

Prof. Benjamin F. Hughes

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Professor Benjamin F. Hughes is an independent arbitrator at Fountain Court Chambers in Singapore, adjunct professor at the National University of Singapore Faculty of Law, a member of the Court of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre and a member of the Investment Committee of Omni Bridgeway. Previously, Professor Hughes was a member of the faculty at Seoul National University Law School, the founding co-chair of the international dispute resolution practice group at one of Korea's largest full-service 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 200 arbitrations with several billion dollars in dispute.

Professor Hughes 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, KLRCA, 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, hotel management agreements, sale of goods and general commercial disputes. He has been appointed in cases seated in Australia, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States (including New York, California, Hawaii, and US territories) and Vietnam. He has heard cases governed by the laws of Australia, Austria, BVI, Cayman Islands, China, 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.

Professor Hughes is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators and the College of Commercial 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 and as a visiting professor at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law and National Taiwan University Law School. Professor Hughes also serves on the editorial boards of the Asian International Arbitration Journal, the Korea Arbitration Review and the Journal of Korean Law.

Professor Hughes 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.

Recent Recognition:

Benjamin Hughes is an independent arbitrator who is particularly well known for his longstanding – and continuing – association with Korean matters, but who has broadened his range since relocating to Singapore and is now encountered handling arbitrations across the region, with connections to jurisdictions which include China, India,

Malaysia and the Philippines. He is the recipient of high praise from numerous interviewees, who variously speak of him as “an absolutely first-rate, no-nonsense and very direct” arbitrator who is “sitting in a lot of major cases in Asia” and “runs cases very well,” one source predicting that “he will be one of the superstars of arbitratorhood in due course.”

--Chambers & Partners: Most in Demand Arbitrators, Asia-Pacific 2022 (Band 1)

Benjamin Hughes draws accolades from peers for his exemplary arbitration practice which handles high-value disputes. Market sources enthuse that he is “one of the best arbitrators in Asia” due to his “exemplary linguistic skills and decisiveness”. [He] is readily identified as a “top-shelf arbitrator”, with one peer stating, “He is brilliant.” He has broad experience, including in shareholder and intellectual property disputes.

Peers and Clients Say:

“An excellent and well-balanced arbitrator with a strong command of proceedings.”

“He is undoubtedly one of the finest arbitrators in Asia, and increasingly one of the leading arbitrators worldwide.”

“A huge legal mind who knows how to get to the heart of any matter.”

“He is a prepared, focused and discerning arbitrator who stands his ground firmly but politely.”

--Who's Who Legal: Arbitration 2022

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, Shearman & Sterling LLP (San Francisco, 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, MA 1997
Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship

Fulbright Grantee, 1992-93
Seoul, Korea

Trinity University, BA 1989
President's Academic Scholarship

Languages:

English, Korean and Spanish; limited Mandarin.

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For more information and a recent CV, please visit www.hughesarbitration.com.