

Atlanta group names new president

Tom Jones

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Brent Clinkscale

The Atlanta International Arbitration Society (AtlAS) has named independent arbitrator **Brent Clinkscale** as its new president – the first African American to take on the role.

The AtlAS board of directors elected Clinkscale, as well as a new slate of officers for the organisation, during its annual meeting on 5 February.

Clinkscale will take office as president on 1 May.

The AtlAS board also named a president-elect, with **Shelby Guilbert** – a partner at McGuireWoods in Atlanta – taking over as president in May 2022.

AtlAS is a non-profit organisation founded in 2010 to promote Atlanta as a venue for international arbitration.

Since the group was formed the city's arbitration infrastructure changed dramatically, with the foundation of the Georgia State Arbitration Center, the enactment of a new Georgia International Arbitration Code based on the UNCITRAL Model Law and revision of business court rules to expedite applications to enforce international arbitration agreements and awards.

Clinkscale, who is based in South Carolina, will be the first president of the organisation from outside Atlanta and is the first African American elected to the role. Current AtlAS president **Andy Tuck** of Alston & Bird says: "Brent has been

an AtlIAS stalwart and is the perfect person to lead AtlIAS as it grows its activities and membership in the Southeastern United States and beyond.”

Before launching his career as an independent arbitrator, Clinkscale was a partner at US firms Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd and Womble Bond Dickinson. After graduating from Duke University, he was counsel to the Speaker of the South Carolina House of Representatives and clerked for **Judge Mathew Perry** in the US District Court for the District of South Carolina. He is chair of the South Carolina Bar Association’s International Law Committee and vice-chair of the Southeast Subcommittee of the US Council on International Business’ Arbitration Committee.

Clinkscale has long been active at AtlIAS including as a member of its board and executive committee and as the designer of the Tertulia Sessions – a series of roundtable discussions on cultural norms in international arbitrations featured at AtlIAS annual conferences.

President-elect Guilbert has been involved in AtlIAS activities since its beginning in 2010. As chair of the society’s legislative committee, he helped to shepherd the Georgia International Arbitration Code, which is based on the UNCITRAL model law, through the Georgia General Assembly. He holds degrees from Georgetown University, the London School of Economics and Yale Law School.

Both men were elected to their roles at the AtlIAS annual meeting, which like all other AtlIAS events during the past 12 months was held virtually.

The organisation also elected a new slate of officers. Kristen Bromberek of Alston & Bird was named treasurer, while five new vice presidents were elected – **Chris Campbell** of Baker Hughes Corporation, **Rebecca Kolb** of Arnall Golden Gregory, **Robbie Poplin** of Kilpatrick Stockton and **Valerie Strong Sanders** of Eversheds Sutherland.

Shelby Grubbs, the independent arbitrator and former executive director of the Atlanta arbitration centre, was named secretary.

[Full list of AtlIAS officers for 2021](#)

- **Brent Clinkscale**, President (Clinkscale Arbitration)
- **Shelby Guilbert**, Vice President (McGuireWoods LLP)
- **Kristen Bromberek**, Treasurer (Alston & Bird)
- **Chris Campbell**, Vice President (Baker Hughes Corporation)
- **Shelby Grubbs**, Secretary (Grubbs ADR/JAMS)
- **Rebecca Kolb**, Vice President (Arnall Golden Gregory)
- **Robbie Poplin**, Vice President (Kilpatrick Stockton)
- **Valerie Strong Sanders**, Vice President (Eversheds Sutherland)

New board members

- **Nancy Baughn** (Parker Hudson)
- **Chris Campbell** (Baker Hughes Corporation)
- **Elihu Wolfe** (Wolfe Law)

Re-elected members of the board

- **Linda Beyea** (American Arbitration Association)
- **Hon. William F. Brogdon**
- **Kristen Bromberek** (Alston & Bird)
- **Charles (Chip) Brower** (Wayne State University School of Law)
- **Brent Clinkscale** (Clinkscale Arbitration)
- **Rebecca Davis** (Seyfarth Shaw)
- **Colin Delaney** (Smith Gambrell & Russell)
- **Mary Donovan** (Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law)
- **Philip (Whit) Engle** (Engle Law)
- **Jorge Fernandez** (Pendleton Group)
- **Joan Grafstein** (JAMS)
- **Ben Greer** (Alston & Bird, Retired)
- **Shelby Grubbs** (JAMS/Grubbs ADR)
- **Shelby Guilbert** (McGuireWoods LLP)
- **Glenn Hendrix** (Arnall Golden Gregory)
- **Joyce Klemmer** (JAMS)
- **Natalie Jones** (Atlanta Beltline Corp.)
- **Rebecca Lunceford Kolb** (Arnall Golden Gregory)
- **Kurt Lindquist** (Cozen O'Connor)
- **Hillary Kinsey** Lukacs (Morris Manning & Martin)
- **Robbie Poplin** (Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton)
- **Sarah Quinn** (University of Georgia Dean Rusk International Law Center)
- **Peter Bowman Rutledge** (Dean, University of Georgia School of Law)
- **Valerie Strong Sanders** (Eversheds Sutherland)
- **Adwoa Seymour** (Cox Enterprises)

- **Christof Siefarth** (Bodenheimer)
- **Chris Soffe** (Gleeds Americas)
- **Caroline Tanner** (Holland & Knight)
- **Andrew Tuck** (Alston & Bird)
- **Kirk Watkins** (Davis Zipperman Kirschenbaum & Lotito)
- **Jeffrey Willis** (Rogers & Hardin)
- **Stephen Wright** (Taylor English Duma)

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