

## Susan Ahern

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**Nationality:** Irish  
**Qualifications:** LL.B, LL.M, BL, FCI Arb, CEDR Mediator

### INDEPENDENT BARRISTER & ARBITRATOR

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#### THE BAR OF IRELAND

**Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator**

Profile: <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/members/susan-ahern-bl/>

I have a regulatory, civil and commercial practice at the Bar of Ireland, which sits alongside my international arbitration practice as an independent arbitrator (primarily in the areas of sport, contractual & commercial disputes, broadcasting and intellectual property). I previously had a 20-year career in financial services and international sport and was for 7 years, General Counsel of an International Sports Federation operating under English law where I was responsible for the legal risk of the organisation

#### 33 BEDFORD ROW – LONDON CHAMBERS

**Arbitrator / Mediator**

Door Tenant

Profile: <https://www.33bedfordrow.co.uk/people/ahern-susan#content/introduction>

### ARBITRATION – PANEL MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021 - **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**  
Appointed to the CAS Ad Hoc Anti-Doping Panel for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games which I attended in July-August 2021
- Eligibility Determination Panel Member** – Currently appointed by Sports Resolutions UK to assess the eligibility of election candidates of an International Sports Federation
- 2020 - **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**  
Appointed by the Government of Ireland to the Conciliator Panel. Term to January 2026.
- ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC)**  
Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in an international commercial dispute
- Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI)**  
Re-appointed to the arbitration Panel. I have had numerous Sole Arbitrator appointments from this Irish national sports dispute resolution body
- 2018 - **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**  
Arbitrator appointment in 2018. I have had over 23 appointments as co-arbitrator and Panel President. I am a Member of the Anti-Doping Panel where I sit as Sole Arbitrator or Panel President
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ireland)** – ad hoc appointments to domestic arbitration disputes as nominated by the CIARB Ireland President
- 2017 - **Sports Resolutions UK - International Panel of Arbitrators**  
Arbitrator – sitting frequently as Panel President & Arbitrator in commercial and sports disciplinary matters referred by International Federations. Re-appointed in 2021
- Arbitration Ireland** – Executive Committee Member  
Entity which promotes International Arbitration in Ireland and by Irish practitioners internationally. Profile: <https://arbitrationireland.com/executive-committee/>
- 2008 – 2012 **Chair of the Olympic Federation of Ireland Judicial Committee**  
Determined all Irish eligibility cases for the Beijing 2008 & London 2012 Olympic Games

## Susan Ahern FCI Arb

### TRIBUNAL & REGULATORY BODIES – MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

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- 2021 - **Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board Appeals Body** – Independent Deputy Chairman  
I have sat a number of times since my appointment
- EU Expert (Sport) - EU Commission appointment (EX2017D310797)**  
Erasmus+ Sport Programme 2021; Erasmus+ Programme 2020
- 2020 - **Chair of the Sports Law Bar Association of Ireland (SLBA)**
- Bookmakers Appeal Committee (Horse Racing Ireland) - Member**  
Re-appointed to this statutory body by the Irish Minister for Agriculture to 2023
- National Childcare Scheme (POBAL) - Independent Appeals Officer**  
Appointed by the Irish Minister for Children & Youth Affairs. I sit regularly in this capacity
- World Wheelchair Rugby - Independent Judicial Chair**  
Appointed first independent judicial chair. I made my inaugural panel appointments to the new Independent Appeal Panel for the Paralympic Games, Tokyo 2020 (Aug. 2021)
- 2019 - **Health & Social Care Professionals Council Professional Conduct Committee - Independent Tribunal Chair** – I regularly adjudicate on professional conduct matters across 12 regulated health and social care professions. Decisions require confirmation of the High Court of Ireland
- Residential Tenancies Board (Ireland) - Member of the Panel of Decision Makers**  
I sit regularly on cases brought against landlords for breaches of the Residential Tenancies Acts. Decisions require confirmation of the Circuit Court of Ireland
- International Tennis Federation - Davis Cup Finals, Madrid**  
Appointed by Sports Resolutions UK to the ITF Ad Hoc Independent Tribunal
- 2018 - **Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) Professional Practice Committee**  
Independent Tribunal Member – adjudicating on professional conduct matters. Decisions require confirmation of the High Court of Ireland

