

French under-40 group has new co-chairs

Douglas Thomson • Wednesday, 15 April 2015

The French Arbitration Committee's under-40 group, CFA 40, has unveiled its new leadership team.



New co-chairs Damien Devot and Clément Fouchard

New co-chairs **Damien Devot** of Meyer Fabre Avocats and **Clément Fouchard** of Linklaters were appointed co-chairs of the group on 2 April.

They succeed **Julien Furet**, who recently joined Betto Seraglini as a partner from Castaldi Mourre, and BOPS attorney **Romain Dupeyré**, who have co-chaired the group since December 2012.

Their appointment completes an overhaul of the CFA 40's leadership which began in April last year with the appointment of Lalive's **Lorraine de Germiny** and University of Paris X Nanterre lecturer **Claire Debourg** to succeed **Alexandre Munoz** and **Charles Nairac**.

Founded in 2011, CFA 40 is France's main organisation for young arbitration practitioners, with 300 members. It aims to promote arbitration, provide continuing education for young arbitration practitioners and help build an open and vibrant arbitration community through strengthening its members' informal ties.

It has organised events ranging from cruises on the Seine to an arbitration quiz.

The latest co-chairs' handover took place at a dinner in Paris on 2 April at which **Carine Dupeyron** of August & Debouzy and Vannin Capital senior counsel **Yasmin Mohammad** discussed third-party funding issues in arbitration. The conference dinner is known as "La Table d'Adrien" after the Paris restaurant where it takes place.

The new co-chair team are planning further events, including one on 24 April jointly organised with the Swiss Arbitration Association's young arbitrator group, ASA below 40. Entitled "The Better Seat?", the event will see speakers from France and Switzerland arguing for their respective jurisdictions as a seat of arbitration.

The conference at Paris's Palais de Justice will include contributions from various London, Geneva, Zurich and Paris based practitioners, with White & Case's **Michael Polkinghorne** as special guest.

The group is also co-organising the International Association of Young Lawyers' annual conference in Paris on 12 and 13 June, which will consider the theme of consent to arbitration and feature a keynote speech from one of Derains & Gharavi's founding partners, **Yves Derains**.

Fouchard says, "Since its creation CFA 40 has been a fantastic forum for young lawyers to share their knowledge of arbitration in a friendly atmosphere. For several years we were lucky enough to benefit from the work of our predecessors. It is now time for us to roll up our sleeves and we are thrilled of this opportunity to work with Lorraine and Claire on our next events."