

Laura C. Abrahamson, Esq., C.Arb, FCollArb,

Arbitrator and Mediator

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Laura C. Abrahamson, Esq., C.Arb, F.CollArb, joined JAMS in 2020 with robust ADR experience following her illustrious legal career in private practice and in-house senior leadership roles at Fortune 500 companies. She brings a unique, well-rounded and pragmatic perspective to her ADR practice, as well as deep national and international experience in commercial disputes and the engineering, construction, oil and gas, and chemicals industries.

Ms. Abrahamson has been appointed as an arbitrator in more than 300 matters under JAMS, AAA/ICDR, CAS, CIAM, LCIA, and ICC rules. She has experience as an arbitrator, advocate and client in the U.S. and significant jurisdictions around the world, including matters involving antitrust, complex commercial contracts, energy, engineering and construction, environmental, labor and employment, insurance coverage, intellectual property, professional liability, securities and sports and entertainment and as counsel under DIAC, ICSID, Thai and UNCITRAL rules.

Prior to joining JAMS, Ms. Abrahamson served as Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Global Head of Disputes at AECOM, an American multinational firm that provides engineering, design, consulting and construction services, where she oversaw complex, cross-border disputes. Previously, Ms. Abrahamson spent nearly 20 years in-house at Occidental Petroleum (OXY), where she led major litigation and domestic and international arbitration efforts. Her experience at OXY and AECOM included numerous plaintiffs' domestic and international arbitration claims arising out of energy, power and construction infrastructure projects; most notably, an ICSID arbitration against the Republic of Ecuador was recognized by *Global Arbitration Review* as the "Most Important Published Decision of 2012" and selected as the "2013 Global Dispute of the Year, Investment Arbitration" by *The American Lawyer*.

Prior to moving in-house, Ms. Abrahamson spent her first seven years of private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, specializing in complex commercial litigation and arbitrations, including representing Big Four accounting firms in shareholder class actions following the 1980s savings and loan crisis and participating in four trials. She returned to private practice at O'Melveny & Myers from 2014 to 2016, focusing on energy and construction matters as well as domestic and international arbitration.

A Chartered Arbitrator of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and the College of Commercial Arbitrators, Ms. Abrahamson is the immediate past president of California Arbitration ("CalArb"), serves on the board of CalArb, the board of the CI Arb North American Branch, the board of governors of the Institute for Corporate Counsel, as an advisory board member for the Institute of Transnational Arbitration; as an arbitrator for the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport, on the List of Arbitrators for the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre

(HKIAC), as a member of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) panel, as a member of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) Reserve Panel of Arbitrators, and as an arbitrator for the Public Works Contract Arbitration Program (PWCA). She is also available for domestic and international appointments under ICC and AAA/ICDR rules.

As a mediator and arbitrator, Ms. Abrahamson is sensitive to the financial, political and other pressures facing parties in disputes, and uses her decades of experience as both an advocate and a client, her strong financial and legal backgrounds and her ability to quickly synthesize information and assess strengths, weaknesses and nuances of cases to promote efficient and fair resolutions.

Ms. Abrahamson holds a degree in business administration from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, with a dual major in accounting and finance, and J.D. from the UCLA School of Law.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS AS ARBITRATOR AND MEDIATOR

Sports and Entertainment

- Issued multiple awards in disputes over anti-doping sanctions as member of Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS); Served as Chair or Co-Arbitrator in cases involving cycling, swimming and track and field athletes
- Arbitrated and mediated employment disputes in the esports and entertainment industries, including disputes over senior executive compensation, equity and stock options
- Issued multiple awards as sole arbitrator in Safe Sport temporary measures cases
- Issued multiple awards in case brought under Horseracing Integrity Welfare Unit (HIWU) rules

Business/Commercial

- Issued awards as sole arbitrator in multiple commercial cases, including breach of contract cases under New York, Texas, Delaware and California law
- Issued award as sole arbitrator in breach of contract dispute arising out of termination of franchise agreement
- Issued award on claims for interference with prospective economic advantage in government contracting
- Arbitrated and granted summary disposition of claims for breach of promissory notes
- Issued award as sole arbitrator in commercial dispute arising out of purchase of minority interest in e-commerce venture
- Issued award related to sale and export of California agricultural products
- Chaired tripartite panel arbitrating contract and tort claims relating to post-closing purchase price adjustments for sale of business
- Arbitrated and issued awards in multiple disputes alleging breach of fiduciary duties by officers and directors
- Arbitrated partnership disputes relating to commercial real estate venture, including valuation and share purchase agreements
- Arbitrated breach of SAAS agreement between health care software company and operator of skilled nursing facilities

