

# Practice Leader Insights From Baker McKenzie's Andy Moody

By **Andy Moody** (July 13, 2026)

*In this Law360 U.K. Expert Analysis series, practice group leaders share thoughts on keeping the pulse on legal trends, tackling difficult cases and what it takes to make a mark in their area.*

*In this installment, Andy Moody, head of Baker McKenzie's London disputes team, discusses the traits that he prioritizes as a leader, the unique challenges of international arbitration cases, and how global political and economic disruption is likely to generate more litigation and arbitration.*

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## The Experiences That Have Shaped My Approach to Leadership

I am unusual as an English solicitor as I am American, having grown up in the South in Tennessee. I am sure that my background has ultimately shaped my leadership style.

I first came to London in 1997 for six months and never really left. I started my career at Norton Rose, now Norton Rose Fulbright, and worked at McDermott Will & Emery, now McDermott Will & Schulte, and Eversheds Sutherland, before joining Baker McKenzie in 2016. I experienced different styles of leadership within quite different sorts of firms.



Andy Moody

I have seen leaders who have succeeded and those who have failed. For my part, I have always tried to be a good listener, as open and communicative as possible with my fellow partners and the wider team, and decisive.

## The Most Challenging Matter I've Worked On

I love representing clients in international arbitration cases because the disputes tend to be challenging. Every dispute is a new story, and the fun is understanding what has happened — it tends to be something nobody anticipated — and familiarizing myself with the legal issues and the personalities involved before ultimately working out a strategy to advance the client's position.

I also love the variety. Recently, I have helped a major listed company with disputes arising from the war in Ukraine. I have represented clients in a matter involving Georgia regarding a project on the Black Sea, assisted with a joint venture dispute in Saudi Arabia, and acted in a case against a Caribbean state concerning the expropriation of an energy project.

## Current Developments Shaping My Work

Ongoing political and economic disruption around the world is likely to generate more disputes, particularly in the energy and infrastructure sectors. In periods of upheaval like the present, there will inevitably be winners and losers, and those on the losing side will

often turn to litigation or arbitration in an effort to recover value. From a leadership perspective, that means creating enough space to identify emerging opportunities and being ready to act on them.

The other major development affecting all leaders is artificial intelligence, and working out how best to use it. I am by nature an optimist, so for any "Dad's Army" fans out there I am not in the Private Frazer "we're doomed" camp, although AI clearly poses a challenge to the traditional law firm model. We are only just beginning to see the extent of its impact.

### **A Lawyer Who Has Impressed Me**

I have been fortunate to work with many outstanding lawyers in London and internationally, and I continue to be struck by the strength and diversity of the international arbitration community. If there is one defining characteristic of the people in this field, it is their international outlook.

One person who has particularly impressed me is Juliet Blanch, now a highly regarded independent arbitrator at Arbitration Chambers. I worked with Juliet many years ago, first at Norton Rose and then at McDermott Will & Emery, and I always admired her ability to build a hugely successful career in a demanding, high-pressure environment while also supporting her team and never losing her sense of humor.

### **My Advice to Junior Lawyers as the Profession Evolves**

I would advise young lawyers not to worry too much. While AI will undoubtedly change the way lawyers work, clients will still value judgment, relationships and the human touch.

Remember to pick up the telephone, not just rely on email. Stay open to opportunities, be collegiate, support your colleagues and aim for excellence in everything you do. If you stick to those principles, the rest will look after itself.

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