

2017 - 01 - 27

Revista de Arbitragem e Mediação

2016

RARB VOL. 49 (ABRIL - JUNHO 2016)

NOTAS

Notas

1. Discurso em homenagem ao Prof. Arnaldo Wald – Lifetime Achievement Award - Latin Lawyer

Letícia Barbosa e Silva Abdalla

Good evening!

First of all, I would like to thank Latin Lawyer for this kind invitation.

It is a great pleasure and a great honor to present this Award to Professor Arnaldo Wald, who is undoubtedly one of the major contributors to the development of arbitration in Brazil.

Professor Wald is a visionary and an example, not only to me, but certainly to the entire Brazilian arbitration community.

So, I will not take this moment to present his *résumé*. He obviously needs no introduction and I do not even have the time to do so, as we would have to spend the entire evening here in order to address all accomplishments of his remarkable path.

I thought it might be interesting to mention some facts of his brilliant career, which can give an idea on the importance of the work that he has developed in favor of arbitration in Brazil and abroad.

As a pioneer, Professor Wald has acted in many leading cases in the arbitration area in Brazil.

Among other victories, he was responsible for obtaining before the Brazilian Courts the recognition of the validity and enforcement of arbitration clauses, in the famous *CAOA v. Renault* case, which was ruled in 1999.

He was also responsible for the recognition, by the Superior Court of Justice, of the arbitrability of disputes involving state-owned companies, in the landmark case *AES Uruguaina v CEEE*, more than ten years ago.

As another example, Professor Wald defended before the courts the arbitrability of disputes concerning an insolvent party, in the equally famous *Saúde ABC* case.

As you can see, Professor Wald has always worked hard to place Brazil in the forefront of the developed nations, even before the Supreme Court had ratified the constitutionality of our Arbitration Law.

In fact, he always believed that arbitration was going to take off and never gave up dedicating his time and effort to that, not only as one of the most talented litigators, but also as a sage arbitrator.

Thanks to him, Wald was one of the first law firms to invest in arbitration, and to create an area dedicated exclusively to that, to which I had the fortune and honor to join in 2007, for almost eight years.

His untiring dedication has also been decisive in the development of arbitration doctrine. He wrote more than a hundred and sixty articles about the topic, having also coordinated one of the first Brazilian compendiums of comments to the New York Convention, and is in charge of the Arbitration and Mediation Review since 2000.

His tireless passion for arbitration has also been admired abroad. Apart from being *Doctor Honoris Causa* at the University Paris II, he was a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, from 2003 to 2012.

And as a member of the Court, Professor Wald definitely helped to put Brazil side by side with the most advanced legal systems, placing our country on the map of international commercial arbitration.

Besides all these outstanding facts and achievements, and besides his undisputable geniality, I cannot fail to mention his devotion to his family, and his generosity and support to all his collaborators, which I witnessed during the years I worked with him.

But above all, one of the most admirable features of his personality is his youthful spirit.

His extraordinary dedication and contagious energy are an example to pursue.

I remember one episode when we worked together at Wald. It was late at night, we were in a meeting at the firm, facing a very complex and exhaustive case. And after a such long meeting, all the team was very tired, but he was there, alive and kicking, better than all of us. And he said, "Well, I never said that this was going to be easy. Advocacy is a daily struggle, but we shall never give up".

And this has certainly been his life motto.

Therefore, as a recognition for this extraordinary career, I would like you to join me in a round of applause for our esteemed guest. São Paulo, 17 de março de 2016