

DR LEANNE O'LEARY

PERSONAL

Current role: Assistant Professor/Lecturer and Solicitor
Nationality: New Zealand & British
Languages: English
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/leanne-oleary-uk](https://www.linkedin.com/in/leanne-oleary-uk)

EDUCATION

2019 Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK
Diploma in International Arbitration

2010 Trinity College Dublin
Doctor of Philosophy in Law

2001 University of Auckland, NZ
Master of Laws (First Class Honours)

1997 University of Auckland
Bachelor of Arts/Laws(Hons)(Conjoint)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Solicitor, Law Society of England and Wales
- Barrister and Solicitor, High Court of New Zealand (non-practising)
- Registered Mediator, Civil Mediation Council

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION & ADJUDICATION

2019 – present Arbitrator, Court of Arbitration for Sport

- Appointed as sole arbitrator, panel president and party-appointed arbitrator in numerous international sports disputes.

2019 – present Adjudicator, Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution

- Appointed as adjudicator in over 160 consumer disputes involving telecommunications providers and consumers. The consumer disputes relate to residential and business mobile, landline, broadband and pay-tv contracts.

2012 – 2022 Arbitrator, Sport Resolutions

- Appointed as specialist co-arbitrator in disputes for national sports organisations, and to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Federation Court. The types of disputes involved: selection disputes; disciplinary appeals; anti-doping; employee misconduct; and contract termination. The sports involved were football, tennis, swimming, athletics and gymnastics.

MEDIATION

2021 – 2022 Mediator, Sport Resolutions

- Appointed to the Sport Resolutions Development Mediator Panel for disputes involving national sports organisations.

SPORTS GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS

- World Netball Governance Committee (2017 – present)

SPORTS PANEL APPOINTMENTS

- Premier League Judicial Panel (2019 – present)
- International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) Ethics Commission (2022 – present)
- International Orienteering Ethics Panel (2020 – 2024)
- World Athletics Screening Panel (2019 – 2022)
- British Canoeing Disciplinary, Disputes and Appeals Panel (2019 – 2022)
- England Boxing Safeguarding Review Panel (2019 – 2022)

EMPLOYMENT

2025 – present Assistant Professor/Lecturer, Maynooth University, Ireland

2012 – 2025 Reader-in-law, Edge Hill University, UK

2010 – 2012 Solicitor, Armitage Sykes LLP, UK

2004 – 2008 Lecturer, Leeds Beckett University, UK

2004 – 2004 Solicitor, Eversheds LLP, UK

2003 – 2004 Legal Officer, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, UK

2002 – 2003 Paralegal, The Shipman Inquiry, UK

1999 – 2001 Solicitor, Simpson Grierson LLP, NZ

1997 – 1999 Solicitor, Martelli McKegg Wells Cormack LLP, NZ

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Book

Employment and Labour Relations Law in the Premier League, NBA and International Rugby Union (TMC Asser Institute/Springer 2017)

Articles

“Elite Athletes and Worker Status” *Industrial Law Journal*, 2024 <https://doi.org/10.1093/indlaw/dwae025>

“Independence and Impartiality of Sports Dispute Resolution in the United Kingdom” 21(4) [2021] *International Sports Law Journal* 243-256.

“Regulating the Employment Relationship in Professional Team Sports in the United Kingdom” 41(2) [2012] *Industrial Law Journal* 184-207.