

Fasken partner moves to Vancouver chambers



Tom Jones
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Canadian-Italian **Tina Cicchetti** has left the partnership at Fasken Martineau in Vancouver to pursue a career as an independent arbitrator.

Cicchetti took tenancy at Vancouver Arbitration Chambers on 1 September after more than 15 years at Fasken. She follows in the footsteps of her mentor **Henri Alvarez QC**, who left the firm in late 2016 to join the same chambers.

She says she is “excited to be sharing office space with such illustrious colleagues” and to be able to accept more arbitrator appointments.

Cicchetti and Alvarez are both from Trail, a small town in British Columbia, and worked closely together during their time at Fasken. They represented Canadian mining company First Quantum Minerals in ICSID and ICC claims against the Democratic Republic of the Congo over a copper mining project. Their client agreed a US\$1.25 billion settlement with the state in 2012.

More recently, Cicchetti has been advising a group of US claimants in a DR-CAFTA claim against Costa Rica over the alleged expropriation of beachfront property on the Pacific coast. In October last year, a tribunal held it lacked jurisdiction to hear more than half the investors’ claims, prompting the claimants to apply to a US court to have that decision set aside.

Speaking to GAR, Alvarez says: “Having worked with Tina for several years as a colleague at Fasken Martineau DuMoulin, I know she is a highly skilled and experienced practitioner who will have much to offer as an arbitrator and mediator. We are delighted to have Tina join us at Vancouver Arbitration Chambers.”

Cicchetti joined Fasken in 2002 and was promoted to counsel in 2012, joining the partnership in 2015.

Besides her work as arbitrator and counsel, she has acted as tribunal secretary in consolidated ICC arbitrations over a telecoms joint venture in Latin America; and a US\$300 million Swiss Rules dispute over finance, supply and purchase agreements between parties in Eastern Europe and the British Virgin Islands.

Cicchetti has served on the executive committee of ICC Canada - as the Canadian national committee of the ICC International Court of Arbitration is often called - since 2014. She will become the first woman to chair the committee in 2018, when she succeeds the incumbent **Stephen Drymer** of Woods.

She also previously headed the Young Canadian Arbitration Practitioners group and has been appointed by the Canadian government to a NAFTA advisory committee on private international law.

Barry Leon, a Commercial Court Judge of the British Virgin Islands who chaired ICC Canada from 2011 to 2014, says that Cicchetti is “terrific in all respects” and “truly one of the up-and-coming stars of international arbitration”. He also praises her “good judgment and common sense” and “amazing organisational skills”.

She taught international commercial arbitration as an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia from 2003 to 2011.