- Arbitrated dispute regarding tax gross up obligations under Share Purchase Agreement
- Arbitrated multiple cases involving California's Unfair Competition Act and False Advertising Act
- Arbitrated multiple cases alleging violations of California Consumer Legal Remedies Act and Song-Beverly Consumer Warranty Act
- Arbitrated disputes relating to commercialization of cannabis
- Arbitrated international dispute
- Arb/Med of contractual dispute arising out of multiple joint venture investments
- Mediated intentional interference with contract dispute
- Mediated disputes involving valuation of equity and stock options granted to senior executives

Construction and Engineering

- Arbitrated and issued awards in multi-party disputes relating to alleged engineering and construction defects, including for energy projects, hotel projects and residential properties
- Arbitrated dispute between engineering construction company and consultant relating to major public-private infrastructure projects

Employment

- Arbitrated and mediated numerous employment matters involving wrongful termination, FEHA claims for sexual harassment, hostile work environment, age, race and disability discrimination, retaliation, and failure to prevent/accommodate/engage in interactive process, whistle blower claims, CFRA claims and claims for constructive discharge.
- Arbitrated and mediated multiple disputes relating to California Labor Code wage and hour violations, including meal and rest break, overtime and tip theft disputes, failure to pay minimum wages and PAGA claims
- Issued awards in numerous employment disputes, including:
 - Dispute between senior executive and entertainment company for severance compensation due under employment agreement
 - Dispute between health care provider and hospital including claims of perceived disability discrimination and failure to engage in interactive process
 - Dispute between executive and energy company including claims of gender discrimination and violations of Dodd-Frank Act
 - Dispute between executive and government contractor including claims of embezzlement, breach of contract, interference with prospective economic advantage and fraud
 - Several disputes over former employees' obligations to repay tuition and signing bonuses
 - Multiple disputes between employees and employers involving allegations of discrimination, harassment and wage and hour violations.
- Arbitrated disputes relating to valuation of stock options
- Mediated disputes relating to senior executive compensation agreements, including valuation of equity and stock options in healthcare and technology industries

- Mediated discrimination, harassment and wrongful termination claims.

Energy

- Issued award as sole arbitrator in dispute arising out of purchase and sale agreements and guaranties for development of three mega solar power and battery storage projects
- Issued awards as sole arbitrator in solar panel disputes
- Arbitrated and issued dispositive order in oil and gas dispute regarding post-production costs and calculation of royalties and net profit interests (part of three arbitrator tribunal)
- Arbitrated cross border dispute under CIAM Rules involving contractual claims and construction defects relating to hot salt tank for solar project
- Mediated oil and gas drilling rights dispute between surface and mineral owners
- Mediated multi-party dispute relating to solar panel installation

Environmental

- Mediated disputes concerning interpretation of settlement and indemnification agreements for environmental contamination

Health Care and Life Sciences

- Arbitrated antitrust claims in healthcare sector
- Mediated and arbitrated employment disputes in the healthcare sector involving medical professionals, insurers, medical and dental groups and hospitals (including whistleblower complaints)
- Mediated disputes relating to food safety
- Mediated disputes relating to valuation of equity and stock options in healthcare industry
- Arbitrated contract dispute between health care software company and operator of skilled nursing facilities

Insurance Coverage

- Arbitrated subrogation claim with respect to defective solar panels and cross claims for product liability
- Mediated dispute between surety and subcontractor in public works construction
- In private practice, and more recently as mediator, handled insurance coverage disputes involving environmental contamination

Intellectual Property, Trade Secrets and Technology

- Issued award in cross border dispute involving breach of contract and warranty claims for satellite technology
- Arbitrated cross border dispute regarding whether royalties were due on different product categories alleged to have incorporated technology pursuant to electronics licensing agreement
- Arbitrated trademark secret disputes including claims for trademark infringement, trade libel and theft of customer information brought by supplier against former certified service provider
- Arbitrated cross border dispute arising out of licensing agreement for turbo compressors used in air conditioning systems

- Arbitrated international dispute relating to technology licensing royalties
- Arbitrated dispute arising out of breach of SAAS agreement between health care software company and operator of skilled nursing facilities
- Mediated disputes relating to valuation of equity and stock options in technology industry

Real Estate

- Arbitrated dispute for breach of purchase agreement for commercial real estate venture
- Arbitrated claims of fraudulent inducement and violation of California's Financial Elder Abuse statutes related to timeshare contracts
- Issued award as sole arbitrator in dispute between mortgage lending company and former employee
- Mediated commercial real estate disputes, including claims for intentional interference with real estate sales contract and claims related to environmental liabilities

Professional Liability

- Issued awards in disputes relating to non-payment of fees and claims related to consulting agreement
- Arbitrated legal malpractice and fee disputes between law firms and former clients
- Mediated dispute relating to alleged accounting malpractice brought by client in cannabis industry

Securities and Finance

- Arbitrated unfair competition law claims relating to brokerage and credit card accounts
- Arbitrated disputes relating to breach of share purchase agreement including tax dispute

Honors, Memberships, and Professional Activities

Background and Education

Completed Virtual ADR training conducted by the JAMS Institute, the training arm of JAMS and the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution Mediating the Litigated Case training.

