

## Covington, Columbia Unveil International Arbitration Program

By **Vidya Kauri**

*Law360, New York (April 22, 2016, 10:49 PM ET)* -- Covington & Burling LLP and Columbia Law School are launching an annual international arbitration academy, the first of its kind in the country, the firm said in an interview with Law360 Friday.

Covington's international arbitration attorney Nicole Duclos said that the partnership with the law school's Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration will see the creation of the Covington Academy on International Arbitration which will focus on the practical skills needed for practitioners in the field that aren't typically imparted in substantive academic law school courses.

"There are enough substantive trainings out there and Columbia Law School has a very comprehensive international arbitration program, but we realized that the void in the market is training on practical skills," Duclos said. "Most people learn advocacy skills once they're working. ... That's really the benefit. There's no substitute for experience and that's really what we're trying to convey to the students."

The three-day program is set to begin on May 14 and will consist of training exercises on skills such as witness preparation, cross-examination, oral arguments, strategy meetings with clients and the effective use of documentary evidence, Duclos said, adding that the program, which is limited to 20 students, filled up within days after it was announced in mid-March and now has a waiting list.

According to a flyer that was distributed to potential students along with a registration form last month, the academy noted that its faculty will include, among others, Duclos who specializes in Latin American arbitration, Covington's Stephen R. Bond who is a former Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce's International Court of Arbitration and Thomas Cabbage, co-chair of Covington's energy litigation group.

Duclos said that the program, open to J.D., LL.M. and S.J.D. students from around the world, will give participants an edge over those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to receive live feedback during the practical training exercises from CAIA's faculty who are experienced international arbitration practitioners.

George Bermann, professor and director of the Columbia Law School's Center for International Commercial and Investment Arbitration, said in a statement that CAIA is a "highly innovative" program that will help both newly minted and more experienced lawyers gain effective and practical skills needed in international commercial and investment arbitration.

“This program offers a concentrated practical training that law schools have a difficult time putting in place and no other firm, to my knowledge, has either,” Bermann said. “For Columbia Law School, the academy is a most welcome arrival, complementing what we regard as an already preeminent course of study.”

— Editing by Ben Guilfoy.

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