

Susan Ahern

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Nationality: Irish
Qualifications: LL.B, LL.M, BL, FCI Arb, CEDR Mediator

INTRODUCTION

I am a sports lawyer with a 25 year career both in-house and as an independent barrister, international arbitrator, mediator and independent director. I have particular expertise in sports governance, commercial, broadcasting & IP, sponsorship, major events and dealing with sports regulatory matters, anti-doping and integrity issues. I am the Independent Judicial Chair of the Sports Law Bar Association

INDEPENDENT BARRISTER & ARBITRATOR

THE BAR OF IRELAND

Barrister / Arbitrator / Mediator

Profile: <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/members/susan-ahern-bl/>

33 BEDFORD ROW – LONDON CHAMBERS

Arbitrator / Mediator

Door Tenant

Profile: <https://www.33bedfordrow.co.uk/people/ahern-susan#content/introduction>

ARBITRATION – PANEL MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

2022 - **European Commission DG TRADE** – Arbitrator Member of the Disputes Settlement Panel under trade agreements between the EU and third countries

2020 - **International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)**
Appointed by the Government of Ireland to the Conciliator Panel. Term to January 2026.

ICC International Court of Arbitration (ICC)
Appointed as Sole Arbitrator in commercial disputes including on an expedited basis

Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI)

2018 - **Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)**
Anti-Doping Division
Panel President / Sole Arbitrator
Appointed to the CAS Ad Hoc Anti-Doping Panel for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ireland) – arbitrator panel

2017 - **Arbitration Ireland** – Executive Committee Member
Profile: <https://arbitrationireland.com/executive-committee/>

TRIBUNAL & REGULATORY BODIES – MEMBERSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS

2022 - **Insurance Ireland Membership Appeal Panel**
Approved Housing Regulatory Authority Appeals Panel

2021 - **EU Expert (Sport) - EU Commission appointment (EX2017D310797)**
Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board Appeals Body – Independent Deputy Chairman

2020 - **Chair of the Sports Law Bar Association of Ireland (SLBA)**
World Wheelchair Rugby - Independent Judicial Chair
Bookmakers Appeal Committee – Member.
Re-appointed to this statutory body by the Irish Minister for Agriculture to 2023

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National Childcare Scheme (POBAL) - Independent Appeals Officer
Appointed by the Irish Minister for Children & Youth Affairs.

- 2019 - **Health & Social Care Professionals Council Professional Conduct Committee** -
Independent Tribunal Chair
- Residential Tenancies Board (Ireland)** – Independent Decision Maker
- 2018 - **Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland Professional Practice Committee** – Member
- 2017 – 2022 **Sports Resolutions UK - International Panel of Arbitrators**
- 2008 – 2012 **Chair of the Olympic Federation of Ireland Judicial Committee** - Beijing and London
Olympic Games

INDEPENDENT DIRECTORSHIPS

- 2022 **Cycling Ireland** – (National Sports Federation)
- Chair of the Audit Finance & Risk Committee
- 2021 **Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ)** – (National Broadcaster of Ireland)
- Member of the Audit & Risk Committee
 - Chair of the Audience Council
- 2020 **2023 Cycling World Championships Limited (Scotland)** – (Host Organisation)
- Senior Independent Director (2022)
 - Vice Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee (former Interim Chair)
 - Member of the Broadcast Committee
- 2019 **Ballymun Youth Action Project CLG** – (Charity)

FORMER DIRECTORSHIPS

- 2019 - 2022 **The Irish Cricket Union CLG (Cricket Ireland)** – Board Member & Director
- 2014 – 2019 **Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland** – Board Member & Director
- 2016 – 2019 **World Athletics Legal Commission** – Member
- 2009 – 2014 **Sport Ireland** – Council Member - Appointed by the Minister for Arts, Culture & Sport
- 2004 – 2014 **Olympic Federation of Ireland** - Executive Committee Member & Director
- 2002 – 2004 **Confédération Européenne de Volleyball (CEV)** - Finance Committee Member
- 1999 – 2004 **Volleyball Ireland** – President & Director (1996 – 2005 Board Member)

POLICY & GOVERNANCE BACKGROUND

- 2015 – 2022 **Trinity College Dublin – High Level Task Force for Sport** – Independent Expert
- 2018 – 2019 **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) International Standard for Testing and Investigations 2020 (ISDI)** - Lead Drafter of this global standard
- 2017 – 2019 **Volleyball Ireland Governance Review Group** - Chair
- 2015 **IOC Judicial Working Group on Integrity Code of Conduct**
IOC International Forum on Sports Integrity – IF Representative
- 2011 - 2013 **EU Good Governance Working Group** - Match Fixing – IF Representative
- 2008 **WADA Independent Observer - Beijing Olympics**

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IN-HOUSE CAREER HISTORY

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| 2009 – 2016 | WORLD RUGBY | Head of Legal & Legislative Affairs |
| | RUGBY WORLD CUP | General Counsel |
| 2001 – 2009 | WORLD RUGBY | Senior Legal Counsel |
| 2000 – 2001 | NATIONAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT AGENCY | Legal Counsel |
| 1998 – 2000 | ARTESIA IRELAND LIMITED (BACOB BANK) | Legal Counsel |
| 1996 – 1998 | BANK OF IRELAND CORPORATE BANKING | Account Officer |

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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| 2021-2023 | MA Ethics: Corporate Responsibility (Candidate) – Dublin City University |
| 2020 | Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) Accredited Mediator |
| 2019 | The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin - Advanced Diploma in Medical Law |
| 2017 | Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – Fellow (FCI Arb) |
| 1998 | The Honorable Society of King's Inns, Dublin - Barrister-at-Law (BL) |
| 1996 | Queen's University Belfast - Master of Laws: Computers & Law (LL.M) |
| 1994 | University of Dublin, Trinity College - Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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| Sport: | Represented Ireland in Volleyball at Senior and Junior level from 1989 to 2000 |
| Lecturing: | Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - Member of the Approved Faculty List Law Society of Ireland – External Examiner & lecturer - Diploma in Sports Law 2017- University College Dublin Law School – Sports Law Lecturer 2021/22 |
| Selected Publications: | The Bar Review – Editorial Board Member The MENA Business Law Review – Q2 2021 - <i>'Getting the Most Out of Expedited Sports Arbitration'</i> Business Post – Legal Comment (23 Oct 2020): <i>'Gender Diversity in Arbitration leads to better decisions and better business'</i> . The MENA Business Law Review – Q2 2020 - "The Unforgiveable ADR Error" Lexis® Middle East Law 2020 - "Sports Arbitration in the Gulf" |
| Speaking: | I present frequently at international conferences and seminars on the subjects of sports law & integrity, disciplinary processes and arbitration, including: |
| 2021- 2022 | 2022 CIARB McQuillan Annual Lecture – Chair – 13 June University of Maynooth - Comparative International Arbitration – Speaker - 13 May <i>'Horse Racing Regulations'</i> SLBA Seminar – Chair - 3 May <i>'Sports Mediation – Finding its place'</i> - The Bar of Ireland Joint Sports Law Bar Association and Arbitration & ADR Committee seminar – Chair – 28 April <i>'Looking back on Tokyo and looking forward to Doha: the arbitration of disputes at major sports events'</i> - CIARB London and CIARB Doha joint webinar 14 March <i>'Transgender & Sport Regulation'</i> – Speaker, The Bar of Ireland/OutLaw Network <i>'The Future of Sports Arbitration in Asia'</i> – Speaker, TIAC / AIA Webinar |