ArentFox Schiff LLP
Attorneys

Ucheora Onwuamaegbu*

SPECIAL LEGAL CONSULTANT

Uche is a Special Legal Consultant in the firm's International Arbitration and Dispute Resolution practice.



Industries

AI & Emerging Technologies
Energy & Cleantech
Fashion & Retail Law
Media & Entertainment
Sports

Practices

Communications & Technology
Government Relations
International Arbitration & Dispute Resolution
International Trade & Investment

International

Africa
Europe

Education

University of Nigeria, 1986
Nigeria Law School, 1987
College of Law, London, 1994
King's College London, 2019

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Uche regularly provides advisory services and acts as arbitrator in international disputes.

**Admitted as Special Legal Consultant in the District of Columbia. Admitted in the United Kingdom and Nigeria.*

Previous Work

For more than a decade, Uche was Senior Counsel at the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), in Washington, DC. He was involved, as Secretary or Team Leader, in over 70 cases in various economic sectors, including oil, gas, and mining, construction, agriculture, finance, and tourism; and was a core member of the 2016 ICSID Rules amendment team. Prior to ICSID, he was a lawyer at the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva, working on various types of cases, including a consolidated claim of over 800,000 migrant workers for lost remittances; as well as claims by airlines and shipping companies, banks and insurance companies. He was in domestic law practice in the UK and in Nigeria before that.

Professional Activities

Uche's current practice focuses on international investment arbitration, commercial disputes, and advisory services. He has served as presiding-, sole-, and co-arbitrator in disputes before ICSID, the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, the American Arbitration Association, New York, and the Dubai International Arbitration Centre. He advises the State of Kuwait's multi-billion dollar National Focal Point for Environmental Projects. A member of the Board of the Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Center, Uche is also on the Panel of Arbitrators of various arbitration institutions around the world.

Publications, Presentations & Recognitions

Uche has written and spoken extensively on disputes between governments and foreign investors. He is currently the President of the Silicon Valley Arbitration & Mediation Center (SVAMC), having held Visiting Fellow positions at various institutions around the world.

Recent Publications

- "Stay of Enforcement of Awards under the ICSID Convention – Trends and Issues," Arbitration International, Volume 39, Issue 2, June 2023
- "A managed dispute-resolution insurance scheme for countries in investor-state arbitration: Ensuring early legal representation of respondents," Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, March 2022
- "Blockchain, Smart Contracts and International Arbitration," International Commercial Arbitration Practice: 21st Century Perspectives, 2nd. Ed., Lexis Nexis, December 2021
- "International Dispute Settlement Mechanisms," Arbitration under International Investment Agreements: A guide to key issues, 2nd. Ed., Oxford University Press, 2018
- "Ad hoc Arbitration," Elgar Encyclopedia of International Economic Law, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017
- "Africa and the Changing Landscape of Investor State Arbitration," ICCA Congress Series No. 19, Wolters Kluwer, 2017
- "The Dispute Resolution Trends in Treaties Affecting African/Asian Investors and African/Asian States," TDM Special edition on Africa, TDM 4, 2016
- "Limiting the Participation of Developed States: Impacts on Investor State Arbitration," CIGI Investor State Arbitration Series, Paper No. 11, August 2016
- "Directness of Claims by Foreign Companies in Remote Locations," War Reparations and the UN Compensation Commission, Oxford University Press, 2015
- "FDI, the Global Crisis and Sustainable Recovery," Transnational Corporations, vol.20, UNCTAD, 2011
- "International Dispute Settlement Mechanisms, Arbitration under International Investment Agreements, A guide to key issues," Oxford University Press, 2010
- "Using Treaties to Determine Rules of Procedure in Investor-State Arbitration," The Future of Investment Arbitration, Oxford University Press, 2009
- "The Role of ADR in Investor State Dispute Settlement: the ICSID Experience," AAA/ICC/ICSID Joint colloquium, New York, November 2005

Recent Presentations

- Moderator: Quantum Computing: The Next Frontier in International Arbitration, Washington Arbitration Week, October 30, 2026.
- Presenter: Safeguarding Gulf Cooperation Council Interests under International Law: Remedies, Resilience, and Recovery, Joint Panel Organized by the Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Branch of the International Law Association, April 7, 2026.
- Presenter: Taking on Evidence in International Arbitration in the Era of AI, XII CAM-CCBC Arbitration Congress, October 21, 2025.
- Moderator: Space Law in the New Space Age: Sovereignty, Resources, and Dispute Resolution, Washington Arbitration Week, October 10, 2025.
- Presenter: The Search for Justice After Conflict Through Claims Commissions & Tribunals and Arbitration, Bocconi International Arbitration Conference War & Peace, and International Arbitration: The Prospect of Accountability for Violent Conflicts, May, 8, 2025 .
- Presenter: The Research Handbook on International Claims Commissions, American Society of International Law Conference, January 29, 2025.
- Presenter: The Future of Investment Arbitration in the Middle East, Kuwait Business Law Conference, December 9, 2024.
- Presenter: By Peaceful Means: International Adjudication and Arbitration, King's College

London, November 21, 2024.

