

Wole Olufunwa LLM, FCI Arb

Partner
Wikborg Rein Singapore

Head of Africa Practice Group
International Arbitration
Singapore/UK

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PERSONAL

Date of Birth: 6 July 1980
Dual Nationality: UK & Nigerian

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Contentious

- Spearhead Ince Africa Practice Group. Developed Africa Group initiatives and responsible for growing firm's Africa related practice.
- Running and supervising multi-million dollar arbitration disputes subject to LMAA, ICC, SIAC, SCMA, Ad Hoc Arbitration in London and Singapore 2010-2021.
- Well experienced in conducting various forms of ADR and adept at managing international cross border disputes.
- Accepted several sole arbitrator appointments by SIAC to determine multi-million dollar disputes governed by English and Singapore law.
- Qualified as English & Wales solicitor (2008) and advise on both English and Singapore law.
- Largest arbitration dispute managed worth over US\$350m between Indonesian and Australian interests under *LoM* (Life of Mine – contract and pricing review contracts).

Non Contentious

- Strong experience advising on shipping contracts, international trade contracts, energy (particularly oil and LNG, offshore, mining & coal offtake agreements, and joint venture/profit share contracts).
- Founder and President of the SALI Club (“Singapore-Africa Law & Investment Club”) in 2017:
www.saliclub.com.sg

WORK EXPERIENCE

Wikborg Rein Singapore Pte Ltd. (November 2023 – date)

Director (Partner):

Maritime and Offshore, International Trade and Energy

- Handling several multi-million dollar Maritime arbitrations;
- Handling several International Trade Matters.
- Giving several presentations and training including on Red Sea issues, SCMA and LMAA arbitrations

Incisive Law LLC, July 2020 – to date (Ince & Co Singapore LLP 2019 to June 2020)

Director (Partner)

International Arbitration: Shipping, Logistics, Energy International Trade and Investment

- Spearheading the global firm's West Africa business whilst managing my Singapore and UK practice.
- Managed US\$95m crypto-currency dispute acting for Kenyan/Nigerian interests against a HK entity.
- Managing a US\$13m bareboat charter dispute acting for Moroccan chartering interests against a Singapore ship-yard.
- Acting for Nigerian EPC contractors against a Chinese yard manufacturing specialized off-shore equipment.
- Acting for Nigeria energy firm against a Malaysian shipyard.
- Several Shipping disputes primarily for P&I Clubs, Standard Club, Gard, Britannia and Nordisk.
- Acting for Indian traders in an iron ore commodities dispute against Chinese buyers.

Holman Fenwick Willan Singapore LLP (2010 - 2019)

Senior Associate (promoted 1 April 2015)

Shipping & Transport

- Dry shipping litigation/arbitration - managing LMAA, SIAC, ICC and SCMA arbitration proceedings. Dealing with Charterparty, bill of lading and contract of affreightment disputes, pool agreements (construction of contract issues and issues concerning repudiator)/ breach), demurrage claims as well as hire and freight claims. Advising on the existence of fiduciary relationships and obligations. Advising on quantification of damages.
- Marine Insurance claims - Managing London High Court proceedings where representing owners of a super yacht in a claim for a total loss valued at US\$10m under their hull marine insurance policy.
- International Arbitrations - Advising and representing Indonesian miners in a dispute worth over US\$350m regarding pricing review provisions in a life of mine contract. I assisted to manage mediation and arbitration proceedings. Tasks included document review, liaising with counsel and client's witnesses. Drafting of pleadings and witness statements. Review and analysis of legal authorities, reporting to clients, etc.
- Advising and managing joint venture / profit share agreement dispute (my own case) worth in the region of US\$2.5m
- International trade commodities disputes: Instructed on several cases to resolve West African crude oil disputes for Singapore clients. Advised on several cases assisting Indian coal traders with disputes arising under sale and purchase contracts for coal sourced in Indonesia. Managing the arbitration process from inception up to issuance of the award.

