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ICAC: When did you get your first appointment as an arbitrator?

A.A.: In 2011. I was lucky to start my international record with an ICC case, where I was appointed by the institution in the multi-party case with involvement of one high-fly Ukrainian company. It was rather simple and low-value international sale dispute. But for me it was an extremely valuable experience. And I still remember sense of pride when some of my comments and proposed minor amendments to the draft award were accepted by far more learned co-arbitrators.

ICAC: What is the main advantage of arbitration?

A.A.: In the international context, apart from straightforward ones, like party autonomy, procedural flexibility and NYC, for me it is cultural diversity and professionalism. The latter is underpinned by lack of appeal to the arbitration awards on the merits, which make it super important not only to have good arbitrators, but also excellent arbitration counsel on your side.

ICAC: What is your experience with arbitration under the ICAC rules?

A.A.: I regularly participate in various arbitration conferences in Kyiv, including famous Arbitration readings in memory of Igor Pobirchenko. Based on the experience I have gained at these professional events, I may conclude that ICAC is a reputable institution, and its decisions are successfully enforced internationally, including Belarus. I hope my first-hand experience as arbitrator under the ICAC rules will only reinforce my opinion.

ICAC: Why did you start practicing arbitration?

A.A.: I never seriously thought about pursuing career in arbitration during until my post-graduate studies in the Hague under the famous Asser College Europe program. There I have met with this great phenomenon and realised that building international arbitration practice might be the best (if not the only) way to live and work in my home Belarus, while at the same time keep in touch with bigger legal world and have good mix of local and international cases.

ICAC: Please give advice for those who are just starting their career in arbitration.

A.A.: Don't be shy to set up very ambitious goals and be consistent and patient in building your network, crafting your personal and professional image. Be genuine and invest into your relationships with people: colleagues, peers and even competitors. Work hard and you will always find your place under the arbitration sun.

ICAC: What is your credo in life/professional life?

A.A.: As much as necessary, as little as possible. Every single day we are wasting so much of our energy on stuff, which is not critical to the purpose and is actually needed to reach our most important goals. I am also too far from being a role model here, but continuously try to improve the efficiency output in what I do.

ICAC: Which book are you currently reading?

A.A.: As usual, there are several of them on half-way. "Beetle in the Anthill" of Strugatsky brothers, which is a very rare case when I reread the same book twice, "Everything Is F*cked: A Book about Hope" by Mark Manson and "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" by Thomas Piketty.