

# Geoff Farnsworth FCIArb

## Independent Arbitrator

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*President, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Australia) | Fellow, CIArb | Fellow, ACICA*

### **PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

International commercial arbitrator and senior maritime and commodities lawyer with over 30 years' experience in complex cross-border disputes. Appointed as arbitrator and tribunal secretary in maritime, trade, commodities and transport disputes and regularly acts as counsel in international arbitrations. Recognised globally for expertise in shipping, admiralty, agribusiness and energy disputes. Brings deep procedural knowledge, strong case management capability and commercially grounded decision-making.

### **ARBITRATION EXPERIENCE**

#### **Appointments as Arbitrator:**

- Sole and co-arbitrator in maritime and trade disputes involving charterparties, cargo claims and marine insurance.
- Arbitrator in commodities disputes involving oil, metals and minerals, grain and agricultural supply chains.
- Determination of jurisdictional challenges and procedural applications.
- Experience conducting hearings in person and virtually; procedural timetabling and evidentiary rulings.

#### **Tribunal Secretary Roles:**

- Tribunal secretary in international and domestic commercial arbitrations involving shipping, commodities and energy disputes.
- Assisted tribunals with procedural orders, evidence management and draft awards.

#### **Counsel Experience in Arbitration:**

- Lead counsel in domestic and international arbitrations under institutional and ad hoc rules.
- GAFTA arbitrations involving commodities and trade disputes.
- Enforcement of arbitral awards and foreign judgments in Australian courts.
- Emergency relief, interim measures and security applications.

## **ARBITRATION PANEL MEMBERSHIPS & INSTITUTIONAL ROLES**

- President, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Australia Branch)
- Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration – Panel Member
- MLAANZ (Maritime Law Association of Australia & New Zealand) – Arbitration Panel
- Fellow, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA)
- Qualified Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) Arbitrator
- Grain Trade Australia – Arbitration Panel Member

## **SECTOR EXPERTISE**

- Shipping & Admiralty – bill of lading disputes and cargo claims, ship arrests, charterparties, marine insurance, ship and super-yacht sale, purchase and construction.
- Commodities & Agribusiness – GAFTA disputes, sale of goods including oils, metals and minerals, supply chain contracts and industry Codes of Conduct, including cotton, rice, dairy and sugar.
- Transport & Logistics – regulatory compliance, liability regimes, Chain of Responsibility.
- Energy & Resources – ESG, offtake agreements, carbon markets, renewable fuel schemes.
- International Trade – INCOTERMS, trade and project finance, competition law and sanctions, governance and regulatory frameworks.

## **REPRESENTATIVE ARBITRATION MATTERS (ANONYMISED)**

- Charterparty dispute concerning demurrage and off-hire claims exceeding USD 20 million.
- Grain sale contract arbitration involving quality, contamination and force majeure issues.
- Marine insurance coverage dispute arising from vessel grounding and cargo loss.
- Cross-border enforcement of arbitral award involving shipping operator and resources exporter.
- Energy sector dispute concerning renewable fuel regulatory compliance and contractual allocation of risk.

## **LEGAL CAREER**

**Admitted to legal practice in Australia and UK (non-practicing).**

**Partner – Holding Redlich, Sydney (2014 – Present)**

Lead partner in transport, maritime and commodities practice. Advises on complex commercial disputes, international trade, arbitration strategy and regulatory compliance.

**Previous Roles:**

- Partner – Norton White, Sydney
- Senior Associate – Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst)
- Senior Associate – Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Sydney
- Solicitor – Holman Fenwick Willan, London (maritime & commodity arbitration)
- Solicitor – Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Melbourne

## **QUALIFICATIONS & ADMISSIONS**

- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- Diploma in Arbitration – GAFTA
- Professional Certificate in Arbitration – University of Adelaide
- Bachelor of Arts; Bachelor of Laws – Australian National University
- Admitted as Solicitor – Australia; England & Wales (non-practicing)

## **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

- Chambers Asia-Pacific – Recognised for Shipping & Maritime
- Best Lawyers Australia – Transportation, Shipping & Maritime, Trade Law (since 2013)
- Who's Who Legal – Global Leader in Shipping
- Doyle's Guide – Leading Admiralty & Maritime Lawyer
- Mondaq Thought Leadership Award – Australia

## **PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Regular trainer and presenter on arbitration, maritime law and commodities disputes to industry and government.
- Publications on carbon markets, EU ETS shipping regime, High Court arbitration jurisprudence and supply chain governance.
- Frequent contributor to industry journals and legal commentary platforms.