



Peter Rees KC

Year of call: 2014 | Silk: 2009

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"He is very experienced and a big name in international arbitration. He is very knowledgeable, an excellent chairman, very prompt and responsive." Chambers and Partners 2022

Peter Rees KC specialises in international arbitration and is widely recognized as one of the leading practitioners in this area in the world. He is listed as a leading expert in international arbitration by various directories including Chambers UK, Chambers Europe, The Legal 500 UK, Legal 500 Asia Pacific, Who's Who Legal and Chambers Global.

Peter's extensive experience as arbitrator extends to handling large scale and complex disputes in many industrial and commercial sectors, in diverse jurisdictions and subject to a wide variety of governing laws. He is particularly well known for handling the most complex and high-value construction, engineering, oil and gas disputes as well as investment treaty disputes.

Peter was Legal Director and Member of the Executive Committee of Royal Dutch Shell Plc from 1 January 2011 until he stepped down at the beginning of 2014. In that role, he had ultimate responsibility for the Shell global legal function and for advising the Shell Group management on all legal matters of group-wide importance. Prior to joining Shell, Peter was a partner at Norton Rose for nearly 20 years, including eight years as Head of Global Dispute Resolution, and a partner for five years at Debevoise & Plimpton.

Areas of expertise

Arbitrator

Mediator

Mediator

Peter is an accredited mediator with ADR Chambers and handles mediations in a wide variety of commercial fields. His approach is to ensure the parties know both the strengths, but more particularly the weaknesses, in their respective cases, that the senior executives attending the mediation fully understand the other side's case, and to find the common ground, not just legally, but commercially, between the parties. Peter's corporate background helps him understand the financial and corporate drivers behind the stances the parties are taking.

Cases of note:

- Dispute over professional fees payable following a corporate acquisition.
- Dispute over obligations under an oil and gas joint operating agreement.
- Dispute over contractor's claims on a major refurbishment contract.
- Dispute relating to allegations of professional negligence following a corporate acquisition.
- Dispute relating to claims for extensions of time, loss and expense and liquidated damages under a construction contract.

Recommendations

- Peter is regularly recommended in the major directories and was listed as one of the top ten arbitrators at the Bar by Who's Who Legal in 2021.
- *"He is one of the most sought-after arbitrators." "He is very experienced and a big name in international arbitration. He is very knowledgeable, an excellent chairman, very prompt and responsive." "Outstanding intellect, very perceptive and gives excellent judgments."* Chambers and Partners 2022
- *"Peter brings to the party both great experience and an enquiring mind."* The Legal 500 2022
- *"One of the top arbitrators for major construction, energy and infrastructure disputes in the Asia Pacific region."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2022
- *"At the top of the field for energy-related construction disputes."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2019
- *"Strong, decisive, clear-eyed, and well able to delineate between what is important and what is irrelevant."* The Legal 500 2018
- *He really knows the industry, not just issues in the industry. He understands the commercial drivers of why the case is there to begin with.* Chambers and Partners 2017

Memberships

- International Bar Association (IBA) – former Chair of International Construction Projects Committee.
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) – former Chair of Management Board and former Trustee.
- International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR) – former Board Member.
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA).
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA).
- American Bar Association (ABA).
- Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA).
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) UK.
- Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR).

Qualifications

Education

- MA (Law) – Downing College, Cambridge University.
- MBA - Nottingham Trent University.
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.
- Chartered Arbitrator.

- Accredited Mediator – ADR Chambers
- Accredited Adjudicator – TeCSA
- Queen’s Counsel

Scholarships and Prizes

- 2009 – TeCSA Clare Edwards Award for Contribution to the Practice of Construction Law.
- 2012 – Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution Corporate Leadership Award.
- 2013 – Association of Corporate Counsel – European Corporate Counsel of the Year – Litigation.
- 2013 – Association of Corporate Counsel – Global Corporate Counsel of the Year – Litigation.
- 2013 – Director’s Roundtable World Recognition of Distinguished General Counsel.
- 2017 – Legal Era Magazine – QC of the Year.

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