

Prof. Benjamin F. Hughes
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Benjamin F. Hughes is an independent arbitrator at The Arbitration Chambers in Singapore and Fountain Court Chambers in London, and adjunct professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law (NUS). Previously, Ben practiced international arbitration with Shearman & Sterling in the US and Singapore and was the founding co-chair of the international dispute resolution practice group at one of Korea's largest full-service law firms. Since leaving law firm practice in 2013, he has been appointed as arbitrator in well over 100 international arbitrations, with several billion dollars in dispute.

Ben has served as arbitrator under the rules of the AAA/ICDR, ACICA, AIAC/KLRCA, BIAC/BAC, CAA, CIETAC, DIS, HKIAC, ICC, JCAA, KCAB, LMAA, SCC, SCMA, SIAC, UNCITRAL (both administered and ad-hoc) and VIAC. He has also acted as emergency arbitrator and as sole arbitrator in expedited and fast-track proceedings and is a panel arbitrator of numerous arbitral institutions. His experience as arbitrator spans a broad range of commercial disputes, including joint venture and shareholder disputes, intellectual property and licensing, media and telecommunications, construction and infrastructure projects, energy and resources, shipping and shipbuilding, automobile and heavy machinery manufacturing, agency and distributorship agreements, military acquisition and procurement contracts, sale of goods and general commercial disputes. He has been appointed in cases seated in Bangalore, Beijing, Delhi, Geneva, Guam, Hamburg, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, London, Manila, Maui, New York, Seoul, Singapore, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei and Tokyo. Ben has heard cases governed by the CISG and the laws of Australia, Austria, BVI, Cayman Islands, China, England and Wales, Fiji, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia (including *Sharia*), Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United States (including New York, California and US territories) and Vietnam, as well as *lex mercatoria*. He has also handled complex conflict of law and jurisdictional issues, joinder and intervention applications, summary dismissal applications and disputes involving multiple contracts and applicable laws.

Ben is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. He has taught extensively in the field of international dispute resolution prior to joining NUS as an adjunct professor, including as associate professor of law at Seoul National University Law School (2015-2019) and as a visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law and National Taiwan University Law School. Ben also serves on the editorial boards of the Asian International Arbitration Journal, the Korea Arbitration Review and the Journal of Korean Law.

Ben was educated in both the civil law and the common law traditions, having studied first at Seoul National University College of Law (MA, all coursework in Korean), and then at NYU School of Law (JD). While at NYU, he spent one semester at the University of Palermo Law School in Buenos Aires, Argentina (all coursework in Spanish). He also studied Chinese (Mandarin) in Beijing and East Asian history at Harvard University.

Recent Recognition:

Benjamin Hughes is a favourite among peers, who describe him as “the most sought-after American arbitrator based in Asia” and “a great practitioner.”

--Who's Who Legal: Arbitration (2020)

Independent practitioner Benjamin Hughes is widely regarded as “an outstanding arbitrator with a particularly strong market reputation for Korean matters and as a person [whom] Korean clients can trust.”

Interviewees clearly indicate that he remains “a shoo-in for Korea-related appointments,” but are also quick to point out that, having relocated from Seoul to Singapore and notably broadened the geographical scope of his practice, “his reputation now transcends country.” One source identifies him as “one of the new wave of arbitrators who are bringing a breath of fresh air to the space.” They also emphasise the “nice mix of the academic and commercial” in his approach, “the way he tries to create a consensus” in proceedings and the “efficient and decisive” manner he adopts in conducting them.

--Chambers & Partners: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Asia-Pacific (2020)

Benjamin Hughes is “the next star in Asia” according to commentators, who describe him as “a pleasure to appear before” and as someone who “delivers well-reasoned awards.”

--Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration (2019)

Independent Seoul-based practitioner Benjamin Hughes is consistently identified by sources as the pre-eminent international arbitrator on the South Korean scene, and is active across the region on a broad commercial range of commercial issues... He is very highly regarded by interviewees, one of whom notes: “We have encountered him on several cases in the past few years and have found him to be excellent,” while another notes specifically that he is “a very good chairman who is really good at running expert witness conferencing sessions.”

--Chambers & Partners: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Asia-Pacific (2019)

Benjamin Hughes is recognized by clients and peers as one of the foremost arbitrators in Asia.

--Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration (2018)

Independent Seoul-based practitioner Benjamin Hughes is acclaimed by one source as “the leading international arbitrator in the Korean market,” while another explicitly confirms his status as an arbitrator in high demand, noting that he is “someone who has really internalized the region’s linguistic and cultural considerations,” which gives him a “deep and significant understanding of Asian business parties.”

--Chambers & Partners: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Asia-Pacific (2018)

Recent Appointments as Arbitrator:

- Chair in ICC arbitration seated in Singapore between two Singaporean parties arising under a contract for the construction of a combined cycle power plant.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between US and Chinese parties arising under a technology licensing agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between Maltese, Singaporean and Korean Claimants and a Korean respondent arising under a share purchase agreement and related shareholders’ agreement.
- Chair in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Korean and Chinese parties arising under a hotel management agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in SCC arbitration seated in Stockholm between Italian and Korean parties arising under an agreement for the sale and purchase of a floating dock.
- Sole Arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Malaysian and Indian parties arising under an agreement for the provision of waste heat recovery power generation in cement plants.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between German and UK parties and a Korean government entity arising under a contract for the design, manufacture and delivery of submarines.
- Co-arbitrator in SCMA case seated in Singapore between a Singaporean claimant and respondents from the Philippines and Dubai arising under a charter party and related guarantee.
- Sole arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Bangalore between Singaporean and Indian parties arising out of a hotel management agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and US parties arising under an agreement for the supply of fuel cell plant equipment.

- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between a Korean-led consortium and Korean government entities arising under multiple agreements related to large-scale infrastructure and urban development projects.
- Co-arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Chinese and Korean parties arising under an online gaming license and royalty agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Australian and Korean parties arising under the terms and conditions of convertible bonds and related agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and Korean parties arising under an agreement for the purchase of equity interest in a JV.
- Co-arbitrator in AAA/ICDR arbitration seated in New York between Korean and US parties arising under an agreement for the construction and operation of a casino and entertainment complex.
- Co-arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and US parties arising under a contract for the design, supply and installation of venting systems for nuclear power plants.
- Chair in three concurrent SCMA arbitrations seated in Singapore between Dutch and Singaporean parties arising under agreements for the supply of bunker fuel.
- Co-arbitrator in two consolidated SIAC arbitrations seated in Singapore between Hong Kong and Vietnamese parties arising under a share purchase agreement and related shareholders' agreement.
- Emergency Arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between two Indonesian parties arising out of a technical service and consulting agreement in the mining sector.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between a Korean consortium and a Korean government entity arising under a BTO contract for the construction of a trans-oceanic toll bridge.
- Co-arbitrator in BAC arbitration seated in Beijing between Brazilian and Chinese parties arising under a contract for the sale and purchase of livestock.
- Sole arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and Italian parties arising under a contract for the construction of a railway bridge.
- Emergency arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Hong Kong and Cayman Islands parties arising out of a limited partnership agreement and related investment agreements.
- Chair in CAA arbitration seated in Taipei between Taiwanese and German parties arising under contracts for the construction and installation of electrical equipment in a public building.
- Co-arbitrator in two consolidated SIAC arbitrations seated in Singapore between Vietnamese and Korean parties arising under multiple JV and shareholding agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between a consortium of Korean and Singaporean parties and a Korean government entity arising under contracts for an urban development project.
- Chair in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and Jamaican parties arising under an automobile distributorship agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in four consolidated SIAC arbitrations seated in Singapore between Indian and Korean parties arising under EPC contracts for coal-fired thermal power plants.
- Sole arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Singaporean and Japanese parties arising under a sub-contract for the construction of an airport terminal and adjacent buildings.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and Saudi Arabian parties arising under a distribution and cooperation agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between multiple Chinese parties arising under a shareholders' agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between German and Chinese parties arising under multiple purchase orders for electric vehicles.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hawaii between US, Irish and Korean parties arising under an IP licensing agreement.
- Sole arbitrator in four consolidated SIAC arbitrations seated in Singapore between Singaporean, UK and Chinese Parties arising under land rig bareboat charters and related guarantee agreements.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between US, Taiwanese and Korean parties arising under licensing and distribution agreements.

- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Singaporean and Philippine parties arising under a long-term distribution agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between two Japanese parties arising under a manufacturing service agreement for solar power modules.
- Sole arbitrator in KLRCA arbitration between UK and Malaysian parties arising under a supply and delivery agreement for the assembly and delivery of public transport vehicles.
- Emergency Arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Chinese and Japanese parties arising under a long-term licensing agreement for consumer electronics.
- Sole arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Hong Kong and Indian parties arising under a shareholders' agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in arbitration governed by the ICC Rules and administered by SIAC between Korean and Chinese parties arising out of multiple sale and purchase agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in two consolidated HKIAC arbitrations seated in Hong Kong between Hong Kong and Korean parties arising under two share purchase agreements.
- Emergency Arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Singapore between two Korean parties arising under a distribution agreement for construction materials.
- Co-arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between two UK parties arising out of a shareholders' agreement relating to the exploration and production of oil and gas.
- Chair in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between two Korean parties arising under an asset purchase agreement and related lease and distribution agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Canadian, British, Mauritius and Malaysian parties arising under a share purchase agreement and related employment agreements.
- Sole arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Indian and Singaporean parties arising under a commodities sale and purchase agreement.
- Sole arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between Thai and Korean parties arising under a contract for the construction of a UHV plant and related bank guarantees.
- Chair in VIAC arbitration seated in Hanoi between a Vietnam government entity and a Korean conglomerate arising under a contract for the construction of an expressway.
- Co-arbitrator in KCAB arbitration between Korean and Russian parties arising out of a loan agreement and related bank guarantee.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and Malaysian parties arising under an automobile distributorship agreement.
- Chair in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Chinese and Singaporean parties arising under a guarantee and related agreements.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between US and Korean parties arising under a contract for the sale and purchase of race cars and parts.
- Co-arbitrator in LMAA arbitration seated in London between Korean and Maltese parties arising under a shipbuilding contract.
- Sole arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and Hong Kong parties arising under a legal services agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between a UK company and a Korean government entity arising out of a contract for the design, manufacture and delivery of helicopters.
- Chair in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Indian and Singaporean parties arising under a commodities sale and purchase agreement.
- Sole arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Hong Kong and Seychelles parties arising under a share purchase agreement.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and United Arab Emirates parties arising under a commodities sales and purchase agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in SCC arbitration seated in Stockholm between Russian and Korean parties arising under an agreement for the manufacture of components for construction of a power plant.

