



ERA PLEDGE LAUNCHES USA SUB-COMMITTEE

November 2021

The Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge (ERA Pledge) is pleased to announce the launch of the USA Sub-Committee in November 2021. The Pledge USA Sub-Committee will take forward the promotion of the ERA Pledge among the broad geographic reach of the United States, focusing on increasing awareness and driving change in the appointment of female arbitrators, female practitioners as lead counsel and the advancement of female in-house counsel.

The group is led by Co-Chairs **Dana MacGrath** (Independent Arbitrator, MacGrath Arbitration), **Sarah Reynolds** (Managing Partner, Goldman Ismail Tomasseli Brennan & Baum) and **Victoria Sahani** (Associate Dean and Professor of Law, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law) together with Secretary **Nilufar Hossain** (Legal Counsel, Omni Bridgeway) and is composed of a diverse cross-section of the arbitration community in the United States. The current list of members can be found on the Committees [here](#).

The launch of the Pledge USA Sub-Committee is an important development for the ERA Pledge in the eyes of the Pledge's Global Steering Committee, co-chaired by **Sylvia Noury** (Freshfields) and **Samantha Bakstad** (BP).

Sylvia Noury notes, *"It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of the Pledge's USA Subcommittee, aimed at extending the outreach of the Pledge among the arbitration community in the United States. This dynamic, diverse and proactive group will help ensure that the Pledge drives enduring positive change with respect to gender diversity in the Americas, working together with other likeminded organisations and groups."*

USA Sub-Committee Members will work closely with the international arbitration community and other groups to understand the needs and challenges which diverse arbitrators face in getting appointments, diverse arbitration practitioners face coming up through the ranks at law firms, and diverse in-house arbitration counsel face in advancing within their organisations.

USA Sub-Committee Co-Chair **Dana MacGrath** comments, *"We are excited to launch the USA Sub-Committee and expand the reach of the Arbitration Pledge across the United States. I look forward to working with our diverse leadership team and sub-committee members."*

USA Sub-Committee Co-Chair **Sarah Reynolds** states, *"It's an honour to have been asked to serve as co-chair. The range of experience and perspective in ADR decision makers should match the expanding diversity we see in ADR users. I look forward to advancing the mission of the Arbitration Pledge in the US market."*

USA Sub-Committee Co-Chair **Victoria Sahani** remarks, *"I am honoured and delighted to co-chair the important work of this initiative. Women now make up the majority of students in many US law schools, and it is important to ensure that they will join a legal profession and international arbitration community that provides equal opportunities. I look forward to advancing the goals of the Pledge and collaborating with other diversity-focused global initiatives to increase the inclusion of international arbitration practitioners along all measures of identity."*

In furtherance of these goals, the USA Sub-Committee will organise a series of events and initiatives, starting with a virtual celebratory launch event in December 2021.