

Thomas Dillon

Year of Call: 1983

Practice Summary

Thomas Dillon is a commercial arbitrator. He has been a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators since 1999.

He is a member of the Bar of England and Wales and is also a California attorney (currently "inactive" status). He has extensive experience of domestic and international disputes, having practised for some 15 years at the English Bar before embarking on an international career. Following an internship in Los Angeles, he worked for more than eight years in Brussels at the Motion Picture Association, ultimately as Vice-President and Deputy General Counsel EMEA. For nine and a half years he served as Legal Counsellor at the World Intellectual Property Organization, a specialised agency of the United Nations, based in Geneva.

He has particular experience in intellectual property and the creative industries. From 2000 to 2018 Thomas Dillon was chairman of Creative Advantage Fund, the UK's first publicly-funded venture capital fund for the creative industries. From 2009 to 2015 he was a director of Ffilm Cymru Wales, the strategic agency for film in Wales.

Thomas Dillon is on the panel of neutrals of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the panel of arbitrators of the Business Arbitration Scheme of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is an enthusiastic supporter of the annual Vismoot in Vienna and its pre-moots, having participated as a moot or pre-moot arbitrator in 2020, 2021, 2023 and 2024. He publishes on issues relating to arbitration and media.

He is happy to undertake arbitrations in English or French.

Memberships

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- International Chamber of Commerce (UK branch)

- London Court of International Arbitration
- Swiss Arbitration Association
- British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)
- ADR panel of the Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre of the Unified Patent Court, the PMAC

Qualifications

- M.A. (Classics), Queens' College, Cambridge
- Diploma in Intellectual Property and Competition Law, Queen Mary, London
- Executive MBA (Film Business), Cass Business School, London
- Master of Laws (International Dispute Resolution), Queen Mary, London (with Distinction)

Publications

- Setting the historical record straight, Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice 8(9) (2013)
- Evidence, policy and 'evidence for policy', Journal of Intellectual Property Law & Practice (2016) 11 (2)
- Internet technical intermediaries and secondary liability, chapter in 'The Digital Single Market Copyright', Aracne Editrice, Ariccia, May 2016
- Property or Status? Music and Musicians Under Copyright, chapter in The Bloomsbury Handbook of Popular Music Policy, February 2022
- TV Quotas Under the AVMS Directive After Brexit, Journal of World Trade 56(2) (2022).
- The Human Right of Freedom of Expression in Investor-State Arbitration, Journal of International Arbitration 40(2) (2023)

Areas of Expertise

- Commercial
- Property
- Sport Media And Entertainment
- International Arbitration