

Susan Ahern SC

Qualifications: LL.B, LL.M, BL, Adv. Dip. Medical Law, FCI Arb, CEDR Mediator, SC
Licensed: Senior Counsel, The Bar of Ireland, Junior Counsel, The Bar of Northern Ireland
Nationality: Irish **Link:** <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/members/susan-ahern-sc/>

I am a Senior Counsel and sports lawyer with a 25 year career both in-house and as a barrister, arbitrator, mediator and independent non-executive director. My particular expertise is in sports law, sports governance, major events and dealing with sports regulatory matters, anti-doping and integrity issues including investigations and vetting. I am a former international volleyball player, president of a National Governing Body, NOC board member & GC of an IF. I was appointed a CAS arbitrator in January 2018.

INDEPENDENT BARRISTER & ARBITRATOR

THE BAR OF IRELAND	<i>Senior Counsel / Arbitrator / Mediator</i>
THE BAR OF NORTHERN IRELAND	<i>Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator</i>
33 BEDFORD ROW – LONDON CHAMBERS – Door Tennant	<i>Arbitrator / Mediator</i>

ARBITRATION – PANEL MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

- 2025 - **Arbitrators' & Mediators' Institute of New Zealand – Fellow (FAMINZ)**
- 2024 - **ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC) Arbitration & ADR Committee Member**
Member for Ireland
Arbitration Ireland – Vice President. Executive Committee Member since 2017
<https://arbitrationireland.com/executive-committee/>
- 2023 - **The Law Society of Ireland Arbitration Panel** – with President's nominations
- 2022 - **European Commission DG TRADE – Arbitrator Member of the Disputes Settlement Panel under trade agreements between the EU and third countries**
<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/7fc51410-46a1-4871-8979-20cce8df0896/library/17b64858-0bbb-441e-85d1-32ccb63faec2/details>
- 2020 - **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**
Appointed by the Government of Ireland to the Conciliator Panel. Term to 2026
ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC)
Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in a number of international commercial disputes
Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI) – Arbitration Panel & Mediation Panel
Re-appointed to the arbitration Panel of the national sports dispute resolution body.
- 2018 - **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**
Arbitrator appointment in January 2018 with over 45 appointments as co-arbitrator sole arbitrator and Panel President. I am a Member of the Anti-Doping Panel and the Panel of Presidents. *Ad hoc* panel appointments include:
2023: Ad Hoc Anti-Doping Panel for the European Olympic Games
2021: Ad Hoc Anti-Doping Panel for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
- 2017 - **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ireland) – appointments to domestic arbitration disputes as nominated by the CIARB Ireland President**
- 2017 - 2023 **Sports Resolutions UK - International Panel of Arbitrators**
Panel President & Arbitrator, Eligibility Determination Panel Member
- 2008 – 2012 **Chair of the Olympic Federation of Ireland Judicial Committee**
For all Irish eligibility cases for the Beijing 2008 & London 2012 Olympic Games

Susan Ahern SC FCI Arb

TRIBUNAL & REGULATORY BODIES – CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

2024 -	Institute & Faculty of Actuaries (UK) – Disciplinary Panel Chair Pool
2023 -	British Horseracing Authority – Judicial Panel Member & Appeal Board Chair Pool
	Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) Professional Practice Committee - Vice-Chair of the Independent Tribunal
	World Athletics Selection Panel – Screening body of the WA Vetting Panel
	European Union Expert (Sport) - EU Commission (EX2017D310797)
2022 -	Insurance Ireland Membership Appeal Panel – Member
	Approved Housing Regulatory Authority Appeals Panel* – Member
2021 -	Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board Appeals Body – Independent Deputy Chairman
2020 -	Bookmakers Appeal Committee (Horse Racing Ireland)* – Member
	National Childcare Scheme (POBAL)* - Independent Appeals Officer
	World Wheelchair Rugby – Independent Judicial Chair
2019 -	Health & Social Care Professionals Council Professional Conduct Committee (CORU) - Independent Tribunal Chair
	Residential Tenancies Board (Ireland) - Decision Maker

**Irish Ministerial Appointment*

INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIPS - CURRENT

I have sat on the board of 10 companies including two State Boards appointed by the Irish Government and one wholly owned subsidiary of a Scottish Government entity. My experience includes being a Senior Independent Director, member of Audit & Risk Committees, Remuneration & other board committees.

