

Justin D'Agostino appointed new co-chair of the ERA Pledge Global Steering Committee

13 January 2022

The Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge (ERA Pledge) is delighted to announce the appointment of Justin D'Agostino, global Chief Executive Officer at Herbert Smith Freehills, as the new co-chair of its Global Steering Committee.

Justin replaces Samantha Bakstad of BP plc who has held the position since May 2019. During her tenure as co-chair, Sam has been instrumental in overseeing the Pledge's drive to improve gender diversity in party appointments among corporates, including establishing and leading the Pledge's Corporate Subcommittee. She will continue to lead the Corporate Subcommittee and to sit on the Global Steering Committee.

Founder and co-chair of the Pledge, Sylvia Noury, notes: "Sam has been a fantastic co-chair, supporting and advocating for the Pledge's goals over the last nearly three years. I am delighted that she will continue to lead the Pledge's focus on corporates and party appointments in her role as co-chair of the Corporate Subcommittee, which Sam helped to create in September 2019. The Pledge is truly grateful to Sam for being such an inspirational figure and for her continued efforts to promote gender diversity in our arbitration community."

In relation to Justin's appointment, Sylvia Noury says "I am thrilled that Justin D'Agostino has agreed to join the Pledge's senior leadership team in the role of co-chair of the Pledge's Global Steering Committee. Having been central to the establishment of the Pledge in Asia at its inception in 2016, we're delighted that Justin will now bring his wealth of leadership, experience and passion about diversity to the Pledge's ambitions and activities globally".

Justin notes: "It is an honour to join Sylvia as co-chair of the Global Steering Committee. I was involved with The Pledge at the outset, and it has been fabulous to see so much progress on gender diversity in arbitration since then, largely as a direct result of this initiative. Taking on this role now is truly exciting, and I hope to help drive yet more progress towards fully equal representation of women in arbitration."

Briana Young, Professional Support Consultant at HSF, is also joining the Pledge's leadership team as Secretary of the Pledge Global Steering Committee while the current Secretary, Ashley Jones, is on maternity leave.

The Pledge is excited to have both Justin and Briana on board and, with their support, to move the dial on gender diversity even further in 2022 and beyond.