The Centre for Finance, Technology and Entrepreneurship released its “Metaverse Real Estate Market: Sandbox Heatmap” report which highlights some of the aspects to be considered in real estate operations held in the metaverse.

The article points out three main legal issues regarding the metaverse: What rules shall apply to the new marketplace created by metaverse? How should new categories of personal data created by the metaverse virtual world be processed? Is it possible to apply the rules of civil, or even criminal, liability to human interactions on metaverse?
The article explores the implications of digital identities (which do not need to be in human form) in the metaverse for international arbitration.

Arbitration Tech Toolbox: Lessons from the First Ever International Arbitration Gathering in Virtual Reality
6 February 2022, by Elizabeth Chan and Graham Rhodes
#Metaverse #OnlineHearings #VirtualReality contributed by Elizabeth Chan

The blogpost shares the lessons learned from the first-ever virtual reality gathering for international arbitration practitioners, which took place on 27 January 2022.

Investment Treaty Disputes in the Metaverse?
9 February 2022, by Elizabeth Chan
#Metaverse #ISDS contributed by Elizabeth Chan

Investment Treaty Disputes in the Metaverse? This blog post explores the implications of the Metaverse for Investor-State Dispute Settlement.

#DigitalAssets/Currencies

YSIAC Conference Recap: Cryptocurrency, Blockchain and NFTs
12 November 2021, by Felicia Ng
#DigitalAssets #Cryptocurrencies #NFTs contributed by Thais Negrao

Recap of the last “YSIAC Conference 2021 ARBXTalk” on digital developments in the arbitration space. The fact that technological progress is faster than law developments may give rise to new legal issues, such as the challenges of applying classical ownership rights to cryptocurrency or NFTs or the extent of the binding force of smart contracts.

When are Cryptocurrencies Held on Trust?
2 December, 2021, by Vanessa Whitman and Kushal Gandhi
#DigitalAssets #DigitalCurrencies #Trust contributed by Mihaela Apostol

The article presents an analysis of the Zi Wang v Graham Darby case in which the English Commercial Court set forth the legal position on cryptocurrencies and associated proprietary claims.
Central Bank Digital Currencies: A Solution in Search of a Problem?
13 January 2022, by the UK Parliament
#DigitalCurrencies #NationalBank #DigitalBank

Contributed by Mihaela Apostol

The UK Parliament's Economic Affairs Committee concludes in its recent report that, despite its advantages, a Central Bank for Digital Currencies is not necessary in the UK taking into consideration privacy and financial concerns.

UK High Court Rejects Bitcoin as Security for Costs.
26 January 2022, by the High Court of Justice of England and Wales
#DigitalCurrencies #SecurityForCosts #Bitcoin contributed by Hafez Virjee

In Tulip Trading Ltd v Bitcoin Association for BSV, the English High Court refused bitcoin as security for costs holding that: “The security offered by the claimant would not result in protection for the defendants equal to a payment into court, or first class guarantee. It would expose them to a risk to which they would not be exposed with the usual forms of security: namely of a fall in value of Bitcoin, which could result in their security being effectively valueless”.

UK Tax Authority Seizes NFT's Following Suspicion of £1.4m Fraud
13 February 2022, by BBC
#DigitalAssets #Fraud #NFTs contributed by Hafez Virjee

The UK tax authority seized three non-fungible tokens as part of a VAT fraud investigation involving 250 alleged fake companies.

#DigitalArbitration

CI Arb Guidelines on the Use of Technology in Arbitration
12 November 2021, by CI Arb
#DigitalArbitration #TechGuidelines #ArbTech contributed by Ben Giaretta

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators has published a new Practice Guideline on the Use of Technology in International Arbitration. It provides general principles on the use of technology and advice on how parties should take care to ensure that they use technology safely.
Wolters Kluwer Launches Data-Driven Enhancements to Arbitrator Tool within Kluwer Arbitration Practice Plus
19 November 2021, by Kluwer Arbitration Blog
#DigitalArbitration #TechTools #DataDriven contributed by Thais Negrao

Wolters Kluwer announced enhancements to its existing Arbitrator Tool. By using artificial intelligence and machine learning, the new version of the tool aims to provide more efficient insights to assess arbitrators and, thus, help practitioners in advising their clients.

Blockchain Arbitration: The Future of Dispute Resolution
23 November 2021, by Sharath Mulia and Romi Kumari
#DigitalArbitration #Blockchain #LegalTechDisputeResolution contributed by Sharath Mulia and Romi Kumari

The article explores some practical examples of how blockchain can be integrated into arbitration proceedings.

Arbitration Tech Toolbox: Are We Ready for the ArBot?
3 December 2021, by Abhilasha Vij
#DigitalArbitration #ArBot #AIArbitration contributed by Abhilasha Vij

The article explores the use of artificial intelligence throughout the arbitral proceedings, namely the feasibility of using what the author calls an “ArBot” to make arbitration more efficient and up to date with the digital world.

Deepfakes in International Arbitration: How Should Tribunals Treat Video Evidence and Allegations of Technological Tampering?
10 December 2021, by Markus Burgstaller and Scott Macpherson
#DigitalArbitration #Deepfakes #Evidence contributed by Markus Burgstaller and Scott Macpherson

The article touches upon the challenges faced by tribunals when dealing with deepfakes, as well as the consequences of applying various standard of proof such as ‘clear and convincing evidence’ and ‘balance of probabilities’. [requires a paid subscription]

Will Artificial Intelligence Help or Harm Arbitration?
22 December 2021, by Oscar Tang
#DigitalArbitration #DueProcess #Evidence contributed by Oscar Tang

A lot is said about the use of artificial intelligence in arbitral proceedings, but what are the real consequences of such a use? In this article the author explores different aspects of this question, by pointing out where the use of AI can be beneficial and where it can present potential risks.
Think Arbi: Has Technology Worsened the Conduct of Arbitrations?
23 December 2021, by Namrata Mayur Shah
#DigitalArbitration #DueProcess #Evidence contributed by Thais Negrao

The article touches upon the challenges faced in aligning the technology with the need to observe procedural principles such as due process, efficiency and cost effectiveness, among others.

Arbitration Pricing Calculator
28 January 2022, by Reed Smith
#DigitalArbitration #PriceCalculator #ArbitrationApp contributed by Mihaela Apostol

Reed Smith launches a mobile app that calculates the costs of arbitral proceedings in more than 20 currencies covering 37 international arbitration centers.

#DigitalLaw

Law Commission Report on Smart Contracts
25 November 2021, by the UK Law Commission
#DigitalRegulation #DigitalJustice #SmartContracts contributed by Mihaela Apostol

The report covers the definition of smart contracts, the interpretation of such contracts, as well as the definition of venue should a dispute in connection with a smart contract arise.

Blockchain: Legal and Regulatory Guidance (second edition)
11 January 2022, by The Law Society of England & Wales
#DigitalRegulation #DigitalJustice #SmartContracts contributed by Mihaela Apostol

The report covers the current developing technologies, an overview of types and regulation of cryptoassets, non-fungible tokens, as well as the use of smart contracts and dispute resolution involving distributed ledger technology.

Identification and Assessment of Existing and Draft EU Legislation in the Digital Field
31 January 2022, by the EU Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies
#DigitalRegulation#DataProtection #AI Ethics contributed by Mihaela Apostol
This study presents an overview of all existing and planned EU legislation in the digital field, as well as an assessment of the interactions amongst these pieces of legislation.

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