



Ben Olbourne

Year of call: 2003

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"A strategic thinker, who is well suited to complex international disputes." The Legal 500

Ben provides advisory and advocacy services across a broad range of international commercial disputes in England and other jurisdictions in relation to both court and arbitration proceedings. He has acted as sole or junior counsel before courts at all levels in England and in arbitrations under all the principal sets of arbitral rules. He has particular experience working in Asia and for Asian clients, having lived and worked in the region for many years.

Ben's recent work has been principally in the general commercial, international trade and commodities, construction (infrastructure and vessels), insurance/reinsurance, energy, natural resources, and shipping/carriage of goods sectors. That work includes substantive hearings as well as applications for interim and post-judgment relief. Much of that work is of a multi or cross-jurisdictional nature involving questions of private international law and/or disputes governed by foreign laws. He has also provided expert opinions on English law for use in foreign proceedings on a range of substantive and procedural legal issues.

Ben accepts appointments as an arbitrator and has been appointed as sole arbitrator, wing and chair, in more than 40 references in matters under ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SIAC, and AIAC rules, among others, and in ad hoc proceedings. Many of these cases have involved state-owned enterprises or public sector undertakings. Governing laws have included English, Russian, Cypriot, Chinese/Hong Kong, Australian, Malaysian, Singaporean, Vietnamese and Indian. Seats have included Singapore, London, Hong Kong, Hyderabad, Delhi, Paris, Moscow, Hong Kong, and Perth. He is recommended as an arbitrator in the leading regional directories.

Ben is admitted in New South Wales (Australia) in 1999 and was an associate (Legal Assistant) to Chief Justice Gleeson of the High Court of Australia from 1999-2000. He was a Junior Counsel to the Crown (C Panel) from 2008-2013.

Areas of expertise

Commercial

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Construction

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy and Natural Resources

Ben acts for a wide range of interests in upstream, mid-stream and downstream sectors. For further details, see “Commercial” and “Construction” above.

Recent examples include acting for a coal trader in a US\$50m dispute with a major European power generating company, acting for a European company in a US\$9bn claim against a West African state for repudiation of a natural gas construction, operation and off-take agreement, acting for an Indonesian drilling company in respect of claims arising out of an on-shore oil-drilling programme, acting for an oil pipeline design and construction team in dispute with a head contractor in Africa, and acting for a number of Chinese state-owned manufacturing and construction companies.

For further details, see “Commercial” and “Construction” above.

Qualifications

Education

- LLM (1st), University of Cambridge (1999)
- LLB (1st), University of Sydney (1997)
- B.A. (Hons) (1st), Australian National University (1994)
- B.Ec., University of Sydney (1993)

Additional Information

A Major Scholar of the Inner Temple, Ben was called to the Bar in 2003. Previously, Ben worked as a senior legal officer (Temporary) in the Office of International Law in the Australian Attorney-General's Department. From 2000-2002, he tutored and examined in torts and contracts and Public International Law at University College London. He was an associate to Chief Justice Gleeson of the High Court of Australia from 1999-2000.

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