues.

Irene is a member of ASA, IBA, LCIA, Arbitral Women and the board of the Chinese-European Legal Association. In recent years, Irene has held lectures on international arbitration in Istanbul, California, Hong-Kong, Beijing, Seoul, Tokyo, Brussels, Romania, Slovakia and at the Düsseldorf Arbitration School as well as at the Austrian Arbitration Academy.

Irene speaks German, English, French and Italian.

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