2024 -	Dublin Disputes Resolution Centre Limited
2021 -	Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ) – The national public service broadcaster of Ireland

CAREER HISTORY

Prior to 2016 I had an executive career as a corporate banker and as in-house counsel in the media, entertainment and sports sector and banking and finance sector.

2024	THE BAR OF IRELAND	Senior Counsel
2016	THE BAR OF IRELAND	Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator
2020	33 BEDFORD ROW – London Chambers	Arbitrator / Mediator
2009 – 2016	WORLD RUGBY	Head of Legal & Legislative Affairs
	RUGBY WORLD CUP LIMITED	General Counsel
2001 – 2009	WORLD RUGBY	Senior Legal Counsel
2000 – 2001	NATIONAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AGENCY [Ireland]	Legal Counsel
1998 – 2000	ARTESIA IRELAND LIMITED (BACOB BANK)	Legal Counsel
1996 – 1998	BANK OF IRELAND CORPORATE BANKING	Account Officer

Susan Ahern SC FCI Arb

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

2025	Arbitrators' & Mediators' Institute of New Zealand – Fellow (FAMINZ)
2023	The Honorable Society of the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland – Barrister-at-Law
2020	Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Accredited Mediator
2019	The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin - Advanced Diploma in Medical Law
2017	Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Fellow (FCI Arb)
1998	The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin - Barrister-at-Law (BL)
1996	Queen's University Belfast - Master of Laws: Computers & Law (LL.M)
1994	University of Dublin, Trinity College - Bachelor of Laws (LL.B)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lecturing: Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - Member of the Approved Faculty List (Ireland)
Law Society of Ireland – External Examiner & lecturer - Diploma in Sports Law

Awards: Trinity College Dublin Alumni Award 2022

Recent Conference Presentations:

Host	Topic	Date
Society of Construction Law	<i>'The Future of Construction Law'</i>	21 November '24
Young Arbitration Ireland	<i>'Fireside Chat with Susan Ahern SC'</i>	21 November '24
Arbitration Ireland, The Bar or Ireland ADR Committee	<i>'EU Law and Football, a Game Changer? Dublin's New Role in CAS Arbitration'</i>	30 October 2024
58th International Conference of Horseracing Authorities, Paris,	<i>'How other sports tackle integrity issues'</i> (+streamed event)	7 October 2024
DIDW 2024 + The Law Society of Ireland	<i>'Dispute Resolution in an Uncertain World – the impact of AI on ADR'</i>	30 September 2024
CI Arb Singapore Branch, webinar	<i>'ABC of Sports Arbitration – from anti-doping to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)'</i>	18 July 2024
Construction Bar Association Annual Conference, Dublin	<i>'International Construction Arbitration, Is Case Management the Answer?' (+ paper)</i>	14 June 2024
ICCA Bi-Annual Conference, Hong Kong	<i>'Procedures and Behaviours: The impact and importance of human engagement in the arbitral process'</i>	7 May 2024
Sorbonne Arbitrage et Paris Place d'Arbitrage: Arbitration & the Olympic Games Symposium, Paris	<i>'Arbitration of sports-related disputes outside CAS': Arbitration and world rugby in context'</i>	29 February 2024
Dublin Solicitors Bar Association	<i>'Six Nations Breakfast Briefing' – Moderator</i>	24 February 2024
Dublin International Arbitration Day 2023	<i>'ESG Issues in Arbitration' - Panel Moderator</i>	17 November 2023

Recent Publications:

Publication	Paper/Chapter	Date
Wolters Kluwer, ICCA Congress Series	<i>'The impact and importance of human engagement in the arbitral process – through the lens of sports arbitration'</i>	ICCA, pending publication 2026
Les Cahiers de l'Arbitrage	<i>'Arbitration and World Rugby in Context'</i>	June 2024
International Sports Justice, International Sports Law & Policy Bulletin	<i>"International Rugby Justice: The World Rugby Judicial System" – Chapter</i>	January 2024