



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. – February 3, 2025**

At the annual meeting of its Board of Directors on January 23, 2025, the Atlanta International Arbitration Society (“Atlas,” or the “Society”) met to elect new Officers, to review its activity during the 2024 calendar year, and to discuss plans for 2025.

The Board elected Chris Campbell, Senior Counsel (Litigation) at energy company Baker Hughes as President. Originally from South Carolina, Mr. Campbell has worked for over six years in Baker Hughes’ office in Florence, Italy. Mr. Campbell hosts a weekly podcast called “Tales of the Tribunal,” where he and his guests discuss experiences in international arbitration practice. For the past several years, Mr. Campbell has coached the Vis International Commercial Arbitration moot teams of the University of South Carolina’s Joseph F. Rice School of Law and Charleston School of Law, together with previous Atlas president and Greenville-based arbitrator and mediator Brent Clinkscale (Clinkscale Global ADR).

Mr. Campbell is the second Atlas President who spends most of the year abroad, after outgoing president Dr. Christof Siefarth. Although he is based in Europe, Mr. Campbell spends a significant amount of time in the United States every year. He is licensed to practice law in South Carolina, Texas, and Washington, D.C.

The Board elected Christopher Smith to the position of President-Elect, and renewed his term as Atlas’s Secretary. Mr. Smith is Counsel and Head of the International Arbitration and Cross-Border Disputes Practice at international law firm Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP, in Atlanta. Prior to beginning his term as Atlas Secretary in January 2024, Mr. Smith served as Vice

President from May 2022. Earlier in his career, Mr. Smith spent several years working with law firms in France, Switzerland, and Germany.

Atlas Immediate Past President Dr. Christof Siefarth of the German law firm BODENHEIMER stated:

“I was so delighted that Chris Campbell accepted to serve as my successor as Atlas President. He is extremely well-connected within the global arbitration community, and seemingly has the ability to be in multiple places at once, which will make him a tremendous ambassador for the Society. And I believe he will be Atlas’s first president who is also working full-time as in-house counsel at a major international corporation, which will allow him to bring a different perspective to the role.

Regarding Chris Smith’s election to the position of President-Elect, he is the perfect fit for the future of Atlas with his dedication to international arbitration—having practiced in various countries around the globe—and his excellent foreign language capabilities. Combined with his hard work as Secretary and Co-Chair of the past two Annual Atlas Conferences, he will make sure that future generations also know that Atlanta is a great place to arbitrate.”

Mr. Campbell earned his J.D. from the University of South Carolina, and LL.M. in Chinese Law and while also studying international arbitration at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He holds a B.S. in business administration, and marketing and management, with a minor in the Chinese (Mandarin) language, from the University of South Carolina. Mr. Smith earned his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, and he holds a B.A. in Political Science and History from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

Mr. Campbell noted his thanks to the Board for its confidence. He also congratulated Dr. Siefarth on a successful 2024, a year in which Atlas hosted its Ninth Annual Lecture, which was given by Emory University School of Law Professor Stacie Strong on the topic of governing the use of artificial intelligence in international arbitration. For the first time, the Lecture was co-hosted by the Charlotte International Arbitration Society, and was held in Greenville, South Carolina, the first time the Lecture took place outside Georgia.

In 2024, Atlas also held its first plenary meeting outside the United States. In September, Dr. Siefarth hosted Atlas at his law firm’s office in Berlin, Germany. The meeting was timed to coincide with Berlin Arbitration Days. Together with other speakers, Mr. Smith and Atlas founder and first president Glenn Hendrix (Arnall Golden Gregory) participated in-person on a hybrid panel discussing arbitration in the United States.

In addition, in 2024 Atlas hosted its Thirteenth Annual Conference, addressing advocacy in international arbitration and recent developments in the field. Over 100 practitioners, arbitrators, and students attended the three-day event.

At the meeting, Mr. Campbell provided a brief overview of the Society's plans for 2025, including a panel discussing the practical uses of artificial intelligence in arbitration (Feb. 13); an Atlanta Vis pre-moot (Mar. 7-8); a potential joint event with the AAA/ICDR (Apr.); the Tenth Annual AtlAS Lecture (early May); a potential joint event with WIPO, timed to coincide with the International Trademark Association's 2025 Annual Meeting in San Diego (late May); a potential joint event with the Hague Court of Arbitration for Aviation (June); and AtlAS's Fourteenth Annual Conference (Oct. 2-3, with an opening reception the evening of Oct. 1). Plenary meetings are also planned for August, September, and November, with topics to be decided.

As usual, in 2025 all AtlAS plenary meetings will be open to the public free of charge, and attendees may participate either in person or virtually. Further information regarding events and the organization are available on the AtlAS website: <https://arbitrateatlanta.org>.

Mr. Campbell thanked the Society's Board, Executive Committee, and Officers for their support, particularly singling out outgoing Immediate Past President Rebecca Lunceford Kolb (Councill, Gunnemann & Chally), who will remain active in AtlAS as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee, and as a member of AtlAS's Board of Directors.

Mr. Campbell welcomed Mary Donovan (DonovanResolution – Macon, GA) and Usher Winslett (ADR Office of Usher Winslett – New York, NY) as Vice Presidents. Mr. Campbell also thanked outgoing AtlAS Vice President Nancy Baughan (Bradley Arant Boult Cummings) for her years of service on the Executive Committee. Ms. Baughan will remain active on AtlAS's Board of Directors.

Officers re-elected by the Board for 2025 include: Mr. Smith (as Secretary, apart from his election as President-Elect); Kristen Bromberek, Treasurer (Alston & Bird); David Gallo, Vice President (Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs); Michael Sullivan, Vice President (Womble Bond Dickinson (US)); and Zachary Torres-Fowler, Vice President (Troutman Pepper Locke).

## **About AtlAS**

AtlAS was formed in December 2010 at a meeting convened by Glenn Hendrix at Arnall Golden Gregory. In the succeeding fourteen years, the Society has compiled a significant track record that includes meetings and programs in most months, annual conferences every year since 2012, the *AtlAS Desk Book*, now in its fifth edition, and the AtlAS Annual Lecture, which has taken place every year since 2016.