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**WESTERN BALKANS  
ARBITRATION WRITING  
COMPETITION**

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# Call for Applications

**open until  
15 August 2022**

**LAW STUDENTS:**

**SUBMIT AN ARTICLE  
ON THE TOPIC OF  
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**

**TO WIN THE PRIZE**

**\$3,000.00 (1<sup>st</sup> place)  
\$2,000.00 (2<sup>nd</sup> place)  
\$1,000.00 (3<sup>rd</sup> place)**

**YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IF  
YOU ARE A LAW STUDENT IN:**

- **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**
- **CROATIA**
- **MONTENEGRO**
- **SERBIA**
- **SLOVENIA**

# Invitation and Competition

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It is a student writing competition, which aims to encourage scholarship in the field of international arbitration amongst law students in the former Yugoslav region.

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## What is the Western Balkans Arbitration Writing Competition?

The competition is an opportunity for students to financially support their studies through a merit-based financial award and to distinguish themselves academically by publishing an original article in a world-leading publication for international arbitration.

The goal of the competition is also to create a forum for students to disseminate their ideas, enrich the professional and academic communities, and expand the reach of regional scholarship into the global community of international arbitration practitioners.

## Who can participate?

All law students in the countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia (including J.D., LL.M. and Ph.D. candidates, regardless of the status as ‘part time’ or ‘full time’) who are nationals of one of the five countries. Faculty members are not eligible to participate.

## How can you participate?

You can participate by submitting an original article on the topic of international arbitration up to 15,000 words in length (around 20 pages) by 15 August 2022 in accordance with the Competition Rules. Submissions can be made in the local or English language.

## What will the winners receive?

Five winners will be selected to receive:  
(i) a monetary award in the amount of **\$3,000.00 (first place)**,  
**\$2,000.00 (second place)**,  
**\$1,000.00 (third place)**,  
or honorary mention (fourth and fifth place),

(ii) an opportunity to publish the article, subject to editorial approval, in a renown legal journal,

(iii) an invitation to an award ceremony with the Selection Committee members comprising of leading national and international arbitration practitioners.

If you have any questions,  
please email us at: [wbarb.competition@gmail.com](mailto:wbarb.competition@gmail.com)

## How are the winners selected?

The winners will be chosen based on a variety of factors, including: (i) originality, significance and timeliness of the topic, (ii) clarity of analysis and writing style, and (iii) quality of research.

The Selection Committees (national and international) will grade the submitted articles for each of the above mentioned assessment criteria.

The submissions will be anonymously reviewed by the Selection Committees comprising leading local and international attorneys practicing in the field of international arbitration.

After the National Selection Committee selects the winning local article, the winning articles from the five participating countries will be ranked by members of the International Selection Committee. You can find the profiles of the Selection Committee members on the next page.



**We look forward  
to receiving your  
applications.**

**Good luck!**

# International Selection Committee members



**Cherie Blair CBE QC**

Chair, Omnia Strategy,  
London



**Gary B. Born**

Partner, WilmerHale,  
London



**Yuliya Chernykh**

Associate Professor,  
Inland Norway University of  
Applied Sciences



**Mark W. Friedman**

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton,  
New York



**Lucy Greenwood**

Independent Arbitrator,  
London



**Samaa Haridi**

Partner, King & Spalding,  
New York



**Iuliana Iancu**

Partner, Hanotiau & van den Berg,  
Brussels



**Meg Kinnear**

Secretary-General of ICSID,  
Washington DC



**Daniela Karollus-Bruner**

Partner, CMS Reich-Rohrwig  
Hainz Rechtsanwälte GmbH



**Niamh Leinwather**

Secretary-General of VIAC,  
Vienna



**Gabrielle Nater Bass**

Partner, Homburger,  
Zurich



**Dr Nikolaus Pitkowitz**

Partner, Pitkowitz & Partners,  
Vienna



**Luca G. Radicati  
Di Brozolo**

Founding Partner of Arblit,  
Milan



**Lucy Reed**

Arbitrator, Arbitration Chambers,  
New York



**John Savage QC**

Partner, King & Spalding,  
London



**Audley Sheppard QC**

Partner, Clifford Chance,  
London

# National Selection Committee members



**Nevena Jevremović**

Lecturer and Researcher,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Armela Ramić**

