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## New York International Arbitration Center to Open this Spring

The New York International Arbitration Center, Inc. (“the NYIAC”) was established in 2012 with the support of 33 leading New York law firms, including Winston & Strawn LLP, to promote New York as a venue for international arbitration.

In a few weeks, the NYIAC will unveil its independent arbitration hearing and conference center. The center is located in a new, state-of-the-art facility, located in the heart of Midtown Manhattan, at 150 East 42nd Street. The location provides easy access to Grand Central Station, Times Square, Penn Station, Wall Street, and the United Nations.

The center will offer six hearing rooms, including a “megaroom” which seats up to 43 people, and two other rooms with capacity for 20 and 14 people. Three break-out rooms are also available. All the rooms are equipped with video conferencing equipment, LCD monitors and other resources needed for international arbitration. The megaroom also includes an interpreter booth with facilities for simultaneous translation.

Establishing the NYIAC was one of the recommendations of a 2011 task force of the New York State Bar Association (“NYSBA”). The Report of the Task Force on New York Law in International Matters, urged that New York needed a permanent center for international arbitration in order to maintain its position as one of the world’s major centers for resolving international disputes. The Report warned of competition from abroad from specialized courts or judges established to handle international arbitration, as well as new arbitration laws enacted in other countries to enhance their attractiveness as seats of arbitration.

New York is one of the world’s leading venues for arbitration. NYIAC’s goal is to maintain and enhance New York’s position in today’s competitive arbitral venue environment. In addition to providing a neutral hearing space for the conduct of arbitrations in New York City, the NYIAC will engage in a number of focused activities designed to support its goals. These include informing the global legal community about the benefits of New York as an arbitral venue, and educating practitioners about the singularly sound, well-developed New York law for commercial and other transactions.

NYIAC will not administer arbitrations or provide rules for the conduct of arbitration. Instead, NYIAC will welcome the utilization of its hearing and conference facilities for hearings, mediations and conferences in New York in connection with ad hoc arbitrations as well as cases administered by recognized dispute resolution organizations based around the world.

The NYIAC is organized as a New York not-for-profit corporation that will rely on revenues from the operations of the Center and, in its early years, on substantial financial commitments received from New York law firms. It is chaired by former Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals, Judith Kaye, now of counsel at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom. Jeffrey L. Kessler, a partner in Winston & Strawn’s New York office who serves as the head of the antitrust and competition practice group and co-chairs the sports law practice group, will serve as a member of the NYIAC’s Board of Directors.

If you have any questions regarding any matters discussed in this briefing, please contact any of the Winston & Strawn attorneys listed below or your usual Winston & Strawn contact.

**New York**

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