

## McDermott names new arbitration head

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*B Ted Howes*

*McDermott Will & Emery LLP has appointed New York partner B Ted Howes to lead its international arbitration practice, following the departure last month of disputes head Juliet Blanch.*

Howes has 20 years of international arbitration and commercial litigation experience, including disputes arising from M&A, distribution, licensing and construction contracts. He also manages the firm's Chinese litigation and dispute resolution practice.

"I am honoured to be leading McDermott's international arbitration practice," said Howes. "Our emphasis is, and has always been, on working as a team to creatively and efficiently resolve the often complicated issues that arise in international disputes. I hope to build on that track record."

Howes, who was appointed on 18 May, replaces **Juliet Blanch**, who moved to the London office of Weil Gotshal & Manges in April. He will work with McDermott lawyers in the US, Europe and

China, including partners **Robert Weiner** in New York; **Raquel Rodriguez** in Miami; **Michael Socarras** in Washington, DC; **Thomas Hauss** in Düsseldorf; and **Stefano Mechelli** in Rome.

Howes has represented US and foreign companies in arbitrations under the rules of the ICC, the LCIA, the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the American Arbitration Association, and has arbitrated cases in the US, France, England, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

Harvard-educated, he joined McDermott in 1996, having formerly worked in the Paris and New York offices of the now-defunct Coudert Brothers from 1991.

McDermott's arbitration practice has seen a number of recent departures. **Andy Moody** announced last month that he would be leaving for Eversheds, while **John Rhie** announced his move to Seoul law firm Kim & Chang in March - both were senior associates in the London office. McDermott's New York office also lost arbitration partner **Pieter Bekker** to Crowell & Moring last year.