

MEDIA ADVISORY



11th Judicial Circuit of Florida

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Eunice Sigler, Director

Office of Government Liaison & Public Relations

Phone (305) 349-7189 Fax (305) 349-7190 Cell (786) 348-7381

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT ESTABLISHES INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION COURT

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit is proud to announce the establishment of an International Commercial Arbitration Court, which will be a subsection of the Complex Business Litigation Section of the Circuit Civil Division designed to exclusively handle international commercial arbitration matters.

One of the first in the nation, the Eleventh Circuit's International Commercial Arbitration Court will be comprised of judges trained to hear all international commercial arbitration matters and is expected to bring many benefits to South Florida. Among them: it will benefit South Florida's business community by offering a local venue for dispute resolution; it will foster greater judicial expertise and understanding of this specialized area of law, and will help establish more uniformity in legal decisions and a consistent body of case law.

"Miami-Dade is an important venue for international business, so we are very proud to be one of the first jurisdictions in the nation to offer a specific forum where the complex matters that arise in international commercial arbitration can be heard," said the Honorable Bertila Soto, Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

A committee of attorneys and arbitrators brought the idea to the Eleventh Circuit, citing Miami's important role in the business community as gateway to the Americas and the need for such a court to handle disputes arising from international business matters.

"I applaud Chief Judge Soto for implementing the International Commercial Arbitration Court," said Joseph P. Farina, one of the arbitrators on the committee and former Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit. "We are not only a crossroads for the Americas, but we are becoming the bridge between Europe and Asia as well, and our local business community will greatly benefit by having the Miami-Dade Courts as a venue to hear international arbitration matters. To have Miami spoken of in the same breath as Paris, London and New York is a great accomplishment."

Miami-Dade's International Commercial Arbitration Court will start off as a subsection of the Complex Business Litigation Division, with more judges to be trained and assigned to this new subsection as caseloads require. Training for Arbitration Court judges will be provided by the University of Miami in conjunction with the Miami International Arbitration Society.

“International commercial arbitration has become an increasingly popular means of resolving international business disputes, and it seemed natural to establish this type of court here in Miami,” said the Honorable Jennifer Bailey, Administrative Judge of the Circuit Civil Division.

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