specialize. Here was a practice that combined many of my interests – geopolitics, economics, international relations, comparative law – and that would give me the chance to work with people across cultures, borders and languages. I was hooked! Over the next few years, I competed in a number of arbitration moots and attended every Young ICCA workshop I could find. I’ve been deepening my passion for this field ever since.

What is your favourite virtue? Humility.

What are your favourite qualities in another person? Kindness, empathy and positivity.

What is your chief characteristic? Tenacity.

What is your main fault? I have a corny sense of humour.

What is your favourite occupation? Arbitration aside, I’m fascinated by legal informatics – a burgeoning field at the interface between computer science and legal practice.

What is your idea of happiness? Dinner around a long table with my closest friends on a warm summer evening. Roaring laughter. The smell of freshly baked bread in the air. And conversations stretching late into the night.

What is your idea of misery? Wasted potential.

If not yourself, who would you be? A viticulturist… I hear it’s a grape career.

Where would you like to live? As long as I have my family and friends (and a stable internet connection), I’d be happy anywhere.
Who is your favourite prose author? Samuel Clemens (better known under his pen name, Mark Twain).

Who is your favourite hero/heroine in fiction? Sherlock Holmes, for his mastery of deductive reasoning.

Who is your hero in real life? Each and every one of the healthcare providers working tirelessly out there to keep us safe, in many cases at the peril of their own safety.

What historical person do you most dislike? General Augusto Pinochet, a brutal dictator notorious for his abject cruelty and corruption.

What is your favourite name? Stephanie for girls, Alex for boys.

What do you hate the most? Discrimination. It’s 2020. There’s no excuse for disparate treatment based on gender or ethnicity.

What is your natural talent? I think I’m good at listening to people and helping them develop the best in themselves.

What is your favourite arbitration-related decision? The award in the Rann of Kutch Arbitration (between India and Pakistan) which brought an end to armed hostilities between the two countries over a boundary dispute. It’s a shining example of the way arbitration can contribute to the peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

Who is your favourite arbitrator? The late Pierre Lalive, whose pioneering scholarship and decisions shaped modern conceptions of international arbitration.

Who is your mentor? Both of my parents - for their unwavering support, as well as for their wisdom and guidance every step of the way.

What is your motto? I live by Malcolm Forbes’s adage: “character is how you treat people that can do nothing for you or to you.”

What do you hope to contribute to Young ICCA as co-chair? I hope to work hard on guiding Young ICCA through this turbulent time, and ensuring that appropriate adjustments are made to maintain the high quality of the mentorship, scholarship and skill-building programs. I consider myself very fortunate to have experienced the benefits of these programs over my six years of involvement with the organization (as a participant, a steering committee member, and now as an events coordinator). I’m determined to work with the rest of the Young ICCA team to continue opening the doors of international arbitration for others, like they were opened for me.

As a first step, I’d hope to move Young ICCA’s existing trainings to an online platform. I would also like to work with the other co-chairs towards:

(1) Developing an interactive workshop format to provide threshold trainings on topics of recurring interest for young practitioners – e.g. the fundamentals of damage valuation; and basic notions needed to prepare for a construction arbitration.

(2) Increasing the number of scholarship opportunities available – especially for practitioners located in emerging market jurisdictions – in step with the growth we’ve seen in Young ICCA’s membership.

(3) Promoting and enforcing diversity in the composition of mentorship and workshop participants – with a focus on including new speakers.