### CURRENT INDEPENDENT DIRECTORSHIPS

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- 2021 **Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ)** – (National Broadcaster of Ireland)
- Member of the Audit & Risk Committee of this State Body
- 2020 **2023 Cycling World Championships Limited (Scotland)** – (Host Organisation)
- Member of the Audit & Risk Committee
- 2019 **The Irish Cricket Union CLG (Cricket Ireland)** – (National Sports Federation)
- Member of the Audit & Risk Committee
- 2019 **Ballymun Youth Action Project CLG** – (Charity)

## Susan Ahern FCI Arb

### GOVERNANCE & FORMER DIRECTORSHIPS

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2018 – 2019	<b>World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) International Standard for Testing and Investigations 2020 (ISDI)</b> - Lead Drafter of this global standard
2014 – 2019	<b>Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland</b> – Board Member & Director
2017 – 2019	<b>Volleyball Ireland Governance Review Group - Chair</b>
2016 – 2019	<b>World Athletics Legal Commission</b> – Member
2009 – 2014	<b>Sport Ireland</b> – Council Member - Appointed by the Minister for Arts, Culture & Sport
2004 – 2014	<b>Olympic Federation of Ireland</b> - Executive Committee Member & Director
1999 – 2004	<b>Volleyball Ireland</b> – President & Director

### CAREER HISTORY

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<b>2016</b>	<b>THE BAR OF IRELAND</b>	<b>Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator</b>
	Member of the Bar of Ireland Arbitration & ADR Committee and the Equality & Inclusion Committee. Past member of the Professional Practices Committee & Member of the Sub-Group which re-drafted the Bar of Ireland Code of Conduct in 2021	
<b>2020</b>	<b>33 BEDFORD ROW – London Chambers</b>	<b>Arbitrator / Mediator</b>
<b>2009 – June 2016</b>	<b>WORLD RUGBY RUGBY WORLD CUP</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Legislative Affairs General Counsel</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responsible for the management of the global legal risk of World Rugby</li><li>• Legal counsel to the CEO, Council, Executive Committee and Executive team</li><li>• Primary legal advisor &amp; drafter in corporate and commercial matters including- broadcasting, sponsorship, licensing contracts, investments, IT) strategy, brand and reputation management IP and regulation</li><li>• Led a team of eight in the Legal Department with associated HR and training duties &amp; responsible for managing a Disciplinary Team of over fifty people</li><li>• Advisor on all matters of litigation and managing international external counsel &amp; cases</li><li>• Responsible for directing the framework, regulatory content and writing regulations for integrity, compliance, eligibility and conduct in World Rugby and before independent judicial tribunals</li><li>• Oversaw successful delivery of the legal &amp; regulatory aspects of Rugby World Cup 2011 &amp; 2015</li></ul>	
<b>2001 – 2009</b>	<b>WORLD RUGBY</b>	<b>Senior Legal Counsel</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managed the Trade Mark and IP Portfolio including Domain Names</li><li>• Devised and delivered the Rights Protection Programmes for RWC 2003 and 2007</li><li>• Drafted multi-million pound proprietary IT, sponsorship, broadcasting and licensing contracts</li></ul>	
<b>2000 – 2001</b>	<b>NATIONAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AGENCY</b>	<b>Legal Counsel</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drafting and negotiation of legal documentation for capital markets instruments under the International Swaps and Derivative Association (<b>ISDA</b>) standards</li><li>• Advisor on EU Public Procurement &amp; creation of the National Pension Reserve Fund</li></ul>	
<b>1998 – 2000</b>	<b>ARTESIA IRELAND LIMITED (BACOB BANK)</b>	<b>Assistant Manager / Legal Counsel</b>
<b>1996 – 1998</b>	<b>BANK OF IRELAND CORPORATE BANKING</b>	<b>Account Officer</b>

