

Proust Questionnaire

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How did you get involved in international arbitration? Like many practitioners from younger generations, while in law school I joined the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition and the Jessup Moot Court Competition, which introduced me to international dispute settlement and, subsequently, to international arbitration.

What is your favourite virtue? Thankfulness.

What are your favourite qualities in another person? Empathy. In a global practice, the ability to understand another person's perspective is crucial, especially when they do not share your culture or background.

What is your chief characteristic? Kindness.

What is your main fault? Lack of courage in some instances.

What is your favourite occupation? History professor.

What is your idea of happiness? A meal with your family and loved ones.

What is your idea of misery? Being stuck in a place where you don't want to be (it can be a job, a circle of people, anything).

If not yourself, who would you be? A restaurant critic. I am always looking for the "new spot" in the city.

Where would you like to live? Paris. The first time I visited I fell in love with the city, maybe one day?

Who is your favourite prose author? I have a few. Isabel Allende and Gabriel García Márquez stand out for their magical realism style.

Who is your favourite hero/heroine in fiction? Harry Potter. I read all the books and still have them all. One of my favorite movie series of all time as well. Who wouldn't have loved studying at Hogwarts?

Who is your hero in real life? My mother, my greatest example in life.

What historical person do you most dislike? Anyone who has promoted hate in the world.

What is your favourite name? Not sure if my favorite, but my mother once told me that her second choice for my name was “Marcelo,” and it stuck with me. If I had a son, I would probably name him Marcelo.

What do you hate the most? “Hate” is a strong word, but I dislike hateful people.

What is your natural talent? Some people say I am a good cook.

What is your favourite arbitration-related decision? Decisions related to the intersection of investment arbitration and human rights, a topic I am particularly passionate about. To name a few” *Bear Creek Mining v. Peru*, especially Professor Sands’s dissent, and *Urbaser v Argentina*.

Who is your favourite arbitrator? I have come across many excellent arbitrators, and I have appreciated and admired different qualities but most importantly arbitrators that have shown good judgment and fairness.

Who is your mentor? I have had many mentors throughout my personal and professional journey. They have all helped and influenced me in many different ways. It would be unfair to name only one; however, my parents will always be included.

What is your motto? Whatever you do in life, do it with kindness.

What do you hope to contribute to Young ICCA as a Co-Chair? As Co-Chair of Young ICCA, I hope to contribute by strengthening the platform as a truly global, inclusive, and practice-oriented community for the next generation of arbitration practitioners. Drawing on my experience with organizations such as ICDR Y&I, the VYAP network (GTVYAP), and the Kluwer Arbitration Blog, I hope to bring a complementary perspective to an organization that has played an important role in my professional journey. In particular, I would focus on:

- Networking opportunities. Creating and promoting more informal networking opportunities like lunch and coffee matches based on different affinity groups and interests (including specialty areas in arbitration, language diversity, race/ethnicity, LGBTQ affinity, disabilities, among others). I have always found informal settings to be the most effective way to connect with others.
- Programming. Promoting events in underrepresented geographic areas, such as Central America and the Caribbean (and others around the world).
- Mentoring Programme. As someone who has been both a mentee and a group advisor in previous cycles, I would work closely with the mentoring program to find new ways to improve the already amazing program that the organization has built since its inception (it is one of my favorite areas of Young ICCA). One idea is to create thematic mentorship tracks. While some younger practitioners are just starting to explore international arbitration, some more experienced practitioners may already have defined goals and specific areas they want to pursue, including academia, government, arbitral institutions, sports arbitration, career switchers, among others.