

MICHAEL DAVID KUPER SC
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Michael is a senior South African commercial advocate (barrister) and arbitrator in practice at the Johannesburg Bar (Society of Advocates Witwatersrand). He has served as chairman of the Johannesburg Bar; Vice-Chairman of the General Council of the Bar, and as an acting judge of the High Court of South Africa on various occasions.

His work covers mercantile, corporate, banking, mining and construction disputes and he maintains an active arbitration practice.

Michael served as convenor of the joint venture between the legal and accounting professions and the South African Chamber of Business to establish the Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa (AFSA), for the purpose of providing administered arbitration and mediation in the southern African region and for the establishment of an arbitral regime consistent with the UNCITRAL model law (1996).

Michael is the chairman of the Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa, a non-profit joint venture company between the business, legal and accounting professions. AFSA provides administered arbitration and mediation services throughout Southern Africa and its work has transformed arbitration in this country.

Michael has participated extensively both as counsel, arbitrator or mediator in domestic arbitrations and mediations, as well as regional or cross border arbitrations in SADC, including the Indian Ocean Islands, and in international arbitrations in the United Kingdom, France, Nigeria and the United States of America. He has served on arbitration panels appointed by the International Chamber of Commerce and by the London Court of International Arbitration. He has acted as lead counsel on behalf of South Africa in arbitration proceedings before the Permanent Court of Arbitration. He is Country Rapporteur for South Africa to the International Chamber of Commerce and to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. He is a member of the Arbitration Panel of the Hainan Arbitration Commission; the Shanghai International Arbitration Centre; the Arbitration Foundation of Southern Africa and the China-Africa Joint Arbitration Centre.

Michael also serves on the Management Committee of Africa ADR, an initiative intended to provide standardised arbitration and mediation services throughout Africa.

Michael was the lead South African spokesman in Beijing in June 2015 at the Seminar addressing the creation of a joint Chinese-African Dispute Resolution Mechanism and was chairman of the reciprocal meeting in Johannesburg in August 2015.

Following the issue of the Beijing Consensus in June 2015 and the Johannesburg Consensus on 17 August 2015, Michael has been appointed chairman of the China Africa Joint Arbitration Centre, Johannesburg (CAJAC) which together with the China Africa Arbitration Centre, Shanghai, will deal with trade and investment disputes between Chinese and African nationals under the aegis of the China Law Society.

Michael lectures in the commercial arbitration and international arbitration modules in the dispute resolution qualification courses presented jointly by AFSA and the University of Pretoria.

He was formerly Hon. Professor in the Department of Procedural Law, Faculty of Law University of Pretoria, and Disciplinary Commissioner for Cricket South Africa.

He is an editor of "The Corporate Report", a publication dedicated to facilitating business in South Africa.