# Susan Ahern FCI Arb

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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2021-2023	<b>MA Ethics: Corporate Responsibility</b> (Candidate) – Dublin City University
2020	<b>Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Accredited Mediator</b>
2019	<b>The Honorable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin</b> - Advanced Diploma in Medical Law
2017	<b>Chartered Institute of Arbitrators</b> – Fellow (FCI Arb)
1996-1998	<b>The Honorable Society of King’s Inns, Dublin</b> - Barrister-at-Law ( <b>BL</b> )
1995-1996	<b>Queen’s University Belfast</b> - Master of Laws: Computers & Law ( <b>LL.M</b> )
1990-1994	<b>University of Dublin, Trinity College</b> - Bachelor of Laws ( <b>LL.B</b> )

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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**Chartered Institute of Arbitrators**

**Arbitral Women**

**Arbitration Ireland**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Lecturing:** **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators** - Member of the Approved Faculty List.  
**Law Society of Ireland** – External Examiner & lecturer - Diploma in Sports Law  
**University College Dublin Law School**

**Publications:** **The Bar Review** – Editorial Board Member

**The MENA Business Law Review – Q2 2021** - ‘*Getting the Most Out of Expedited Sports Arbitration*’ – (with Arran Dowling Hussey)

**Business Post – Legal Comment (23 Oct 2020):** ‘*Gender Diversity in Arbitration leads to better decisions and better business*’. <https://www.businesspost.ie/legal/comment-gender-diversity-in-arbitration-leads-to-better-decisions-and-better-business-1dc80e71>

**The MENA Business Law Review – Q2 2020** - “The Unforgiveable ADR Error” (with Arran Dowling Hussey)

**Lexis® Middle East Law** - “Sports Arbitration in the Gulf” (with Arran Dowling Hussey) <https://www.lexis.ae/2018/07/30/sports-arbitration-in-the-gulf-by-susan-ahern-arran-dowling-hussey/>

**Sports Law Administration & Practice October 2017 Vol.24 No.5**  
“*Trade Mark Protection – A New Approach?*”

**International and Comparative Sports Justice, European Sports Law & Policy Bulletin 1-2013.** Chapter “*International Rugby Justice: A Précis of the Judicial System of the International Rugby Board*”

**Speaking:** I present frequently at international conferences and seminars on the subjects of sports law & integrity, disciplinary processes and arbitration, including:

2021  
Dublin International Arbitration Day 2021 – Speaker  
Society of Construction Law – Dublin Virtual Conference – Moderator  
‘*Arbitration - Tokyo 2020 Olympics*’ - European Circuit of the Bar Madrid Conference  
‘*An Introduction to Mediation*’ – Speaker, Bar of Ireland Young Bar Webinar  
‘*Equality in Dispute Resolution in Sport*’ – Panel Chair, SLBA Webinar  
‘*Transgender & Sport Regulation*’ – Speaker, The Bar of Ireland/OutLaw Network  
‘*The Future of Sports Arbitration in Asia*’ – Speaker, TIAC / AIA Webinar

## Susan Ahern FCI Arb

- 2020  
*'Innovation in Anti-Doping'* – Speaker, SLBA Winter Webinar  
*'Deep Tech and Construction Disputes'* – Moderator, Society of Construction Law  
*'Arbitration through the prism of Sport'* – Speaker, Dublin International Arbitration Day  
*'Women in Leadership. Does diversity foster better arbitrators?'* – Arbitration Ireland  
*'Conduct of an International Arbitration Part II'* – Bar of Ireland Webinar
- 2019  
*'Breaking the Rules – Discipline & Governance'* – Panel Chair – SLBA Conference  
*'Judicial Review & Arbitration'* – Panel Chair - European Court of Arbitration (IRL)  
*'SPORT, the law's increasing involvement, good or bad?'* – Speaker, Four Nations Jurisdiction Conference, Edinburgh  
*'Arbitrating Sports Disputes'* – Speaker - Sports Dispute Solution Ireland Seminar
- 2018  
*'Rules Based Decision Makers – What Sport Can Teach Us'* – Chair, Dublin International Arbitration Day 2018  
*'You're a cheat! Perception and Reality'* – Speaker, Bar of Ireland Defamation Nation Conference, Malaga, Spain