- Presenter: Arbitrating Natural Resources Disputes in Africa, 2024 CPR Africa Arbitration Day, November 1, 2024.
- Presenter: Executive Program on Investment Arbitration for State Officials and General Counsel in Africa, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, September 26, 2024.
- Presenter: Interim Measures in (Investment) Arbitrations Involving States: The Arbitrator's Perspective, ICC Institute Advanced Training on How to Navigate Interim Measures in International Arbitration, Lagos, Nigeria, May 31, 2023.
- Moderator: Africa Technology and Arbitration Roundtable, Silicon Valley Arbitration and Mediation Centre, July 13, 2022.
- Lecture: "Alternative Approaches to Energy related Investor-State Arbitration", 5th Annual Conference on Energy Arbitration and Dispute Resolution in the Middle East and Africa, London, February 10, 2022.
- Moderator, Inaugural World Arbitration Update Conference, Panel on Investment Arbitration and Mining, Challenges and Opportunities Ahead, October 12, 2021.
- Debater, AR Connect: Breaking IN – How International Arbitration Becomes More Diverse, Debated The future of International Arbitration is Regional, September 1, 2021.
- Presenter, 10th Annual AtLAS Conference, Panel on Entertainment and Media Disputes – Entertainment Media and Technology Disputes in Investor State Arbitration, September 12, 2021.
- Panelist, GAR Live Atlanta Conference – The Year in Review, A Guide Through the Essentials, Panel on Major Developments in the Area of International Rule Making and Decisions and Judgements of Note, September 13, 2021.
- Panelist, 5th ICC Africa Conference on International Arbitration Panel on Emerging Areas in Arbitration: Moving with the Trend, June 1 - 4, 2021.
- Moderator, Seventh Harvard International Arbitration Conference, Panel on Investment Protection and International Arbitration in Emerging Markets in a Pandemic Ridden World, March 6, 2021.
- Keynote Speaker, Global launch of Racial Equality for Arbitration Lawyers, January 18, 2021.
- Panelist, Washington Arbitration Week Panel on Energy & the Environment in International Arbitration, December 2, 2020.
- Moderator, AAA-ICDR Tertulia on the proposed changes to the ICDR International Arbitration Rules, December 1 and 2, 2020.
- Moderator, 2nd Live Debate of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce International Arbitration Centre (LACIAC) on the motion: Investor-State Dispute Settlement is better for Africa and the Middle East than State-to-State Dispute Settlement, October 30, 2020.
- Conference on African Courts and International Arbitration: Benevolent Eye or Cautious Approach? Center on International Commercial Arbitration, American University Washington College of Law, October 8, 2020.
- Treaty & Contract Claims; Fork in the Road and Waiver Provisions; Umbrella Clauses, ILI-ACLE, ICSID Program on Investor State Arbitration, September 28, 2020.
- Keynote Speaker, "Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution Lecture," Schiefelbein Global Dispute Resolution Conference, Phoenix, AZ, January 17, 2020.
- "Proposals for better Compliance with Investor State Arbitration Awards." Panel on 'Current Issues in Compliance and Enforcement of Arbitral Awards', 35th ICSID/ICDR-AAA/ICC Annual Joint Colloquium on International Arbitration, World Bank, Washington, DC, December 7, 2018.
- "Investment Arbitration involving African Parties - and the proposed changes to ICSID Rules," CRCICA / Al Tamimi & Co Panel on Arbitration in Africa, Dubai Arbitration Week, November 14, 2018.
- "Substantive Provisions in Investment Treaties (FET, NT & MFN)," ICSID / CIGI Interactive Meeting of African Investment Treaty Negotiators, The World Bank, September 28, 2018.
- "The International Regime for Enforcing Rights of Foreign Investors in Emerging Economies," The MIDA Institutional Investor Advisory Council Meeting at NASP's 29th Annual Pension and Financial Services Conference, Houston, Texas, June 2018.
- "ICSID, Investor-State Arbitration, and the UN Compensation Commission, International Economic Law, Business and Policy LLM Colloquium," Stanford Law School, April 2018
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"Conducting International Arbitration in Africa," Meeting of the International Arbitration Club of New York, December 2017.

- Panelist, "Legitimacy of the International Arbitration Process," Institute for Transnational Arbitration workshop, Dallas, Texas, June 2017.
- Moderator, "Perspectives of foreign counsel," SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference Series: Rethinking the Role of Courts and Judges in supporting Arbitration in Africa, Lagos, June 2016.
- "A Developing Country perspective on the Changing landscape of Investor State Arbitration," Panel on Investment Arbitration in Africa and Beyond: What Does the Future Hold?" ICCA Congress, Mauritius, May 9, 2016.
- "Legal Issues from the Implementation of KERP," Conference on Environmental Effects of Armed Conflict - International Legal Dialogue – Middle East North Africa, Amman, Jordan," December 13, 2015.
- Panelist, "Lessons for Africa from CETA, TPP, TTIP, and Beyond," Annual Conference, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Abuja, Nigeria, November 3, 2015.
- Panelist, King's College London, Shearman & Sterling, and BIICL's Investment Treaty Forum, London, United Kingdom, October 29, 2015.
- Panelist, "Investor State Arbitration between Developed Democracies: A Policy under Challenge," Center for International Governance Initiative, Ottawa, Canada, September 25, 2015.
- Panelist, "Refining ICSID's Procedures," Investment Treaty Forum of the British Institute for International and Comparative Law (BIICL), London, United Kingdom, September 10, 2015.

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia, Special Legal Consultant

Nigeria

England and Wales