Aina Blankson

Global Arbitration Group

The Aina Blankson Global Arbitration Group represents clients in high-stakes international arbitrations around the world. Our members have extensive experience in investment treaty arbitration and a broad range of international arbitration rules, including the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, ICC Rules, Rules of the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), Arbitration Rules of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSCID), Rules of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, and the AAA International Rules for the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). Our Arbitration attorneys have widespread industry knowledge, are intimately familiar with numerous different legal systems and cultures, and many have practiced law in both common and civil law jurisdictions. The group’s clients include multi-nationals and industry leaders across a wide variety of businesses, investors, financial institutions, state-owned enterprises and national governments.

“Our aim is not only to take clients’ disputes but to vigorously pursue and protect our clients’ interests until a successful closing.”

Our aim in advising clients is a positive one - not simply to advise what cannot be done, but to work imaginatively and constructively to ensure that our clients’ commercial objectives are met and that our clients’ interests and reputations are protected. Our partners and staff are committed to providing clients with the highest standards of services, professional excellence and value for money. We seek to establish and maintain a high level of personal contact with our clients, to anticipate developments and to stretch ourselves to perform above our clients’ expectations.

Working out creative business oriented solutions to disputes involves more than the arbitration proceedings itself, we bring to our clients expansive knowledge and wide-ranging experience with both arbitration and ancillary proceedings such as mediation. Our attorneys are highly skilled at mediation and other means to reach a negotiated solution where appropriate, but we do not hesitate to vigorously pursue arbitration awards if no mutually agreeable result is reached.
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION: OUR CUTTING EDGE

“Our objective is to obtain a swift, cost-effective resolution of the dispute in the best commercial interests of the client.”

GETTING OUT OF COURT
Companies may be sued, even in a foreign country, despite an applicable arbitration clause in the contract. Our attorneys have wide experience with removing cases from (foreign) courts and forcing plaintiffs to arbitrate instead. Even if there is no obvious applicable arbitration clause, we have successfully moved cases to arbitration through submission agreements or by applying arbitration clauses in ancillary agreements.

COST EFFICIENT
Arbitration is cost efficient: our attorneys resolve most arbitration matters within a year, and many in less, obtaining significant savings over what it would have cost to litigate the matter. Nearly 50% of parties engaged in arbitration say it saves cost and feel it offers better value than litigation.

SEEKING AN EARLY RESOLUTION
Our attorneys have extensive mediation experience enabling them to reach a favourable negotiated solution if the client decides such to be in its best interest. The vast majority of companies that explore mediation in resolving disputes report additional cost saving as a result.

AN EFFICIENT ALTERNATIVE TO LITIGATION
Some cases need to be fought hard to the end, and we have successfully done so many times. Even then, flexible arbitration procedures, privacy of the process, ability to choose arbitrators, absence of lengthy appeals, and virtual world-wide enforceability of arbitration awards has enabled us to make arbitration an efficient alternative to litigation.
WHY CHOOSE AINA BLANKSON
GLOBAL ARBITRATION GROUP?

OUR ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRACTICE OFFERS:

Top-quality lawyers and support teams: We provide excellent advice and service based on the quality and commitment of our lawyers. We have assembled a formidable team with considerable experience in managing and resolving disputes. We conduct cases at all levels of courts and tribunals.

International expertise: As business becomes more global, so do the disputes spawned by it. Clients increasingly become involved in cross-border disputes and disputes in unfamiliar jurisdictions. Our global litigation practice offers unrivalled expertise in the management and co-ordination of international disputes.

Track record: From the promotion of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Nigeria in the 1990s, to the establishment of the Lagos Multi-door Courthouse in 2002, the track record of Aina Blankson in judicial reform, mediation and arbitration practice is second to none in Africa.

Resources and experience: We manage large, complex, multi-party and multi-jurisdictional disputes.

Personal contact: We seek to establish and maintain a high level of personal contact with clients, to anticipate developments and to stretch ourselves to perform above their expectations.

Understanding of our clients' business needs: We make it our practice to have a clear understanding of our clients’ objectives and to chart with them a dispute resolution strategy that best meets their needs.

Tactical judgement: Successful litigation and dispute resolution depend to a large extent on good judgement, skillful negotiation and tactical flair. We do not shirk from being tough if such an approach is needed. However, we do not engage in posturing and pointless sideshows for their own sake.

Speed of response: Our resources and experience enable us move quickly and decisively. This is often paramount where large sums of money can be moved at very short notice out of reach of the jurisdiction where the dispute has arisen.

One-off cases: We have particular expertise in applying our skill to help to resolve disputes in complex or unusual cases for which special thinking and management are called.
We act in arbitrations both in Africa and abroad which are subject to many different systems of law. We are experienced in conducting arbitrations held under the auspices of institutions such as the ICC, LCIA, LMAA, GAFTA, FOSFA AND ICE. We also conduct arbitrations on an ad hoc basis. We have substantial experience in acting as advocates before arbitral tribunals and, where appropriate, we act in conjunction with local lawyers. We also assist overseas clients in enforcing foreign arbitration awards in Africa. Our recent experience includes:

**Construction arbitrations**
Acting for building owners, contractors and engineers in construction arbitrations both on land and offshore, in various parts of the world, involving the presentation of expert technical evidence to support or rebut claims for defective work and design, delays and cost overruns.

**A Multi-Million Dollar Claim for the Theft of Trade Secrets**
Acting in an arbitration conducted under the London Court of International Arbitration Rules and defending a multi-million dollar claim for the theft of trade secrets and breach of a collaboration agreement for the development of equipment for tactical fighter aircraft.

**Rebuilding an oil Refinery**
Acting for a large Oil Company in a multi-million dollar insurance claim, subject to arbitration, for the cost of rebuilding an oil refinery damaged by an explosion and fire.

**Advising on an international arbitration**
Advising on an arbitration being conducted under the Rules of the International Chamber of Commerce in connection with the implementation of a national utility system in the Middle East.

**Advising the financiers in a ship building dispute**
Advising the financiers of ship owners concerning a multi-million arbitration with Korean ship builders about the delivery of two defective bulk carrier vessels.

**Arbitration subject to laws of varied jurisdictions**
Acting in numerous arbitration proceedings and hearings with millions of dollars at stake, seated in London subject to laws of varied jurisdictions.

**Multi-party arbitration proceedings**
Acting in multi-party arbitration proceedings and parallel litigation in England and Africa concerning substantial claims and counterclaims between a European contractor and an Africa government entity.

**Arbitration at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre**
Acting in arbitration at the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and subject to Singaporean law concerning a hotel management agreement.

**Recovering fees for a UK bank**
Recovering fees for a UK bank from a Central European Government department by a UNCITRAL arbitration conducted in Vienna.

**Acting for an Eastern European State Agency**
Acting for an Eastern European state agency in an International Chamber of Commerce arbitration in London.
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