

JEFFREY G. BENZ
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CURRICULUM VITAE

SUMMARY: Widely experienced commercial and disputes lawyer, and arbitrator and mediator, with worldwide practice experience. Dual-qualified as US lawyer and English barrister. Since 2000, appointed as neutral on more than 1000 arbitrations and more than 250 mediations. Sought after speaker, and author of numerous articles on arbitration and mediation, particularly in the sports industry. Testimonials include:

"As I remarked to my team back in June (before we knew the result), the way you treated this case was nothing short of outstanding. I told them I've been lucky to argue in front of some of the greatest jurists alive today, and the questions and attention to detail we got in our proceeding rivaled all of it. I would love it if our paths crossed again."
-Former Acting Solicitor General of the United States

"He was clearly prepared for the hearing, asked the right questions, challenged the bases for statements that were made, and heard our positions. He was fair and listened, and it was a pleasure to appear before him."
-Hall of Fame American Basketball Coach

According to Who's Who Legal 2018-25 UK Bar, he is "*widely recognised for his first-rate arbitration practice*" and clients note he is "*in a class of his own*" when it comes to complex sports disciplinary disputes."

In 2016, the BBC noted Mr. Benz is "*widely regarded as amongst the most experienced judges*" in world sport.

In 2024, a publication noted he was "*a titan of sports law.*"

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Sela Global Entertainment Co. Ltd., London, 2025-Present

General Counsel, Chief Legal Officer, and Special Advisor

Head of legal function at international subsidiary of leading Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund-owned live events, music, sports media rights, and entertainment company. Created company and got it off the ground with the CEO, and provide legal, business development, commercial, compliance, governance, and strategic support as it grows its worldwide business. Board advisor on key matters. In addition to the legal function, responsible for operating large scale boxing events outside of Saudi Arabia for the company. Requires cross-cultural and cross-functional capabilities and flexibility.

JAMS, Inc., Los Angeles/London, 2016-Present

Arbitrator, Mediator, and Special Master

At world's leading private provider of dispute resolution services in cases spanning a very wide variety of commercial, sports, entertainment, international, employment, and technology disputes (member of Sports, Entertainment, Employment, International, and General Arbitration panels). Developed e-sports dispute resolution protocol and program, as well as SafeSport/safeguarding arbitration program.

4 New Square Barristers, Lincoln's Inn, London, 2013-Present

Door Tenant, Barrister (called 2018)

Serves as mediator, arbitrator, factfinder, investigator and advisor on various legal disputes, sports agreements and transactions, corporate governance, entertainment, and technology, at one of the leading barristers sets in the UK.

Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Benz, Los Angeles/London, 2011-2017

Managing Partner, Attorney, Mediator, and Arbitrator

Three partner firm with general commercial practice, covering transactions and litigation in the sports, technology, and entertainment, industries, and providing general counsel services to various entities. Work includes investigations, negotiating multisport games host city agreements, training center operating agreements, sponsorship and licensing agreements, copyright and trademark, investment documents, and various other matters. Representative clients included World Beach Games Organizing Committee 2019, operator of former US Olympic Training Center in San Diego, International Cricket Council, numerous boxers and boxing managers, and various sports governing bodies, sponsors, and technology companies looking to move into sports. Particular expertise in US right of publicity and creation and sale of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) under US law. Active and substantial experience as lawyer and advisor for significant professional boxers and boxing managers worldwide.

Unnamed Startup, San Francisco, Beijing, Shanghai & Hong Kong, 2009-10

Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary

Senior legal and operational executive at startup venture in mobile telecomm, based in China. Responsible for all business/legal affairs, governance, regulatory and operational matters, including regulatory matters affecting the technology, and remit included investment raising, addressing software and telecommunications legal matters, entertainment/sports content, securing patent, trademark, and copyright rights, and sourcing, negotiating for and papering China joint ventures. Managed local employees.

AVP, Inc./AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour, Inc., Los Angeles, 2008-09

Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and Corporate Secretary

Senior executive responsible for legal and finance, business affairs, public company compliance and governance, investment, and operations in leading lifestyle and sports/entertainment company related to the culture of the beach. Responsible for all intellectual property and relations with athletes. Negotiated to acquire and operate Australia pro beach volleyball tour. Managed employees worldwide.

A2 Holdings, LLC, Los Angeles, 2006-08

Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs, and Corporate Secretary

Senior executive at professional boxing and television startup with prominent CEO and board members. Managed all corporate governance, legal/business affairs, investment, intellectual property, and television issues. Became a licensed boxing promoter in California.