- Co-arbitrator in DIS (German Institution of Arbitration) arbitration seated in Hamburg between Singaporean, Russian and Korean parties arising under a commodities sale and purchase agreement.
- Sole arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Manila between a regional development bank and a Chinese party arising under an agreement for the development of financial systems software.
- Co-arbitrator in AAA/ICDR arbitration seated in Guam between two US parties arising under an international airport concession agreement.
- Chair in JCAA arbitration seated in Tokyo between Japanese and Saudi parties arising under multiple automobile distributorship agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Chinese and Korean parties arising under a joint venture agreement for construction projects and related technical license agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Geneva between Korean and Singaporean parties arising under contracts for the installation of equipment in the construction of an LNG terminal.
- Emergency Arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Swiss and Singaporean parties arising under a hotel management agreement and related agreements.
- Sole Arbitrator in KLRCA fast track arbitration seated in Kuala Lumpur between French and Malaysian parties arising under contracts for the construction of a combined cycle power plant.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and German parties arising under a contract for the sale and installation of solar cell manufacturing equipment.
- Co-arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and Korean parties arising under an agricultural machinery sales agreement and related technology transfer agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in three related ad-hoc arbitrations seated in Stockholm between Russian and Korean parties arising under agreements for the sale and purchase of automobile parts.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and Chinese parties arising under a contract for the supply and installation of ship engine components for large oil tankers.
- Sole arbitrator in SIAC arbitration seated in Singapore between Papua New Guinean and Australian parties arising under an agency agreement for port operations and cargo services.
- Sole arbitrator in ICC arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and Austrian parties arising under an agreement to jointly develop and market automobile air conditioner technology.
- Chair in SIAC-administered UNCITRAL arbitration seated in Singapore between Chinese and Singaporean parties arising under a commodity sales agreement and related agency agreement.
- Co-arbitrator in ad-hoc reinsurance arbitration seated in Seoul between Malaysian and Korean parties arising under multiple treaty and facultative policies.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Chinese and Korean parties arising under a contract for the sale and transport of goods.
- Co-arbitrator in four (consolidated to two) ICC arbitrations seated in Delhi between a Korean party and an Indian government entity arising under multiple contracts for urban development projects.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and US parties arising under an agreement for the manufacture and supply of telecommunications equipment.
- Sole arbitrator in HKIAC-administered UNCITRAL arbitration seated in Hong Kong between Chinese and US/Hong Kong parties arising under agreements for the sale and purchase of a manufacturing business and related non-compete agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong between a UK party and a Mongolian government entity arising under multiple aviation consulting agreements.
- Co-arbitrator in CIETAC arbitration seated in Beijing between Chinese and German parties arising under multiple purchase and supply contracts.
- Sole arbitrator in six consolidated SIAC arbitrations seated in Singapore between Chinese/Hong Kong and Malaysian/Singaporean parties arising under shipbuilding project management contracts.
- Sole arbitrator in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and Chinese parties arising under a contract for the sale and shipment of industrial equipment.
- Sole arbitrator in SIAC expedited arbitration seated in Singapore between Indonesian and Singaporean parties arising under a contract for the sale and shipment of coal.

- Sole arbitrator in ACICA arbitration seated in Sydney between Australian and Fijian parties arising under an agreement for the sale and purchase of an ocean vessel.
- Chair in KCAB arbitration seated in Seoul between Korean and German parties arising under joint venture and shareholders' agreements.

Professional Career:

March 2013 – present:	Independent Arbitrator and Mediator
March 2019 – present:	Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
March 2015 – Feb 2019:	Associate Professor, School of Law, Seoul National University
Nov 2009 – Feb 2013:	Partner and Co-chair, International Arbitration, Shin & Kim (Seoul)
Sept. 2007 – Nov. 2009:	Senior Associate, International Arbitration and Litigation, Shearman & Sterling LLP (San Francisco and Singapore)
Sept. 2005 – Aug. 2007:	Foreign Attorney, International Arbitration, Kim & Chang (Seoul)
Aug. 2004 – Aug. 2005:	Associate, Shearman & Sterling LLP (San Francisco)
July 2002 – Aug. 2004:	Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP (San Francisco)

Education:

NYU School of Law JD, 2002	Dean Robert McKay Scholar Global Legal Fellow
Seoul National University College of Law MA course, 1999	Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship SNU Academic Scholarship
Harvard University AM 1997	MA Thesis on Korean Legal History Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship
Fulbright Grantee 1992-93	Seoul, Korea
Trinity University BA 1989	President's Academic Scholarship

Languages:

Read, write and speak English, Korean and Spanish; limited Mandarin Chinese.

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For additional information and a current CV, please see www.hughesarbitration.com.