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Media Release

Top QC elected President of Australian global arbitration body

International arbitrator and barrister, **Caroline Kenny QC** has been elected **President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Australia**.

A member of leading arbitral institution, the London Court of International Arbitration, panellist for nominating authorities in Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Australia, Ms Kenny has been appointed Chairman and sole arbitrator in international arbitrations. Her ruling on jurisdiction was upheld by the **Singapore High Court** and led to new law on an arbitrator's right to determine jurisdiction even when the validity of the arbitration agreement was in dispute: *Malini Ventura v Knight Capital Pte Ltd* [2015] SGHC

Caroline Kenny QC said: "I am honoured to be elected and see this as an opportunity to further promote and advocate Australia's position in the growing cross-border dispute resolution market."

A Master of Laws/Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne, Ms Kenny is also a member of the Approved Faculty List of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, headquartered in London, and has taught the Diploma Course (in international arbitration) at Oxford, Singapore, Australia and Hong Kong. She has worked in Australia, New York and London and is admitted to practice in all three jurisdictions. In 2016, as **Chair of CI Arb Australia Education Committee**, she co-ordinated the inaugural partnership with the **Federal Court of Australia** in producing an Australia wide seminar program promoting international arbitration.

CI Arb Australia is part of the global network of the **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators** which celebrated its centenary in 2015, and whose membership is represented in over 250 commercial sectors operating in over 130 countries.

Commenting on the increasing importance of education and accreditation, **Ms Kenny** said "As the demand for arbitration and dispute resolution services is growing around the world, especially in the Asia Pacific, commercial parties who operate in the global economy expect a high level of professional advice. Our courses offer globally recognised qualifications."

The appointment has been warmly received by those in the profession including:

Prominent businessman, international arbitrator and Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Allan Myers AC QC, said: "I am very pleased about Caroline's appointment. We worked together on major commercial matters where she demonstrated a clear intellect and capacity for hard work. She has the personal and professional qualities to lead such a distinguished association."

Fiona McLeod SC, the President of the Law Council of Australia and leader to women in the legal profession said: "I've known Caroline for many years and I am delighted she has been elected President. It is a welcome development and an inspirational choice for women in the Australian arbitration profession."

International arbitration in Australia is about to receive a major boost from two high profile conferences. In October the International Bar Association's annual conference will be held in Sydney. CI Arb Australia will host its annual dinner on the eve of the conference with the **President of the International Chamber of Commerce's Court of Arbitration, Alexis Mourre**, as the guest speaker. Next year, Sydney will host the biennial **International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) Congress** which is widely regarded as the largest and most important international arbitration conference in the world.

Ms Kenny said: "This is an exciting time to lead CI Arb Australia and I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors and the CEO to promote the benefits of international arbitration and Australia as a business dispute resolution destination."

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