



Chartered
Institute of
Arbitrators

CI Arb

CI Arb London—Seminar
Contractual Interpretation
“Plus Ça Change...”
28 January 2010



CI Arb Evening Seminar—2010

Speakers

Contractual interpretation is one of the most important areas of commercial legal practice. In international commerce, different approaches and expectations will be encountered, depending on whether the parties are from a common or civil law background. This seminar covers the principles of the English common law approach, including the decision of the House of Lords in *Chartbrook v Persimmon Homes* which reaffirmed the rule that evidence of pre-contractual negotiations is inadmissible. By contrast, that evidence often is admissible in civil law jurisdictions and can be probative of the real consensus between the parties. Our speakers will review the key principles and highlight the differences between civil and common law.

Lord Hoffmann

Lord Hoffmann will comment on the decision of the House of Lords in *Chartbrook v Persimmon Homes*, one of his last judgments before retiring from the bench. That case settled the common law on contractual interpretation, following calls for reform.

Melanie Willems, Partner

Melanie is an experienced practitioner specialising in international commercial arbitration. She will provide a run-through of the key principles of contractual interpretation in English law, identifying some practical pitfalls and twists.

Venue: Howrey LLP, 5 New Street Square, EC4A 3BF
(subject to numbers. Any venue change will be advised.)

28 January 2010, 6.00 pm for 6.30pm

**Jean de Hauteclocque,
Avocat**

Jean has a civil law background, having practiced as a dispute resolution specialist in Paris for over 25 years. He will provide insight into the civil law approach, highlighting any contrasts with English law.

There is no charge for seminars but you must book in advance. Please contact the branch administrator, Ms Elinor Pritchard, to register.
elinor@thevirtualpartnership.co.uk

For more information on CI Arb London Branch's 2009/2010 programme of events, please visit the [CI Arb London Branch website](http://www.ci-arb.org.uk).