Edward Cheston

Associate

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tel: +44 (0)203 889 9805 E-mail: edward.cheston@fiettalaw.com

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Fietta LLP, associate (October 2024 onward)
- Office of International Law, Attorney-General's Department (Canberra, Australia), legal officer (2023-2024)
- Department of Defence (Canberra, Australia), policy officer (2023)
- Permanent Court of Arbitration (The Hague, Netherlands), assistant legal counsel (2022-2023)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Canberra, Australia), intern (2021-2022)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Edward Cheston is an Australian-qualified lawyer, and an associate at Fietta LLP. He is admitted to practise in the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia.

Edward's practice focuses on contentious and non-contentious matters of public international law and international arbitration. He has worked on a range of international disputes, including inter-State arbitration proceedings and contentious proceedings before the ICJ, as well as investor-State and commercial arbitration cases under the UNCITRAL and PCA rules.

Prior to joining Fietta, Edward was an international legal advisor in the Australian Government, with a particular focus on nuclear law, international environmental law and the law of the sea. Before that, Edward worked as an assistant legal counsel at the PCA, where he helped to administer appointing authority requests as well as arbitrations involving States, State entities and private parties. Alongside his work at Fietta LLP, Edward serves as an Assistant Editor for the Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies.

Edward obtained his LLB from the Australian National University, graduating with First Class Honours and a Specialisation in International & Comparative Law.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Highlights of Edward's contentious practice have included:

- Representing the Republic of Azerbaijan in two separate but parallel proceedings against the Republic of Armenia before the International Court of Justice with regard to alleged violations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands in an ICSID claim brought by ExxonMobil Petroleum & Chemical BV under the Energy Charter Treaty arising out of gas extraction in the Groningen gas field
- Advising the Commonwealth of Australia on issues of arbitral procedure in connection with disputes brought against it by Zeph Investments Pte Ltd

- Representing a State in a contentious proceeding before the International Court of Justice
- Representing a State in an advisory opinion proceeding before the International Court of Justice

Highlights of Edward's advisory practice have included:

- Advising an Asian State on issues of evidence in connection with a sovereignty dispute between it and a neighbouring State
- Advising an Asian State on an UNCLOS arbitral award and other matters relating to the law of the sea
- Advising an Asian State with respect to the outer limits of its continental shelf and related maritime delimitation issues
- Advising the Commonwealth of Australia on matters of nuclear law, the law of the sea and international environmental law
- Advising the Commonwealth of Australia during treaty negotiations

Highlights of Edward's arbitration clerk practice have included:

- Assisting tribunal secretaries and tribunals in inter-State, investor-State and commercial arbitrations administered by the PCA, including matters across the transport, construction, mining and energy sectors
- Assisting appointing authorities in the context of requests for arbitrator appointments and challenges

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Assistant Editor, Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies (2022 onward)
- E. Cheston et al, "Australian Legislation Concerning Matters of International Law 2023" (2024) 42 AYBIL 288
- E. Cheston and S. Malhotra, "The Mutually Reinforcing Relationship between the VCLT & ISDS: A Roundtable hosted by the Permanent Court of Arbitration" (Kluwer Arbitration Blog, 2 December 2022)
- "Reflections on the South China Sea Arbitration's significance on its fifth anniversary" (The Advocate, 9 February 2022)

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Admitted to practise in the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia (2023)

Winter Course, Hague Academy of International Law (2022)

Bachelor of Laws (with First Class Honours), Australian National University (2021)

Bachelor of Arts (International Relations & Political Theory), Australian National University (2020)

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English (native), French (basic)