Honors and Awards

- Most Important Published Decision of 2012, *Global Arbitration Review*
- 2013 Global Dispute of the Year: Investment Arbitration, *The American Lawyer*
- Mondaq Thought Leadership Award Winner, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Spring 2024

Memberships and Affiliations

- California Arbitration (CalArb), President 2024- 2025, Vice President 2023-2024, and Board Member 2022-2026
- California International Arbitration Week, Co-Chair 2025 and 2026, Joint Planning Committee 2022-2024
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Chartered Arbitrator 2025- present, Fellow 2018- 2025, North American Branch Board Member 2020-2024
- College of Commercial Arbitrators, Fellow 2023-2026
- Institute for Corporate Counsel, Member Board of Governors 2019-2026
- Institute for Transnational Arbitration, Advisory Board Member 2022-2026, 2014-16
- Boarding for Breast Cancer, Treasurer 2020- 2024, Board Member 2016-2026
- Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) List of Arbitrators, 2021-2026
- London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA) Panel, 2021-2026
- Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) Reserve Panel of Arbitrators, 2025 - 2026
- Public Works Contract Arbitration Program (PWCA) List of Arbitrators, 2021-2026
- Arbitral Women, 2018–2026
- ICCA, 2023-2026, San Francisco 2028 Bid and 2028 Host Organizing Committees 2023-2026
- Society for Construction Law, 2022-2026
- Sports Law Association, 2019–2026
- Women in Sports Law, 2019–2026
- Corporate Counsel International Arbitration Group, Executive Committee, 2019-2020
- International Centre for Dispute Resolution, California Advisory Committee, 2018-2020
- Institute for Energy Law, Advisory Board Member, 2014–2016
- International Expert Panel, “Overseas Construction Projects by Chinese Enterprises: Legal Risks and Inspiration,” Member, Sixth Working Group, Permanent Forum of China Construction Law, 2018

Selected Speaking Engagements

- “Managing Efficiency in International Arbitration While Preserving Process Choice”, California International Arbitration Week, March 2026
- “Power, Gatekeepers and Representation: Who Really Shapes Arbitration?”, New York International Arbitration Week, November 2025
- “Drafting ADR Clauses for Commercial Contracts”, May 2025
- “Battle of the Seats: London, New York, Paris or California”, Paris Arbitration Week, April 2025

- “High Stakes, High Tensions: Resolving Construction and Energy Disputes Across Asia and Latin America – From Blueprint to Award”, California International Arbitration Week, March 2025
- “ITA Arbitration Institutions Series”, January 2025
- Corporate Counsel Roundtable: Global Trends in Managing Cross Border Disputes” 8th Annual USC-JAMS International Arbitration Symposium with SIAC and CalArb: Arbitration in the Pacific Rim, September 2024
- Low Carbon Transition: All Roads Lead to More Energy Disputes”, Yonsei Arbitration Day, August 2024
- “The Parameters of Due Process – What are the Defining Influences”, “Institute for Transnational Arbitration Workshop, June 2024
- “Women in Arbitration – California Stories”, California International Arbitration Week March 2024
- Top Considerations for Selecting International Arbitration Seats and the Rise of the US as an international ADR Hub” {Podcast] January 2024
- “Drafting ADR Clauses for Commercial Contracts”, In-House Connect, June 2023
- “Learning from War Stories: Lessons from Those in the Trenches”, Society of Construction Law, North America, April 2023
- “Improving Arbitration: In-House Counsel’s Perspective” ABA Toolbox Talk, March 2023
- “California International Arbitration: Coming of Age” Daily Journal podcast, March 2023
- “Settlement Case Study: Strategies for Negotiating a Favorable FCA Settlement”, American Conference Institute, January 2023
- “GAR Live: Question Time - Energy transition and what it may mean for arbitration,” GAR Live Women in Arbitration London, 2022
- “Affirmative Claims and The Surety”, Pearlman 2022
- “Renewable Energy Opportunities and Energy-Related Infrastructure Development,” iLaw ILS Global Forum on International Law, 2022;
- “2 Fast 2 Furious: Arbitration in an hour” GAR Live Construction Disputes Paris, 2022
- “Harnessing Global Change to Propel Diversity in International Arbitration: New Initiatives and Opportunities,” California International Arbitration Week, 2022;
- “Building a Better International Arbitration – A California Corporate Counsel’s Perspective,” California International Arbitration Week, 2022;
- “What is the Future of Law in Sport?” Law in Sport 7th Annual Conference – Understand the Rules of the Game, 2021
- “Cocktails and Conversations: Hot Topics in Global Energy and Construction Projects,” JAMS Webinar, 2021;
- “2nd Annual Global Construction Disputes Update: The Energy Transition,” USC Gould Webinar 2021;

