

## **DEBEVOISE ISSUES PROTOCOL TO PROMOTE EFFICIENCY IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION**

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To Our Clients and Friends:

While international arbitration can provide significant advantages for parties to cross-border disputes, parties to international arbitrations have frequently been expressing concerns about the increased length and cost of the arbitration process. To respond to these concerns, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP is continuing its commitment to improve the international arbitration process by issuing the attached Protocol to Promote Efficiency in International Arbitration. The Protocol, developed by members of the firm's International Dispute Resolution (IDR) Group, identifies 25 specific procedures intended to make arbitration more efficient. Through the Protocol, the firm expresses its commitment to explore with its clients how such procedures may be applied in each case. No other law firm has made such a public and specific commitment to conduct international arbitrations in this manner.

In issuing the Protocol, David W. Rivkin, co-chair of the IDR Group, notes "We have always focused on conducting our arbitrations in the most efficient manner possible. We believe that this approach is strongly in our clients' interests, and we hope that, by making this public commitment, the Debevoise Protocol will encourage others to work with us in improving the international arbitration process."

Debevoise has long been at the forefront of working to make international arbitration more efficient. For example, in 2008 Mr. Rivkin authored an article entitled "Towards a New Paradigm in International Arbitration: The Town Elder Model Revisited," which was published in *Arbitration International*. The article proposed a model of how to return to basics in order to address efficiency concerns in international arbitration. The firm's lawyers have been active in many international arbitration organizations, in which they have worked to promote better practices and rules. For instance, Mr. Rivkin has chaired committees of the American Arbitration Association and the Singapore International Arbitration Centre that revised their rules, and he chaired the committee that drafted the International Bar Association (IBA) Rules of Evidence in International Commercial Arbitration in 1999, which have become the hallmark for international arbitration procedure. Donald Francis Donovan, co-chair of the firm's IDR Group, serves as Vice-President of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration, and Mark W. Friedman is Vice Chair of the IBA's Arbitration Committee, organizations that focus on improving international arbitration. Additionally, Peter J. Rees QC was a member on the ICC Task Force on Reducing Time and Costs in Complex Arbitrations; Lord Goldsmith QC, the firm's European Chair of

Litigation, currently chairs the ICC's Task Force on States and State Entities; and Sophie Lamb is currently a member of the ICC Task Force on Expertise Proceedings.

The Debevoise Protocol can also be found at [www.debevoise.com/arbitrationprotocol](http://www.debevoise.com/arbitrationprotocol). We hope that you will find it to be a significant and useful step forward.

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP is a leading international law firm with offices in New York, Washington D.C., London, Paris, Frankfurt, Moscow, Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Please call us if you have any questions.

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