

Another change of status for Doug Jones

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14 January 2015



Doug Jones

The recently remarried Doug Jones has resigned as head of international arbitration at Sydney law firm Clayton Utz, his base for 21 years, to focus on his career as an independent arbitrator; he will also be chairing this year's centenary celebrations for the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

The Australian lawyer will operate primarily from London, where he and his wife, Canadian international arbitration specialist **Janet Walker**, have a home. He has been a door tenant at Atkin Chambers in London for a number of years.

While in Canada, he will operate from the Arbitration Place hearing centre in Toronto, where he is a non-resident arbitrator.

Jones tells *GAR* that he has accepted a "fixed term, fixed remuneration consultancy at Clayton Utz, which will involve assisting with existing client relations and mentoring - something which is dear to my heart."

He will continue to make use of the firm's office during the significant periods he spends in Sydney.

Robert Cutler, chief executive partner at Clayton Utz, says: "We are pleased that Doug will be staying on with us as a consultant following his retirement from the partnership."

"Doug has made and will continue to make an enormous contribution to Clayton Utz and indeed, to the legal profession. He has shown unparalleled leadership in Australia as an advocate of international arbitration in resolving cross-border commercial disputes, and in promoting Sydney as an arbitral venue. Doug is also respected as one of the country's pre-eminent major projects and infrastructure lawyers.

"We are delighted that he will continue to be part of Clayton Utz and share his experience and knowledge for the benefit of our clients as well as our lawyers."

Jones joined Clayton Utz as a partner in 1993, becoming head of the national construction and engineering law group immediately and head of international arbitration within two years.

Before that he was at Morris Fletcher & Cross, where he spent 24 years, 17 as partner, leaving soon after its merger with Minter Ellison.

Jones calls his new focus on being an arbitrator a “natural progression”. His cases vary in terms of geography and subject matter, with the bulk being heard in London. Others are going on in Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Dubai and Toronto. He even has a case in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik.

Sixty per cent of his cases are complex construction disputes, Jones reports. Others concern M&A, IP, oil and gas, joint ventures and public/private partnerships. One recent high profile case concerned a dispute over the Yongin Light Railway PPP project in South Korea.

Of the commercial arbitrations he has heard, eight have involved state parties. He is an Australian government appointee to the ICSID panel of arbitrators and chaired the investment treaty case of *OPIC v Venezuela*.

This is a big year for Jones, who was appointed chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators centenary celebrations at the end of his term as president of the organisation for 2011.

The celebrations will kick off from 22 to 24 January with a conference in Birmingham, where CI Arb UK has its origins, with further events to be held in Hong Kong (in March), London (in July) and Singapore (in September).

There will also be an event at Victoria Falls Convention Centre in the former capital of Zambia, Livingstone, in July.

Details of the celebration events are available [here](#). The CI Arb is to launch a centenary fund to finance research on international ADR and publish a book on its history.

Jones remains vice president of the Asia Pacific Regional Arbitration Group, a regional president of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation, and a member of the LCIA Court. He was made an officer of the Order of Australia in 2012 for services to the law and the development of arbitration and ADR.

He stood down as president of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration last year.

It is also a time of professional change for Jones’s wife, Janet Walker.

The conflict of laws specialist, who is a professor at Osgoode Law School and a founding member of ICC Canada and the Toronto Commercial Arbitration Society, joined Outer Temple Chambers in London last year, from which she too is operating as an arbitrator, most recently on a case for the Dubai International Arbitration Centre.

At the same time, Walker is acting as academic advisor to the CIArb, planning new offerings including courses for corporate executives, in-house counsel and tribunal secretaries, with support from several major arbitral institutions. She will also expand CIArb's flagship Oxford Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration into other parts of the world, starting with the Americas.

Known for her musical as well as her legal accomplishments, Walker for many years played the French horn for the bands of the the Canadian Air Force and the Governor General's Horse Guards, a Canadian army regiment. She retired from the Horse Guards last year, as its longest-serving female reservist.

At Clayton Utz, the international arbitration practice will be led jointly by partners **Steve O'Reilly** and **John Rowland QC**.