

# Prof David Butler

Emeritus Professor: Stellenbosch University

Association of Arbitrators  
(Southern Africa) NPC



## INVITATION

### The International Arbitration Bill and the UNCITRAL Model Law: a new era for international arbitration in South Africa

Please join us for an evening of networking, snacks and drinks as Prof David Butler discusses this interesting topic.

#### Background:

After many delays and disappointments, the International Arbitration Bill 10 of 2017 has been introduced in the National Assembly and is under consideration by Justice Portfolio Committee. The explanatory memorandum with the Bill states that the proposed legislation will ensure that South Africa is at the forefront of international arbitration best practices. It will also assist South African businesses in resolving their trans-border disputes and in ensuring that South Africa is an attractive venue for foreign parties to resolve their commercial disputes through arbitration, particularly disputes with an African connection. It is important that all those involved in arbitration in South Africa be aware of the opportunities that will be offered by this new legislation.

The 2017 Bill was developed from a Draft Bill in a comprehensive report on international arbitration, which was published by the South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) in 1998. The report recommended the introduction of the UNCITRAL Model Law of 1985 in South Africa for international arbitration. UNCITRAL has since amended the Model Law in 2006 and there have been other important developments regarding international arbitration since 1998. The SALRC therefore updated the original Draft Bill and in August 2013 the SALRC convened a meeting of experts for purposes of obtaining further inputs on the Bill.

#### Prof Butler:

Prof David Butler, Emeritus Professor in Mercantile Law at Stellenbosch University, has taught international commercial arbitration to LLM students there for more than twenty years. He was actively involved in the initiative by the Association of Arbitrators in 1994 which resulted in the launching of the SALRC's Project 94 Arbitration. Prof Butler subsequently served on the SALRC's project committee and is recognised as the author of the 1998 report. He was actively involved in the updating of the Draft Bill and the 2013 meeting of experts and has assisted the Department of Justice and Correctional Services with the wording of the 2017 Bill. He currently serves on the SALRC's Advisory Committee on ADR, as reconstituted in 2017. He is therefore well qualified to speak on the topic.

**Date:** Tuesday, 18 July 2017      **Time:** 17:30 for 18:00

**Venue:** Association of Arbitrators (Southern Africa) NPC, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Block B, Sandown House, Norwich Close (off 5<sup>th</sup> Street), Sandown, Johannesburg

**NOTE:** Seats are limited.

**Cost (incl. VAT):** Members: **R300.00**      Non-members: **R350.00**      A cash bar will be available.

**RSVP:** **Date:** Monday, 17 July 2017  
Send your completed [Enrolment Form](#) to Raquel Townsend.  
Email: [raquel@arbitrators.co.za](mailto:raquel@arbitrators.co.za)