United States Olympic Committee, Colorado Springs, 2001-06

General Counsel, Managing Director of Legal and Government Affairs, Managing Director of International Relations, Chief Ethics Officer, and Corporate Secretary

Senior executive and chief lawyer at large National Olympic Committee, responsible for broad range of activity, including commercial transactions/litigation, real estate, licensing, trademarks, corporate governance, employment and human resources, risk management, sponsorships, broadcast, event agreements, corporate bylaws, regulatory and government matters, investigations, regulation of member organizations (NGBs), etc. Oversaw a legal department budget of over USD\$1.5M, with legal department staff of approximately 15 (but also managed human resources and international relations functions, adding an additional approximately 15 people to oversight and doubling budget under management). Reported directly to CEO and Board of Directors. Responsible for significant and groundbreaking governance reform, reducing USOC Board from 123 to 11 individuals; managed all cases before the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Responsible for anti-doping matters, including setting up USADA, and appearing twice before IOC Executive Board to report on state of the US anti-doping system from 1985 to 2000.

Managed various internal cross-functional teams.

Coudert Brothers, San Francisco, 1996-2001

Attorney

Co-chair and founder of Worldwide Sports Practice Group and member of Litigation and Arbitration practice groups (practiced antitrust & competition law, commercial litigation and arbitration, patent and trademark litigation, sports transactions and disputes) in the world's preeminent international law firm. Clients represented from the United States, Japan, France, Malaysia, and elsewhere.

Bouhey, Garvie & Bushner, San Francisco & Honolulu, 1993-96

Attorney

At firm that later merged with Wilson, Elser, *et al.*, with practice focused on insurance coverage and defense, general liability, commercial litigation, admiralty, shipping, and maritime law, and sports law.

Lloyd's of London, London, 1992

Legal Intern

Lloyd's Claims Office

EDUCATION/PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS/ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Education:

- 2027 **King's College University of London**, MA, International Affairs (Espionage and Surveillance) (pending)
- 2006 **University of Michigan Ross School of Business**, MBA, General Management.
- 1993 **University of Texas School of Law**, JD (Board of Editors, *The Review of Litigation*; Judging Director, *Board of Advocates*).
- 1992 **Queen Mary University of London**, Certificate in Marine Insurance and EU law.
- 1990 **University of Michigan**, AB, Political Science.

Bar admissions: States of California, Colorado, Hawaii, and New York; member of numerous United States federal district and appellate court bars; called to the Bar of England and Wales as a barrister.

Teaching:

2012-Present, Adjunct Professor, **Pepperdine University Law School, Straus Institute** (top-rated program in dispute resolution in the US for the past 12 years) (Malibu, CA) (courses include International Sports Law, Sports Dispute Resolution, Arbitration Law, and Ethics in International Commercial Arbitration, and organizer of conferences on Olympic-related dispute resolution, doping, and e-sports).

2014-2018, Adjunct Professor, **Instituto Superior De Recho y Economia** (ISDE) (Madrid and Barcelona) (courses on Asian Sports Law, Racism in Football, and Alternative Dispute Resolution in Business).

2006-Present, Guest Lecturer, various law schools and graduate sports management programs worldwide on sports law and arbitration (including Harvard, Cambridge, Columbia, Michigan, Cambridge, UC Berkeley, Texas, Northwestern, UCLA, USC, Pepperdine, Loyola, Southwestern, UC Hastings, Oregon, Marquette, Arizona State University, Colorado, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Chapman, and Thomas Jefferson)

RECOGNITIONS:

Fellow, **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators**

Fellow, **College of Commercial Arbitrators**

Accredited Mediator, *Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution*
Certified Mediator, *International Mediation Institute*
Certified Electronic Discovery Specialist, *Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists*
Member, *Academy of Court Appointed Masters*
Recognized, *Who's Who Legal, Entertainment and Sports Law, Worldwide*, 2013-2026; Recognized, *Who's Who Legal, UK Bar* 2017-2026, Leading Barristers
Best Lawyers of America® Best Lawyer and Lawyer of the Year in arbitration, 2021-2026

MEMBERSHIPS:

American Bar Association (Forum on Entertainment and Sports, Business Law Section (Vice Chair, Business Litigation Committee, ADR Subcommittee (former)), Dispute Resolution Section, Health Law Section, International Law Section, Litigation Section).

