

# Book Reviews

## **International Commercial Arbitration: A Handbook**

*Authors:* Mark Huleatt-James and Nicholas Gould.

*Publisher:* LLP Limited (formerly Lloyd's of London Press).

*Price:* £35.00.

The authors are Fellows of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and partners in the London based international law firm Lovell White Durrant.

The stated purpose of the book is to provide a slim volume providing an overview of the subject of international commercial arbitration. It is intended for in-house lawyers, busy lawyers in law firms who need to gain a quick overview of international commercial arbitration and students of the subject. In addition to its target audience the book will provide a useful handbook for arbitrators engaged in international arbitration and those who would like to improve their general knowledge of international commercial arbitration without having to wade through lengthy tomes.

The book achieves its stated purpose well. It is clearly written, well expressed and therefore easy to read. Chapter 1 of the book provides an introduction and legal background to the subject. It covers topics such as the law that will be applicable, the arbitration agreement and the recognition or enforcement of awards. Pages 18 to 20 provide a short description of the history of international conventions. There is a chapter devoted to the arbitration agreement which provides a useful overview of institutional arbitration, *ad hoc* arbitration and multi-party arbitration. Further chapters include 'The commencement of the arbitration and the appointment of the arbitral tribunal', 'The Jurisdiction, powers and obligations of the tribunal'.

Chapter 5 provides a practical reference for the conduct of the proceedings from the preliminary meeting (including an agenda) through to the hearing itself. It discusses the rules of evidence, expert witnesses and considers the situation that arises where there is a failure by one party to participate in the arbitration and deals with *ex parte* hearings on page 97.

Chapters 6 to 8 are concerned with awards, recognition and enforcement of awards and resisting awards. The appendices include various model and draft arbitration clauses and a list of states which have ratified, or acceded to, the New York Convention of 1958 which is valid as at 1 August, 1995.

This compact book is well worth having on the shelf. It is available from LLP Limited, 27 Swinton Street, London WC1X 9NW United Kingdom. Phone: +44 (0) 171 278 0266.

**Grant Holley**