

**Benjamin F. Hughes**

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Benjamin Hughes is an independent arbitrator at Fountain Court Chambers in Singapore, a member of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and a member of the Investment Committee of Omni Bridgeway. Previously, he was a professor at Seoul National University Law School, adjunct professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, the founding co-chair of the international arbitration practice group at one of Korea's largest law firms and a member of the international arbitration team at Shearman & Sterling in the US and Singapore. Since leaving law firm practice in 2013, he has been appointed in over 250 arbitrations with several billion dollars in dispute.

Mr. Hughes has served as arbitrator under the rules of the AAA/ICDR, ACICA, AIAC, BIAC/BAC, CAA, CIETAC, DIFC-LCIA, DIS, HKIAC, ICC, JAMS, JCAA, KCAB, LCIA, LMAA, SCC, SCCA, SCMA, SIAC, UNCITRAL (both administered and ad-hoc) and VIAC. He has also acted as emergency arbitrator and as sole arbitrator in expedited and fast-track proceedings and is a panel arbitrator of numerous arbitral institutions.

His experience as arbitrator spans a broad range of commercial disputes, including joint venture and shareholder disputes, intellectual property and licensing, media and telecommunications, construction and infrastructure projects, energy and resources, shipping and shipbuilding, automobile and heavy machinery manufacturing, agency and distributorship agreements, military acquisition and procurement contracts, hotel management agreements, sale of goods and general commercial disputes.

Mr. Hughes has been appointed in cases seated in Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States (including New York, California, Hawaii, and US territories) and Vietnam.

He has heard cases governed by the laws of Australia, Austria, BVI, Cayman Islands, China, England and Wales, Fiji, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia (including *Sharia*), Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United States (including New York, California and US territories) and Vietnam, as well as *lex mercatoria* and the CISG. He has also handled complex conflict of law and jurisdictional issues, joinder and intervention applications, summary dismissal applications and disputes involving multiple contracts and applicable laws.

Mr. Hughes is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the College of Commercial Arbitrators. He has taught extensively in the field of international dispute resolution, including as associate professor of law at Seoul National University Law School, adjunct professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, and as a visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong

Faculty of Law and National Taiwan University Law School. He also serves on the editorial boards of the Asian International Arbitration Journal, the Korea Arbitration Review and the Journal of Korean Law.

Mr. Hughes was educated in both the civil law and the common law traditions, having studied first at Seoul National University College of Law (MA, all coursework in Korean), and then at NYU School of Law (JD). While at NYU, he spent one semester at the University of Palermo Law School in Buenos Aires, Argentina (all coursework in Spanish). He also studied Mandarin in Beijing and East Asian history at Harvard University.

## Recent Recognition

*Benjamin Hughes is an independent arbitrator who is particularly well known for his longstanding - and continuing - association with Korean matters, but who has broadened his range since relocating to Singapore. He is now encountered handling arbitrations across the region, with connections to jurisdictions which include China, India, Malaysia and the Philippines.*

*"Ben is a thoroughly competent arbitrator, someone who is popular and in demand."*

*"He is definitely one of the best arbitrators. He is a great guy, very pragmatic."*

### **-- Chambers & Partners: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Asia-Pacific 2024 (Band 1)**

*Benjamin Hughes of Fountain Court Chambers is an experienced international arbitrator, having been appointed on cases under the rules of many arbitral institutions.*

*"He has significant experience in international disputes across different systems of law, and is therefore able to quickly distil the issues and filter out irrelevant arguments."*

*"He is in that truly elite category of arbitrator. He is really easy to deal with since he is friendly, incredibly robust and responsive."*

### **-- Chambers & Partners: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Singapore 2024 (Band 1)**

*Benjamin Hughes has been commended as "an excellent arbitrator" and is "wonderfully talented" in his work in the arbitration space, with testimonials from clients and peers noting that "he always gives well-reasoned, sensible, and thoughtful decisions".*

*"He's deservedly one of the most sought-after arbitrators based in Asia-Pacific."*

*"Benjamin is very popular in arbitrations with a Korean nexus."*

*"He is a thoughtful and dedicated practitioner."*

### **-- Who's Who Legal: Global Elite Thought Leader - Arbitration 2024**

*Benjamin Hughes enjoys widespread endorsements from market respondents as "a respected, efficient and clear-minded arbitrator" producing "high-quality work".*

### **-- Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2024 - Southeast Asia**

## Professional Career

Mar 2013 – present	Independent Arbitrator and Mediator
Mar 2019 – May 2025	Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
Mar 2015 – Feb 2019	Associate Professor, School of Law, Seoul National University
Nov 2009 – Feb 2013	Partner and Co-chair, International Arbitration, Shin & Kim (Seoul)
Sep 2007 – Nov 2009	Senior Associate, Shearman & Sterling LLP (San Francisco, Singapore)
Sep 2005 – Aug 2007	Foreign Attorney, International Arbitration, Kim & Chang (Seoul)
Aug 2004 – Aug 2005	Associate, Shearman & Sterling LLP (San Francisco)
July 2002 – Aug 2004	Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP (San Francisco)

## Education

### **NYU School of Law | JD, 2002**

Dean Robert McKay Scholar; Global Legal Fellow

### **Seoul National University College of Law | MA course, 1999**

Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship; SNU Academic Scholarship

### **Harvard University | MA, 1997**

Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship

### **Fulbright Grantee | 1992 - 1993**

Seoul, Korea

### **Trinity University | BA, 1989**

President's Academic Scholarship

## Languages

English, Korean and Spanish; limited Mandarin.

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For more information and a recent CV, please visit [www.hughesarbitration.com](http://www.hughesarbitration.com).