CONTRACTS: ENFORCEABILITY OF ARBITRATION AWARDS STATUTORY SUPPLEMENT

Superior Court Judges' Summer Conference | June 21, 2018 Adam M. Conrad | Special Superior Court Judge for Complex Business Cases

General Statutes of North Carolina > CHAPTER 1. CIVIL PROCEDURE > SUBCHAPTER 15. INCIDENTAL PROCEDURE IN CIVIL ACTIONS > ARTICLE 45C. REVISED UNIFORM ARBITRATION ACT

NCGS § 1-569.22. Confirmation of award

After a party to an arbitration receives notice of an award, the party may make a motion to the court for an order confirming the award. Upon motion of a party for an order confirming the award, the court shall issue a confirming order unless the award is modified or corrected pursuant to <u>G.S. 1-569.24</u> or is vacated pursuant to <u>G.S. 1-569.23</u>.

NCGS § 1-569.23. Vacating award

- (a) Upon motion to the court by a party to an arbitration proceeding, the court shall vacate an award made in the arbitration proceeding if:
 - (1) The award was procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means;
 - (2) There was:
 - a. Evident partiality by an arbitrator appointed as a neutral arbitrator;
 - **b.** Corruption by an arbitrator; or
 - **c.** Misconduct by an arbitrator prejudicing the rights of a party to the arbitration proceeding;
 - (3) An arbitrator refused to postpone the hearing upon a showing of sufficient cause for postponement, refused to consider evidence material to the controversy, or otherwise conducted the hearing contrary to <u>G.S. 1-569.15</u> so as to prejudice substantially the rights of a party to the arbitration proceeding;
 - (4) An arbitrator exceeded the arbitrator's powers;
 - (5) There was no agreement to arbitrate, unless the person participated in the arbitration proceeding without raising the objection under G.S. 1-569.15(c) no later than the beginning of the arbitration hearing; or
 - **(6)** The arbitration was conducted without proper notice of the initiation of an arbitration as required in <u>G.S. 1-569.9</u> so as to prejudice substantially the rights of a party to the arbitration proceeding.
- **(b)** A motion under this section shall be filed within 90 days after the moving party receives notice of the award pursuant to <u>G.S. 1-569.19</u> or within 90 days after the moving party receives notice of a modified or corrected award pursuant to <u>G.S. 1-569.20</u>, unless the moving party alleges that the award was procured by corruption, fraud, or other undue means, in which case the motion shall be made within 90 days after the ground is known, or by the exercise of reasonable care would have been known, by the moving party.
- **(c)** If the court vacates an award on a ground other than that set forth in subdivision (a)(5) of this section, it may order a rehearing. If the award is vacated on a ground stated in

subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of this section, the rehearing shall be before a new arbitrator. If the award is vacated on a ground stated in subdivision (3), (4), or (6) of subsection (a) of this section, the rehearing may be held before the arbitrator who made the award or the arbitrator's successor. The arbitrator shall render the decision in the rehearing within the same time as the time provided in <u>G.S. 1-569.19(b)</u> for an award.

(d) If the court denies a motion to vacate an award, it shall confirm the award unless a motion to modify or correct the award pursuant to *G.S. 1-569.24* is pending.

NCGS § 1-569.24. Modification or correction of award

- (a) Upon motion made within 90 days after the moving party receives notice of the award pursuant to <u>G.S. 1-569.19</u> or within 90 days after the moving party receives notice of a modified or corrected award pursuant to <u>G.S. 1-569.20</u>, the court shall modify or correct the award if:
 - (1) There was an evident mathematical miscalculation or an evident mistake in the description of a person, thing, or property referred to in the award;
 - (2) The arbitrator has made an award on a claim not submitted to the arbitrator, and the award may be corrected without affecting the merits of the decision on the claims submitted; or
 - (3) The award is imperfect in a matter of form not affecting the merits of the decision on the claims submitted.
- **(b)** If a motion made under subsection (a) of this section is granted, the court shall modify and confirm the award as modified or corrected. Otherwise, unless a motion to vacate is pending, the court shall confirm the award.
- **(c)** A motion to modify or correct an award pursuant to this section may be joined with a motion to vacate the award.

NCGS § 1-569.25. Judgment on award; attorneys' fees and litigation expenses

- (a) Upon granting an order confirming, vacating without directing a rehearing, modifying, or correcting an award, the court shall enter a judgment in conformity with the order. The judgment may be recorded, docketed, and enforced as any other judgment in a civil action.
- **(b)** A court may allow reasonable costs of the motion and subsequent judicial proceedings.
- **(c)** On motion of a prevailing party to a contested judicial proceeding under <u>G.S. 1-569.22</u>, <u>1-569.23</u>, or <u>1-569.24</u>, the court may award reasonable attorneys' fees and other reasonable expenses of litigation incurred in a judicial proceeding after the award is made to a judgment confirming, vacating without directing a rehearing, modifying, or correcting an award.

