

Proust Questionnaire



Name: Panagiotis Chalkias

Age: 31

Hometown: Athens, Greece

Current City: Brussels, Belgium

Current Employer: Hanotiau & van den Berg

Education: LL.M. in International Dispute Settlement (MIDS), University of Geneva and Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies (2011); Master of Laws in Economic Law (Maîtrise en droit économique), University of Geneva (2010); Bachelor of Laws, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (2009).

How did you get involved in international arbitration? I attended the international arbitration course taught by Professor Kaufmann-Kohler at the University of Geneva in 2010. In one of the first classes, Professor Kaufmann-Kohler showed us a video of an actual arbitration hearing and I remember telling myself, "I have got to learn more about this". As a result, I started looking for LL.M. programmes in international arbitration and the MIDS in Geneva was an obvious choice for me.

What is your favourite virtue? Honesty.

What are your favourite qualities in another person? Positivity, humour and humility.

What is your chief characteristic? Patience.

What is your main fault? I am not good at keeping a poker face.

What is your favourite occupation? If I had to choose a different field, I would have studied automotive engineering for its multitude of interesting elements (design, mechanical, electronic, software and safety).

What is your idea of happiness? Island hopping by boat.

What is your idea of misery? Arriving at the airport a few hours in advance just to be greeted with a "Delayed" or "Cancelled" message.

If not yourself, who would you be? A tennis player.

Where would you like to live? There is no perfect place to live, it is up to you and your friends to make it so.

Who is your favourite prose author? John Grisham

Who is your favourite hero/heroine in fiction? The name is Bond...

Who is your hero in real life? I have the utmost respect for those doctors who work in challenging conditions (underpaid, constrained by the limited availability of medicine or resources, etc.) and have to deal with terrible mental and physical pain.

What historical person do you most dislike? Uganda's General Idi Amin Dada for the brutality of his military regime.

What is your favourite name? Zoe for girls and Christopher for boys.

What do you hate the most? Indifference to climate change.

What is your natural talent? Listening to people.

What is your favourite arbitration-related decision? Jan Paulsson's award in *Pantechniki v. Albania* (ICSID Case No. ARB/07/21), for being a prime example of what effective legal writing is about.

Who is your favourite arbitrator? One of the most outspoken and assertive arbitrators I have ever encountered, Bernard Hanotiau.

Who is your mentor? My parents, for their support and for providing me with guidance every step of the way.

What is your motto? Good judgment is the result of experience and experience the result of bad judgment (attributed to many sources).

What do you hope to contribute to Young ICCA as co-chair?

My personal ambition is to work hard to maintain and, if possible, improve the quality of Young ICCA's activities. I consider myself very fortunate to have followed Young ICCA's growth since as early as 2012, as an attendee, Steering Committee member, mentee, Events Coordinator and Global Events Director. I hope I will continue to work with the rest of the Young ICCA team to strengthen and expand Young ICCA's worldwide reach.

In particular, I hope to be able to work with the other co-chairs towards (i) increasing Young ICCA's cooperation with universities from all around the world, (ii) preparing a video-recorded version of Young ICCA's skills training workshops, to which practitioners even in remote jurisdictions will be able to have access and (iii) strengthening the Mentoring Programme, by organizing more frequent reunions, arranging monitoring of the groups' activities and creating a communications platform.