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## Book Review - Arbitration of International Disputes in New York by A. López

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# **Book Review – Arbitration of International Disputes in New York**

*Aracelly López<sup>1</sup>*

While its title seems to constrict the analysis of arbitration of international disputes to New York only, this book provides so much more, which is a pleasant surprise. Dr. Peter Bekker, its author, is an experienced international arbitration practitioner and professor. His experience shines through the pages of an easy-to-read and easy-to-understand practical book on international arbitration. It is well-known that New York is a very popular seat for international arbitrations, especially for parties headquartered and incorporated in the Americas, thus, this book is a useful resource for legal practitioners that require a deeper understanding of New York's legal system when it comes to international arbitration disputes.

The book offers a comprehensive analysis of the practice and procedures of international arbitration within the context of both federal and New York law, and provides a thorough understanding of how arbitration operates in one of the world's leading arbitration hubs.

## **Summary**

Through the eleven chapters of the book, Dr. Bekker provides an extensive analysis of the basics of international arbitration, making the book a valuable resource for both new and seasoned practitioners in the field. The first two chapters provide a roadmap on how to navigate the two legal resources available for processing international arbitrations in New York: the Federal Arbitration Act, and the New York state arbitration law codified in Article 75 of New York's Civil Practice Law and Rules. Chapters three to ten discuss the arbitration proceeding since its inception, with the consensus of the arbitration agreement, all the way through the confirmation and enforcement of the arbitral award.

Chapter eleven is one of the most resourceful sections of the book, since it provides the readers with samples of defective or pathological arbitration clauses that have been used in real contracts and addresses how to fix the defects included in them. This last Chapter provides a differential element to other resources that have been published on international arbitration since it gives the reader a step-by-step analysis of the defective clauses and the amendments that could have been included to avoid issues such as having an arbitration clause that is not enforceable and does not provide a clear seat or rules governing the arbitration, among others.

Another of the perks of this book are the appendices included in it, which range from legal resources, such as federal rules, list of contracting States to relevant Conventions in international arbitrations, and even a detailed outline of a case assessment memorandum. All of these resources give this book an added value when compared to others since it proves that it is indeed a practical source for managing international arbitrations.

## **Analysis**

It is said that part of becoming an expert in a subject is being able to handle the basics of that topic back and forth, and that proves true with international arbitration. Arbitration practitioners must understand and handle the basics of an arbitration proceeding to draft an

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<sup>1</sup> Senior Associate - Dentons Costa Rica

effective arbitration clause that will eventually be enforceable and that will allow for the enforceability of the arbitral award. Dr. Bekker has effectively drafted a scholarly work that navigates all the stages of an international arbitration proceeding through the lens of New York law, making it a great contribution to the arbitration community.

As stated above, Dr. Bekker's experience in the field is one of the main assets of the book. His background as professor is also palpable throughout. The way in which he easily explains the most important and basic facts of arbitration is a breath of fresh air.

Overall, the book is an important resource for attorneys dealing with international arbitration, especially for those attorneys who are kickstarting their career in the field, who will benefit from the incredible array of resources available within its pages, which prove to be necessary and essential for the processing of an arbitration claim. Regardless of its focus in New York arbitration, and the analysis of state and federal law applicable to disputes seated in that State, the book proves to be a truly valuable source for the arbitration community overall, and there are a lot of portions of it that apply to arbitrations seated anywhere in the world. Therefore, practitioners whose main focus is international arbitrations seated elsewhere should not dismiss this book for its title.

## **Conclusion**

After a thorough review of this work, I highly recommend "Arbitration of International Disputes in New York" for anyone interested in learning or broadening their knowledge in international arbitration, both within the context of New York law, US federal law, and beyond. The book is a valuable guide for legal professionals, academics, and students seeking to navigate the complexities of an international arbitration proceeding from start to finish. By combining the theory of how international arbitrations work with practical examples of every single stage of the proceeding, the book not only educates but also gives the reader tools for processing successful arbitrations.

Dr. Peter Bekker has produced an insightful resource which will undoubtedly contribute greatly to the arbitration community by educating its readers to become more sophisticated arbitration practitioners.