**Case Overview**

* **Neutral Citation Number**: V and N v K [2025] EWHC 1523 (Comm)
* **Court**: High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division, Commercial Court
* **Judge**: Mr. Justice Calver
* **Date**: 19 June 2025

**Background**

* The case involves an LMAA arbitration claim challenging a Partial Final Award made by LMAA arbitrators on 12 August 2024.
* The dispute centres around a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the sale of a vessel, which was terminated by K due to sanctions imposed on V by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

**Key Issues**

1. **Service of Arbitration Claim Form**: Whether the Claimants' service of the Arbitration Claim Form should be retrospectively validated.
2. **Extension of Time**: Whether K should be granted an extension of time to serve its application to set aside a previous order extending time for the Claimants.
3. **Challenge to the Award**: Various grounds under sections 67 and 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996, including allegations of apparent bias and procedural unfairness.

**Court's Findings**

* **Service of Claim Form**: The court found that the Claimants failed to properly serve the Arbitration Claim Form within the required time frame and did not take reasonable steps to rectify this.
* **Apparent Bias Allegations**: The court rejected the Claimants' allegations of apparent bias against the arbitrators, finding no evidence of partiality or procedural unfairness.
* **Substantive Jurisdiction**: The court upheld the Tribunal's jurisdiction and found no grounds to set aside the Award under section 67.
* **Serious Irregularity**: The court found no serious irregularity affecting the Tribunal, the proceedings, or the Award under section 68.

**Conclusion**

* The Claimants' challenges under sections 67 and 68 of the Arbitration Act 1996 were dismissed.
* The court refused to validate the service of the Arbitration Claim Form retrospectively.
* The Tribunal's Partial Final Award in favour of K was upheld.