



ANNOUNCEMENT



Press Release

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Atlanta International Arbitration Society
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ATLANTA The Atlanta International Arbitration Society (AtIAS) voiced its approval today of a recent Georgia Supreme Court rule change giving the Fulton County Business Court explicit authority to hear disputes ancillary to international commercial arbitrations.

The timing of the amendment is significant, coming in time for the late September opening of an arbitration hearing facility to be operated by the Atlanta Center for International Arbitration and Mediation in the new Georgia State University College of Law building in downtown Atlanta. This state-of-the-art center will be the first Atlanta forum built with the express purpose of hosting international commercial arbitrations and mediations.

According to Shelby Grubbs, executive director of the center, The Business Courts expanded rule, in effect, assures parties that international arbitrations located in Atlanta will avoid lengthy court proceedings and that arbitration provisions and awards will be enforced by a court with expertise in dealing with sophisticated disputes. Grubbs also observed that The business courts record for moving matters to a rapid conclusion is excellent. According to Jody Rhodes, program director at the Fulton County Business Court. Over the last two years, the average time for motion resolution once the issues were fully before the court was only 15 days.

The development was also welcomed by other members of Atlantas legal community. Alston & Bird partner, Randall Allen, who co-chairs the firms international arbitration practice, said, The last thing an arbitration needs is be stalled in lengthy, ancillary court proceedings. Having the ability to refer a matter to the Fulton County Business Court means that any arbitration related matters can be quickly and efficiently determined.

Kirk Watkins, a senior partner in the Atlanta office of Womble Carlyle agrees, noting, With this step, the Georgia judiciary is helping create a hospitable environment for international business. The amended process will provide expedited and knowledgeable access to courts, as may be needed, in support of the international arbitration community.

The expanded rule is also an attractive development for Atlantas business community. With a large presence of global companies doing business in Atlanta, this new rule aligns Atlanta with other major global arbitration hubs, further highlighting Atlanta as a premier destination for global business, said Jorge Fernandez, vice president of global commerce at the Metro Atlanta Chamber and a member of the advisory council for the Atlanta Center for International Arbitration and Mediation.

The Atlanta Center for International Arbitration and Mediation is a component of the Georgia State University College of Law. The Atlanta International Arbitration Society is Georgia non-profit which is engaged in various activity intended to encourage the use of Atlanta as a location for international dispute resolution. ###

For more information about the Atlanta International Arbitration Society, please go our website: www.arbitrateatlanta.org. This is a promotional email from the Atlanta International Arbitration Society (AtlAS), a not-for-profit organization dedicated in part to education about international arbitration.