



Paul Darling OBE KC

Year of call: 1983 | Silk: 1999

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"a doyen of his area"

"He's the man you go to if you have a difficult case; he will always come up with an innovative solution and he won't give up, even on the difficult points."

Chambers and Partners Asia Pacific

Paul Darling OBE KC has established a formidable reputation as an advocate in all types and levels of tribunals all over the world. He specialises in complex cases which feature multiple parties, large teams, and high volumes of material, and is often brought in by clients at short notice, late in proceedings. An ability to work with colleagues from any jurisdiction, and to grasp detail, strategy, and tactics quickly has allowed Paul to develop a practice which has taken him to every major jurisdiction, appearing in a wide variety of construction, energy, and commercial matters. Adaptability and focus have contributed to Paul's reputation as a gamechanger, brought in to direct some of the construction and commercial world's most difficult cases. Paul has represented diverse clients in tribunals such as the Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court, and the Court of Appeal in London, the High Court and the Supreme Court in Dublin, the High Court in Northern Ireland and Arbitration Tribunals globally. Since the early 1990s he has conducted many arbitrations in Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Middle East. He has acted in ICC, LCIA HKIAC, SIAC and DIAC Arbitrations.

Paul is also called to the Northern Ireland Bar (2004).

Areas of expertise

Construction and Engineering

Adjudication

Commercial Litigation and Sale of Goods

Professional Negligence

Domestic and International Arbitration

Procurement

Health and Safety

Construction and Engineering

Paul's work has covered the full range of construction and engineering cases and topics in all forums (whether court, arbitration, adjudication or expert determination), all round the world, though of course, at different phases, different types of cases have predominated.

Set out below are examples of the areas in which Paul has recently worked and the reported decisions in which he has appeared.

Cases

- Alfred McAlpine Capital Project Ltd v Tilebox Ltd [2005] EWHC 281 (TCC); [2005] BLR 271; 104 Con LR 39, 21 Const LJ 539 (TCC)
- Vector Investments v J D Williams [2009] EWHC 3601 (TCC)
- James Elliott Construction Ltd v Irish Asphalt [2014] I ESC 68 (Irish Supreme Court)
- Noreside Construction Ltd v Irish Asphalt [2014] 1 ESC 68 (Irish Supreme Court)
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive v Healthy Buildings (Ireland) Ltd [2014] NICA 27, 153 Con LR 87 (Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland)
- Walter Lilly & Co Ltd v Mackay and another [2013] EWCA Civ 142 [2013] EWCA Civ 142 (Court of Appeal)
- Shepherd Construction Ltd v Pinsent Masons LLP [2012] EWHC 43 (TCC); BLR 213; 141 Con LR 232 [2012] PNLR 31 (TCC)
- Fitzroy Robinson Ltd v Mentmore Towers Ltd [2010] EWHC 98 (TCC); [2010] All ER (D) 84 (Oct) (TCC)
- Vector Investments v J D Williams [2009] EWHC 3601 (TCC)
- Fitzroy Robinson v Anglo Swiss Holding Ltd (No 3) [2009] EWHC 3365 (TCC) 128 Con LR 103, [2010] BLR 165 (TCC)
- London & Regional (St. George's Court) Ltd v Ministry of Defence [2008] CILL 2651 and [2009] BLR 20 CA, 121 Con LR 26 (Court of Appeal)
- Plymouth and South West Co-operative Society Ltd v Architecture Structure and Management Ltd [2006] EWHC 5 (TCC); 108 Con LR 77; [2006] CILL 2366 (also reported on costs at [2006] EWHC 3252 (TCC); 111 Con LR 189; [2007] Lloyd's Rep IR 596) (TCC)
- Blair & Anor v AWG Residential Ltd & Ors [2005] NIQB 68 (High Court of Northern Ireland)
- Birse Construction Ltd v McCormick (UK) Ltd [2005] EWCA Civ 940; [2005] BLR 523; [2005] All ER (D) 366 (Jul) (Court of Appeal)
- Hurst Stores and Interiors Ltd v ML Europe Property Ltd [2004] EWCA Civ 490; [2004] BLR 249; 94 Con LR 66 (Court of Appeal)
- Mowlem plc v Phi Group Ltd [2004] BLR421; (TCC)
- Birse Construction Ltd v St David Ltd (No. 1) [2000] BLR 57, 70 Con LR 10 (Court of Appeal)
- Birse Construction Ltd v St David Ltd (No. 2) (2000) 78 Con LR 121 (TCC)
- Birse Construction Ltd v St. David Ltd (No. 1) 1999 BLR 194 (TCC)
- Ascon Contracting Ltd v Alfred McAlpine Construction Isle of Man Ltd 66 CON LR 119 (2000); 16 Const LJ 216 (TCC)
- Barking and Dagenham LBC v Stamford Asphalt Co Ltd (1999) CLC 929; 82 BLR 25; 54 Con LR 1 (Court of Appeal) (1998) 80 BLR 66

- Mooney v Henry Boot Construction Ltd (1996) 12 Const LJ 37 (TCC)
- Vascroft (Contractors) Ltd v Seeboard Plc (1996) 78 BLR 132, 52 Con LR 1 (TCC)
- Property & Land Contractors Ltd v Alfred McAlpine Homes (North) Ltd (1995) 76 BLR 59, Con LR 74 (TCC)
- Mooney v Henry Boot Construction Ltd (1996) 12 Const LJ 37 (TCC)
- Christiani & Nielsen Ltd v Birmingham City Council (Queen's Bench Division) (Official Referee), (TCC)
- MJ Gleeson Group Plc v Wyatt of Snetterton Ltd (1994) 72 BLR 15; 42 Con LR 14; (1995) 11 Const LJ 59 (TCC)
- Temloc Ltd v Errill Properties Ltd (1988) 39 BLR 30; 12 Con LR 109; (1988) 4 Const LJ 63; (Court of Appeal)
- Chatbrown Ltd v Alfred McAlpine Construction (Southern) Ltd (1987) ; 35 BLR 44; 11 Con LR 1; (1987) 3 Const LJ 104 (Court of Appeal)

Appointments

- Appointed by the Secretary of State as Chair of the Horserace Betting Levy Board – April 2020

Memberships

- Technology and Construction Bar Association London
- Common Law and Commercial Bar Association
- Society of Construction Law
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Commercial Bar Association Bar of Northern Ireland (2004)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- London Court of International Arbitration International Bar Association

Recommendations

- *"He is pragmatic, reliable and a massive presence." "Tenacious, a good advocate and tough in any case that you give to him."* Chambers and Partners
- *"He is extremely good, very practical and very down to earth"... "As a QC he just commands enormous gravitas and the very best respect for his advice and opinions."* Chambers Global
- *"As always, Paul's advice is commercial, he is responsive and he turns the advice around quickly." "A larger-than-life character coupled with a fearsome intellect."* Chambers and Partners
- *"He has a very bright and analytical mind and remains one of the leading advocates – very impressive on his feet."* Chambers and Partners

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