Principal, Law Office Armela Ramić,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Samira Sulejmanović**

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Jadranka Jakovčić**

Associate, Bracewell LLP  
Croatia



**Tamara Manasijević**

Attorney, ARP (Vienna),  
Croatia



**Patricia Živković**

Lecturer, University of Aberdeen,  
Croatia



**Vasilije Čarapić**

Ministry of Economic Development,  
Montenegro



**Aneta Spajić**

Dean of Podgorica Faculty of Law,  
Montenegro



**Sara Pendjer**

Senior Associate, Stankovic & Partners,  
Serbia



**Marija Šćekić**

Counsel, Wilmerhale (London),  
Serbia



**Peter Rižnik**

Counsel, Konrad Partners (Vienna),  
Slovenia



**Ana Stanič**

Principal, E&A Law (London),  
Slovenia

# Founder & Sponsor

**E**ma Vidak Gojković is the founder and sponsor of the Western Balkans Arbitration Writing Competition.

She is a prominent international arbitration specialist, counsel and arbitrator, with a deep connection to the former Yugoslav region. Ema was born in Doboj, Bosnia, in a mixed Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian family. She spent part of her childhood in a refugee camp in Croatia during the Yugoslav wars.

Ema graduated *summa cum laude* from the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, and — thanks to the generosity of merit-based scholarships — obtained her master’s degree at Harvard Law School.

Before founding her independent practice Vidak Arbitration LLC in New York, Ema practiced in leading international law firms including King & Spalding (London and New York), Baker McKenzie (Vienna), and Omnia Strategy under Cherie Blair QC (London).

She is triple-qualified in England and Wales, New York and Croatia. Ema is ranked internationally as a Future Leader in Arbitration and “a role model for the new generation of arbitrators” (*Who’s Who Legal*, 2022).

She teaches a course on “*Strategy and Advocacy in Arbitration*” at McGill University and frequently speaks at arbitration conferences.

Ema is also a passionate promoter of equality and diversity. Among other achievements, she is a founder of Mute Off Thursdays — a virtual forum for senior women in arbitration — which won the GAR ERA Pledge Award 2021.

Ema founded the Competition as a way of giving back to her region of origin. With the Competition, Ema hopes to open opportunities to talented students from the region, promote arbitration as a tool for peaceful resolution of disputes, and support excellence-based, mixed-nation communities.

“ **The Competition provides a merit-based path for students to connect with and belong to the wider international arbitration community. I hope it will open opportunities to others, just as they were once opened to me.** ”

**EMA VIDAK GOJKOVIĆ** INDEPENDENT COUNSEL AND ARBITRATOR



## Executive Committee Members



**Ana Bogut**

Ana Bogut holds a Master of Laws degree from the Faculty of Law in Zagreb, Croatia. She works at the Ministry of Culture and Media of Croatia as a Public Procurement Specialist and an Ethics Commissioner. She also heads the Ministry’s Human Resources Department.



**Fahira Brodlija**

Fahira Brodlija is a rule of law advisor in a GIZ project dedicated to ISDS reform and economic development in the Western Balkans. She is also the Director of Research at Arbitrator Intelligence. Fahira has been a Vis Moot coach to law faculties from Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2016.



**Arjun Solanki**

Arjun Solanki is an Associate at the World Trade Advisors (WTA) Group. Arjun regularly works as a research assistant to professors, international arbitrators and counsel.



If you have any questions,  
please email us at: [wbarb.competition@gmail.com](mailto:wbarb.competition@gmail.com)

The Competition is sponsored by Vidak Arbitration LLC



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