

Benjamin F. Hughes

Independent Arbitrator

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Benjamin Hughes is an independent arbitrator at Arbitration Chambers, a member of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hainan International Arbitration Court (HIAC). Before becoming a full-time arbitrator, Ben was associate professor at Seoul National University Law School, adjunct professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, the founding co-chair of the international arbitration practice group at one of Korea's largest law firms, and a member of the international arbitration team at Shearman & Sterling in the US and Singapore. Since leaving law firm practice in 2013, he has been appointed in over 250 arbitrations with several billion dollars in dispute.

Ben has served as arbitrator under the rules of the AAA/ICDR, ACICA, AIAC, BIAC/BAC, CAA, CIETAC, DIFC-LCIA, DIS, HKIAC, ICC, JAMS, JCAA, KCAB, LCIA, LMAA, SCC, SCCA, SCMA, SIAC, UNCITRAL (both administered and ad-hoc) and VIAC. His experience 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, hotel management agreements, sale of goods and general commercial disputes.

Ben has been appointed in cases seated in Australia, China, El Salvador, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. He has heard cases governed by the laws of Australia, Austria, BVI, Cayman Islands, China, El Salvador, England and Wales, Fiji, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, 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* and the CISG. 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 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 Mandarin in Beijing and East Asian history at Harvard University.

Principal Areas of Practice

- Joint venture and shareholder disputes
- Intellectual property, licensing, media and telecommunications disputes
- 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

Professional Work Experience

- Member of Arbitration Chambers (2026 - Present)
- Independent Arbitrator and Mediator (2013 - 2026)
- Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (2019 – 2025)
- Associate Professor, School of Law, Seoul National University (2015 – 2019)
- Shin & Kim, Partner and Co-chair, International Arbitration, Seoul (2009 – 2013)
- Shearman & Sterling LLP, Senior Associate, San Francisco, Singapore (2007 – 2009)
- Kim & Chang, Foreign Attorney, International Arbitration, Seoul (2005 – 2007)
- Shearman & Sterling LLP, Associate, San Francisco (2004 – 2005)
- Latham & Watkins LLP, Associate, San Francisco (2002 – 2004)

Appointments as Arbitrator

Recent representative appointments include the following:

- 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.

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, MA, 1997
Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship
- Trinity University, BA, 1989
President's Academic Scholarship

Languages

- English
- Korean
- Spanish
- Mandarin (basic)

Nationality

- United States of America