



Miami wins bid to host ICCA Congress in 2014

MIAMI, May 26, 2011 - Following a presentation by a delegation from the Miami International Arbitration Society, led by **Chairman Burton Landy** (of the Akerman Senterfitt law firm) Miami was chosen to host a key international legal conference in 2014. At its annual Council meeting held in Geneva on May 21, the International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) comprised of the world's most prominent practitioners and scholars in the field of international commercial arbitration, selected Miami as the venue for its biennial Congress. Founded in 1961, ICCA is the leading global organization focused on the practice of international commercial arbitration. This Congress, often referred to as the "Olympics" of the international commercial arbitration world, will be attended by 1,000 international lawyers from around the world who will be coming to Miami to hear presentations by the most prominent international arbitration practitioners and scholars in the field.

Miami's selection marks yet another milestone in Miami's prominence as an international legal center. The Miami delegation touted a multitude of factors that made Miami the right choice for this high-profile conference, including the number of international legal programs at the city's various law schools. The group cited the University of Miami's recently established program for advanced studies in international arbitration that has attracted some of the world's leading authorities in the field to teach at the University. Judy Freedberg, the program's director, was one of the delegation members who travelled to Geneva for the presentation. It also cited arbitration initiatives at Florida International University, Florida's adoption of a special Bar rule that allows non-Florida attorneys to participate in international arbitration proceedings in Florida, the creation of the ICDR's state-of-the-art hearing center in Miami, Florida's passage of the UNCITRAL Model Law last year, the existence of an independent and transparent judicial system which supports arbitration and Miami's multi-lingual and multi-cultural professional workforce.

International arbitration is the method commonly used by companies to resolve disputes in international business transactions. By virtue of, among other things, its geographic position at the crossroads of Latin America, Europe and North America, Miami has become a key venue for international arbitrations. **Jan Paulsson, president of ICCA**, took note of the delegation's point that Miami regularly ranks "as the second leading venue for international arbitration in the U.S., after New York." The U.S. has hosted the prestigious ICCA Congress only once before - in New York in 1986.

Miami is already the place of choice for key legal conferences. Two of the world's leading international arbitration service providers, the International Chamber of Commerce and the International Center for Dispute Resolution, already hold their showcase annual conferences in Miami, attracting hundreds of leading international business lawyers. **Attorney Eduardo Palmer**, who was a key player in convincing the ICDR to locate its showcase conference in Miami years ago, commented: "This historic opportunity will help us build on our sustained and targeted efforts over the last decade to develop the infrastructure necessary to position Miami as the leading international arbitration site in the Americas."

A team of Miami International Arbitration Society members, including **Ines Calderon, Raul Cantero, Cristina Cardenas, Gary Davidson, Mauricio Gomm, Richard Lorenzo, Eduardo Palmer, Rodolfo Pittaluga, John Rooney and Quinn Smith** spent months preparing the bid designed to showcase Miami as a thriving and dynamic city which has emerged as an important international arbitration center.

In addition to Chairman Landy, the Miami delegation that presented the bid in Geneva included MIAS members known to the ICCA Council: **Jose Astigarraga, founding partner, Astigarraga Davis; John Barkett, partner, Shook Hardy Bacon; Judy Freedberg, program director, University of Miami School of Law; and Daniel González, co-director of international arbitration and partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP.**

The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau (GMVCB) provided its full support for the preparation of the bid. **Bill Talbert, president of the GMVCB**, stated, "Bringing the ICCA Congress to Miami offers a tremendous opportunity to present our destination to the world. We could not be more pleased."

Upon hearing of the decision, Burton Landy commented, "It is a great honor for Miami's legal community to be part of this endeavor. We are eager to move forward with planning a first-class event for our international colleagues."

Of the 21 congresses ICCA has held since the Council was founded in 1961, 12 have been held in Europe, five in Asia, three in North America and one in the Middle East. The last few congresses have taken place in Montreal (2006), Dublin (2008) and Rio de Janeiro (2010) - ICCA's first time in South America. The 2012 Congress will take place in Singapore.

About ICCA

ICCA is the leading organization focused on the practice of international commercial arbitration. Founded in 1961, ICCA is comprised of a select group of the world's most prominent practitioners and scholars in the field of international commercial arbitration. The organization has played a critical role in the study and development of arbitral rules and legislation such as the UNCITRAL Model Law.

About ICCA Miami 2014, Inc.

ICCA Miami 2014, Inc. was created to develop and promote the 2014 Congress. www.miamiicca2014.com

About the Miami International Arbitration Society

The Miami International Arbitration Society (MIAS) was founded in order to promote the use of international arbitration and mediation and the selection of Miami as the site for international arbitration proceedings related to the resolution of trans-border commercial and investment disputes. The society also provides a forum where practitioners and others interested in international arbitration can network and exchange ideas and information about this growing practice area.

www.miamiinternationalarbitration.com

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