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Jeffrey Benz, FCIArb

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Jeffrey Benz joined chambers as an Associate in 2013 and has a worldwide practice based in London and Los Angeles. Jeff is a member of the California, Colorado, Hawaii, and New York bars, and the bars of numerous United States federal district and appellate courts.

Jeff's UK, and European, practice is devoted primarily to acting as mediator and arbitrator. Jeff has a strong background in the law governing disputes and transactions in entertainment, sports, technology, and insurance.

Jeff has recently been appointed to the IAAF's Inaugural Disciplinary Tribunal and is also a CEDR-accredited mediator and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. His work as an intermediary or counsel has taken him around the world, throughout the United States, and to Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Switzerland, and, of course, the United Kingdom.

A former Coudert Brothers lawyer, and previously serving as general counsel of the United States Olympic Committee, and COO or general counsel of multiple sports organizations, technology, and entertainment companies, and publicly-traded companies, in the United States, Jeff now serves as counsel and neutral in his own law and alternative dispute resolution firm, and he is a member of the California-based Agency for Dispute Resolution (www.agencydr.com) panel of neutrals, as well as the American Arbitration Association Commercial, Real Estate, Transportation, Large Complex Case, Consumer, Sports, and Entertainment panels. He undertakes a broad range of advisory, advocacy, and neutral work. He has appeared before most levels of trial and appellate courts in the United States, and before a variety of administrative and regulatory tribunals and boards. Jeff has also served as counsel in a wide variety of commercial arbitrations and mediations, including before the AAA, JAMS, and the ICC. In summary, Jeff has a well-rounded background, having been the lawyer, the client, and the judge. Jeff is also an accomplished corporate governance specialist, internal investigator, and advisor to Boards of Directors and CEOs. As a former General Counsel of the United States Olympic Committee, and former athlete, his sports credentials are without comparison — he has acted as a neutral or counsel in a wide variety of sports, including, among others, hockey, gymnastics, speedskating, figure skating, football and soccer, rugby, track and field, equestrian, table tennis, triathlon, wrestling, tennis, taekwondo, boxing, cycling, sailing, and complex disputes and transactions involving sponsorships, licensing, and live events.

He has extensive practical experience and training (as both counsel and neutral) in arbitration, mediation and other forms of non-court dispute resolution. He is a member of several panels of arbitrators and mediators in the United States, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Switzerland, the U.K and internationally, including the American Arbitration Association (AAA), Hong Kong International Arbitration Commission (HKIAC), Beijing Arbitration Commission, ICC-USCIB, London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), and Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Jeff was a member of the ad hoc division of the CAS for the 2014 Asian Beach Games in Phuket and is a member of the Rugby Football Union Disciplinary Tribunal.

Jeff is an active member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the American Bar Association, the Swiss Arbitration Association, the National Sports Law Institute, RexSport, and the Sports Lawyers Association (where he is a long-time member of the Board and serves as International Committee Chair).

Jeff is an adjunct professor at the law schools at Los Angeles-based Pepperdine University and Madrid-based ISDE, and he contributes regularly to the literature on dispute resolution and sports law. In 2013, Jeff was named as one of 317 worldwide professional in the Who's Who of Entertainment and Sports Law, where he is one of the few neutrals so recognized in the field.

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Qualifications

Jeff has undergraduate and MBA degrees from the University of Michigan and he graduated with his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1993 (Jeff also attended a semester at the Queen Mary University of London and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies during law school). Jeff started his professional career as an intern in Lloyd's Claims Office in London.