United States Code Service > TITLE 9. ARBITRATION > CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

9 USCS § 9. Award of arbitrators; confirmation; jurisdiction; procedure

If the parties in their agreement have agreed that a judgment of the court shall be entered upon the award made pursuant to the arbitration, and shall specify the court, then at any time within one year after the award is made any party to the arbitration may apply to the court so specified for an order confirming the award, and thereupon the court must grant such an order unless the award is vacated, modified, or corrected as prescribed in sections 10 and 11 of this title [9 USCS \$\infty\$ 10, 11. If no court is specified in the agreement of the parties, then such application may be made to the United States court in and for the district within which such award was made. Notice of the application shall be served upon the adverse party, and thereupon the court shall have jurisdiction of such party as though he had appeared generally in the proceeding. If the adverse party is a resident of the district within which the award was made, such service shall be made upon the adverse party or his attorney as prescribed by law for service of notice of motion in an action in the same court. If the adverse party shall be a nonresident, then the notice of the application shall be served by the marshal of any district within which the adverse party may be found in like manner as other process of the court.

9 USCS § 10. Same; vacation; grounds; rehearing

- (a) In any of the following cases the United States court in and for the district wherein the award was made may make an order vacating the award upon the application of any party to the arbitration--
 - (1) where the award was procured by corruption, fraud, or undue means;
 - (2) where there was evident partiality or corruption in the arbitrators, or either of them;
 - (3) where the arbitrators were guilty of misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing, upon sufficient cause shown, or in refusing to hear evidence pertinent and material to the controversy; or of any other misbehavior by which the rights of any party have been prejudiced; or
 - (4) where the arbitrators exceeded their powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a mutual, final, and definite award upon the subject matter submitted was not made.
- **(b)** If an award is vacated and the time within which the agreement required the award to be made has not expired, the court may, in its discretion, direct a rehearing by the arbitrators.
- **(c)** The United States district court for the district wherein an award was made that was issued pursuant to section 580 of title 5 may make an order vacating the award upon the application of a person, other than a party to the arbitration, who is adversely affected or aggrieved by the award, if the use of arbitration or the award is clearly inconsistent with the factors set forth in section 572 of title 5.

9 USCS § 11. Same; modification or correction; grounds; order

In either of the following cases the United States court in and for the district wherein the award was made may make an order modifying or correcting the award upon the application of any party to the arbitration--

- (a) Where there was an evident material miscalculation of figures or an evident material mistake in the description of any person, thing, or property referred to in the award.
- **(b)** Where the arbitrators have awarded upon a matter not submitted to them, unless it is a matter not affecting the merits of the decision upon the matter submitted.
- **(c)** Where the award is imperfect in matter of form not affecting the merits of the controversy.

The order may modify and correct the award, so as to effect the intent thereof and promote justice between the parties.

United States Code Service > TITLE 9. ARBITRATION > CHAPTER 2. CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FOREIGN ARBITRAL AWARDS

9 USCS § 207. Award of arbitrators; confirmation; jurisdiction; proceeding

Within three years after an arbitral award falling under the Convention is made, any party to the arbitration may apply to any court having jurisdiction under this chapter [9 USCS \$\infty\$ 201 et seq.] for an order confirming the award as against any other party to the arbitration. The court shall confirm the award unless it finds one of the grounds for refusal or deferral of recognition or enforcement of the award specified in the said Convention.

Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, June 6, 1958, 21 U.S.T. 2517, Art. V ("New York Convention") (available at http://www.newyorkconvention.org/english)

- 1. Recognition and enforcement of the award may be refused, at the request of the party against whom it is invoked, only if that party furnishes to the competent authority where the recognition and enforcement is sought, proof that:
 - (a) The parties to the agreement referred to in article II were, under the law applicable to them, under some incapacity, or the said agreement is not valid under the law to which the

parties have subjected it or, failing any indication thereon, under the law of the country where the award was made; or

- (b) The party against whom the award is invoked was not given proper notice of the appointment of the arbitrator or of the arbitration proceedings or was otherwise unable to present his case; or
- (c) The award deals with a difference not contemplated by or not falling within the terms of the submission to arbitration, or it contains decisions on matters beyond the scope of the submission to arbitration, provided that, if the decisions on matters submitted to arbitration can be separated from those not so submitted, that part of the award which contains decisions on matters submitted to arbitration may be recognized and enforced; or
- (d) The composition of the arbitral authority or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, or, failing such agreement, was not in accordance with the law of the country where the arbitration took place; or
- (e) The award has not yet become binding on the parties, or has been set aside or suspended by a competent authority of the country in which, or under the law of which, that award was made.
- 2. Recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award may also be refused if the competent authority in the country where recognition and enforcement is sought finds that:
 - (a) The subject matter of the difference is not capable of settlement by arbitration under the law of that country; or
 - (b) The recognition or enforcement of the award would be contrary to the public policy of that country.