- “Complex and Cross-Border Construction Claims: Former GC’s, now Arbitrators, Mediators, Explore Dispute Resolution that Keeps Projects Moving,” JAMS Webinar, 2021;
- “Diversity in International Arbitration: Action Requires Commitment, but from who?” JAMS Webinar, 2021;
- “The Business Case for ADR”, JAMS Podcast 2021;
- “The Challenges of Multi-Party and Multi-Contract Issues in International Arbitration and the Anticipated ICC Rules Changes”, New York Arbitration Week (2020);
- “Evaluating and Learning From Business Disputes in a VUCA World,” CPR European Conference on Business Dispute Management, 2020
- “ADR in a Time of Pandemic and Global Warming: How the System Must Adapt to the Future,” Society for Construction Law, 2020
- “The Future of Dispute Resolution,” USC Gould/JAMS Arbitration Institute Webinar Series, 2020
- “Litigation Management Roundtable,” ABA Section of Litigation Corporate Counsel Seminar, 2020
- “Transparency in Commercial Arbitration,” CPR Annual Meeting, 2020
- “False Claims Act: Recent Trends and Reducing Risk,” Construction SuperConference, 2019
- “Tools for Timeliness,” ICC West Coast Conference, 2019
- ”Best Practices in International Arbitration,” USC/JAMS Arbitration Symposium, 2019
- “Arbitration Challenged: Reforming Commercial Arbitration in Response to Legitimacy Concerns,” ICCA Congress, 2018
- “Would Construction Arbitration Benefit From Value Engineering, or Does It Need a Full Overhaul?” GAR Live Construction Disputes, 2018
- “How to Maximize Efficiency In a Complex Case,” AAA Construction Conference, 2018
- “Efficient Litigation Management and Cost Containment,” Chief Litigation Officer Summit, 2018
- “The Diversity Dividend: The Power of the Purse,” Groundbreaking Women in Construction Conference, 2017
- “Managing the Client Through the Dispute Resolution Process: An Industry Perspective,” Construction SuperConference, 2016

Articles

- “California International Arbitration Week: Global Disputes are a Local Reality”, Los Angeles Daily Journal, February 26, 2026
- “California’s Global Rise: Insights from International Arbitration Week – How California Is Shaping the Future of Cross Border Dispute Resolution”, JAMS ADR Insights, May 2025

- “Is International Arbitration Adapting to the Speed of Business?”, Los Angeles Daily Journal February 28, 2024
- “Getting the Most Out of Mediation: 7 Tips from a Master”, JAMS ADR Insights, September 2023
- “International Arbitration Experts Discuss the Major Challenges for Arbitration in 2023”, Mealey’s International Arbitration Report, March 17, 2023
- “Insights from the General Counsel’s Office: Seven Steps to Success in Complex Construction Arbitration”, JAMS ADR Insights, 2023
- “Value Engineering Construction Arbitration,” JAMS Global Construction Solutions, Fall 2021
- “Enhancing Efficiency in Construction Disputes,” JAMS ADR Insights, July 2021
- “Getting a Handle on It: Drafting Tips for In-House Counsel to Control Costs of Commercial Dispute Resolution”, Corpcounsel.com, May 2021
- “Cost, Delay and Transparency: A Comment on Continued Legitimacy Concerns from a User’s Perspective,” Evolution and Adaption: The Future of International Arbitration, ICCA Congress Series No. 20, Kluwer Law International BV, 2020, pp. 354-360 (Jean Kalicki and Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Eds.)
- “Hottest Oil and Gas Claims of 2015—And How to Beat Them,” Proceedings at the Institute for Energy Law’s 66th Annual Oil & Gas Law Conference, Matthew Bender (with Barry Barnett), 2015

Background and Education

- Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Global Head of Disputes; AECOM; 2016–2020
- Senior Counsel, O’Melveny & Myers LLP, 2014–2016
- Associate General Counsel – Litigation, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, 1994–2014
- Associate; Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; 1987–1994
- J.D., UCLA School of Law, 1987
- Judicial Externship, Hon. David R. Thompson, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- B.S., Bachelor of Science, Business Administration (Accounting and Finance), University of California, Berkeley, 1984
 - Beta Alpha Psi, National Accounting Honor Society