

# PRESS RELEASE



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## Helen H. Shi elected as first-ever Chinese lawyer to become Vice-President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration

On 1 July 2021, the International Chamber of Commerce (“ICC”) officially announced that **Helen H. Shi**, a partner at Fangda Partners, has been elected as the Vice-President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. Helen Shi is the first-ever Chinese lawyer to take up this position in the ICC Court’s almost 100-year history.

The ICC International Court of Arbitration is one of the world’s leading arbitral institution. Since its establishment in 1923, it has been performing an important leading role in promoting arbitration to resolve international commercial disputes. It operates under the auspices of the ICC and consists of 1 president, 17 vice-presidents (among which 12 are newly elected), and 178 members from around 121 countries and regions. The purpose of the ICC International Court of Arbitration is to ensure proper application of the ICC Rules, as well as assist parties and arbitrators in overcoming procedural obstacles.

Recognized by *Chambers & Partners* as “an icon of arbitration”, Helen Shi’s practice focuses on dispute resolution, including international commercial arbitration and litigation. She has acted in more than 100 cases, representing many multinational companies and large domestic enterprises in a wide range of disputes, including disputes arising from equity acquisitions, oil and gas projects, hotel management, aircraft leasing and construction. She has also represented clients in litigation before the Chinese courts and in arbitrations before the ICC, SIAC, HKIAC, CIETAC and ad hoc arbitrations under the UNCITRAL rules.

Helen Shi has also participated as an arbitrator in over 50 cases. She has been ranked as a Band 1 practitioner in international arbitration every year since 2008 by *Chambers Global* and *Chambers Asia-Pacific*. She has been included by *Who’s Who Legal* as a leading international arbitration practitioner since 2013, one of only two Chinese lawyers included in that directory. In July 2016, Helen Shi was named as ICC Court Member for China, the first time a Chinese lawyer had been appointed as a Court Member.

Michael Han, Chairman of the Management Committee, says, “*We are thrilled that Helen has become the first-ever Chinese lawyer to be named as the Vice-President of ICC Court of Arbitration, an accolade that is fully deserved. The appointment demonstrates the high regard in which Helen is held by this leading international arbitral institution, as well as Chinese lawyers’ increasing influence in the global legal industry. Helen’s prominent role is fully in keeping with Fangda’s desire both to enhance the development of the Chinese legal profession and to play a vital role in global legal institutions in the future.*”

Helen Shi says, “*It is a great honor to be elected as the Vice-President of the ICC Court of Arbitration. After serving as a Court member for five years, I have witnessed how ICC administers cases and why its reputation as the world’s leading arbitration institution is richly deserved. I look forward to working with the new President of the ICC Court and continuing my efforts to further promote the ICC and enhance the ICC’s position as a leading arbitral institution worldwide, including in China.*”

Shi’s three-year mandate took effect from 1 July 2021.