- **Tasks & Skills:**

Drafting legal advices for clients. Hosting and organising Teleconferences with clients, counsel, factual witnesses and experts.

Legal research. Analysing legal problems and advising clients on procedural strategy. Instructing external counsel and appointing experts. Drafting witness statements. Supervising and training junior associates and paralegals.

Attending and lecturing at international arbitration meets. Most recently attended ICCA Africa (Mauritius - May 2016) and subsequently lectured in Vietnam (October 2016) to a national shipping line on arbitration in Singapore and lately lectured at the ICC Africa (Lagos, Nigeria – May 2017) on international arbitration in Africa and party autonomy.

Rio Tinto (Asia) (6 months part time (May 18 – Oct 18)

Chief Legal Counsel for Marine – Secondment

Dealing with all marine matters in house. Including drafting of contracts, advising on IMO 2020, dealing with port explosion claims, charter disputes, bunker supply contract disputes and negotiation. Drafting commodity contracts. Working with procurement to revise contracts. Developed internal LOI policy checklist. Managed different product groups and cross selling law firm's expertise. Presenting internally to chartering and operations teams

Shipowners Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association (4 months: June 11 - Sept 11)

Legal Counsel - Secondment

Claims Department — FD&D and P&I

Dealing with all Members' Defence and P&I claims arising under their insurance policies. The tasks included reviewing insurance policies and advising on the merits and quantum of claims, evaluating on applicable deductibles and negotiating settlements in respect of claims arising from collisions at sea, crew claims, collisions with terminals/port structures, environmental claims, offshore claims/disputes arising under floating crane charters and instructing suitable external counsel.

Reed Smith LLP, London (08-to 09)

Associate Solicitor

- Good experience in LMAA arbitration, arising from charterparty disputes, international trade disputes, contracts of affreightment and marine insurance disputes. Adept at managing case files with minimal supervision and well versed in liaising and communicating with clients, drafting advices, strategy memos and statements of case.: legal research.
- Adept at undertaking legal research and drafting full and preliminary advices for clients mainly concerned with charterparty disputes (i.e., demurrage claims, unsafe port claims, bunker quality claims, hull fouling claims, off- hire claims and speed and consumption claims).

Bentleys Stokes & Lowless, London (06- to 08)

Trainee Solicitor

Arbitration / Litigation: Maritime

- Prosecution and defence of multi-million dollar cargo claims in arbitration. This has involved drafting statements of case, attendance notes and meeting minutes. Developed ability to advise clients on legal/commercial implications and strategy in prosecution and defence.

Shell International legal Commercial and Corporate Department, London (June - July 06)

Legal Intern

- Shell Legal
 - Proof reading sale and supply contracts
 - Review and amend service and franchise contracts
 - Attending training presentations for off-shore projects.
- STASCO (Shell International Trading and Shipping Company)
 - Shadowed oil traders whilst conducting oil and commodities trading transactions.
 - Granted daily overview of logistics operations, Legal research and handling tanker disputes.

EDUCATION

- 2021 - Fellow of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, FCI Arb

Qualifications

2021	Fellow of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, FCI Arb
2005-6	LLM (Master of Laws – International Environmental and Maritime), (Merit), University College London
2004-5	LPC electives, Debt Finance, Equity Finance, Private Acquisitions, BPP
2003-4	GDL, in Law (Commendation), BPP
2002	BA (2:1 Hons) Classics - Latin with Greek, University College London

Memberships

The SALI Club	Founder and President of the Singapore Africa Law & Investment Club
AFRIMARI	Club of persons of African heritage or interested in African maritime & trade
sectors. LSLC	Member of the London Shipping Law Centre

INTERESTS:

- Rugby: IXV London Nigerian (Since 02 and 1st team captain from 03-06), 1XV UCL (01-02), 1XV Harlequins U21 (99-01), 1XV Middlesex U20 (98-99), Qualified Rugby Coach in coaching in UK and Singapore (01-16).