Sports Lawyers Association (formerly Board of Directors, Emeritus Director, International Chair, and Annual Conference Co-Chair)

National Sports Law Institute (Board of Directors)

www.LawInSport.com (Advisory Board; Judging Director, Sports Law Arbitration Moot)

Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law, Sports Law & Business (Advisory Board)

Panel of arbitrators and mediators, *Court of Arbitration for Sport* (arbitrator since 2000; mediator since 2013); panel of arbitrators and mediators, panel of arbitrators, *USADA/USOPC Anti-Doping Panel* (US national panel); formerly panel of arbitrators, *World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal* (international panel); formerly panel of mediators and arbitrators, *Sport Resolutions*; panel of mediators, *FIFA Football Tribunal* (international panel), panel of arbitrators of the *Saudi Sports Arbitration Tribunal*, and panel of arbitrators and mediators *JAMS* (US and international commercial panel).

Member, Independent Resolution Panel, *National Collegiate Athletic Association* (former)

Disciplinary Tribunal member, *Rugby Football Union* (former)

Vice President (former), North American Branch, *Chartered Institute of Arbitrators*

Panel of arbitrators of *London Court of International Arbitration* (LCIA) (London), *International Chamber of Commerce* (ICC) (Paris), *China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission* (CIETAC) (Beijing), *Beijing Arbitration Commission* (BAC) (Beijing), *Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration* (SHIAC) (Shenzhen), *Republic of China Arbitration Association* (Taipei), *Bucharest International Arbitration Centre* (Bucharest), and *American Arbitration Association International Centre for Dispute Resolution* (ICDR) (New York).

OTHER:

Author or co-author of leading articles on ADR, international and domestic commercial and sports arbitration and mediation, doping, managing costs in ADR; frequent trainer and lecturer on arbitration, general mediation and sports topics around the world. In demand speaker on sports law issues at conferences worldwide annually. Guest lecturer at numerous law schools.

Sporting Background:

-Former elite level figure skating athlete on *US Figure Skating Team*.

-Athletes' Advisory Council Vice Chair and member of Board of Directors and Executive Committee, *United States Olympic Committee*, 1997-2000.

-Athlete's Advisory Committee Chair and Board member and Executive Committee member, *US Figure Skating* (USOC-recognized NGB), 1988-1996.

-Alternate Athlete Board Member, *Salt Lake Organizing Committee*, 1999-2001.

Member, ***Mitchell Special Bid Oversight Commission***, appointed by the USOC to blue ribbon independent investigatory panel to review the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games bid process and offer recommendations for reform, which were adopted by the USOC, 1998-1999.

Worked at 7 ***Olympic Games*** (USOC outside counsel, USOC inside counsel, other sport organization counsel, and CAS Ad Hoc Division (2022) (Beijing, China)), 2 ***Asian Beach Games*** (CAS Ad Hoc Divisions) (Phuket, Thailand & Danang, Vietnam), 1 ***Asian Martial Arts and Indoor Games*** (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan) (CAS Ad Hoc Division), 1 ***Asian Games*** (CAS Ad Hoc Division) (Hangzhou, China), 1 ***Asian Winter Games*** (CAS Ad Hoc Division) (Harbin, China), and 2 ***FIFA World Cups*** (CAS Ad Hoc Division (virtual)).

Reported CAS cases available here (fraction of total cases on which appointed):

[https://jurisprudence.tas-cas.org/Search/results.aspx#k=\(Arbitrators%3A%22Jeffrey%20G.%20Benz%22\)](https://jurisprudence.tas-cas.org/Search/results.aspx#k=(Arbitrators%3A%22Jeffrey%20G.%20Benz%22)).

Publications:

Available here: <https://www.jamsadr.com/benz/#publications>.

Law Development and Arbitration and Mediation Promotion Experience:

Trainer in arbitration/mediation, ***European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*** (EBRD) (2014-15 Moldova; 2016 Jordan); Consultant, ***Republic of Georgia*** (2014) (sports law development).

US citizen; UK Indefinite Leave to Remain (Green Card) (lives in London).

Languages: Native English; basic Japanese and Mandarin; simple Arabic, German and Spanish.

Other:

2 sons, 1 daughter.

Numerous certifications in wine/spirits/beer/sake & ***Certified Sake Sommelier***.

Numerous certifications in AI, its fundamentals, and its application to business.