



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

Procurement

Paul has done a number of cases about EU Procurement. The two cases set out below are the best known. The first concerned the propriety of the tender process for the delivery of food to the entirety of the British Army. The second related to the legality of a tender for the provision of legal services and in particular the relevance of a power to vary or amend the contract.

- BFS Group Ltd v (1) Secretary of State for Defence (2) Purple Foodservice Ltd[2006] EWHC 1513 (Ch); [2006] EU. L.R. 1101 (Chancery Division)
- R (on the application of the Law Society) v Legal Services Commission & the Lord Chancellor [2007] EWCA Civ 1264; [2008] 2 W.L.R. 803; [2008] 2 All E.R. 148 (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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