



Ben Olbourne

Year of call: 2003

Email: ben.olbourne@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

"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

Construction

Ben is regularly instructed, principally in international arbitrations, in all aspects of construction disputes across many jurisdictions and sectors, including energy (e.g. power plants, pipelines, distribution facilities), maritime (e.g. commercial and research vessels, offshore vessels, rigs and platforms, recreational craft), and infrastructure (e.g. roads, airports, factories). Ben has recent experience of claims involving legal issues (e.g. construction of contracts, applicability of limitation provisions), professional negligence claims, technical/engineering disputes, compliance with international standards, claims for extensions of time, delay and liquidated damages, quantum disputes, and also related financial disputes such as claims under performance bonds.

Ben is typically involved in cases involving complex technical and factual disputes and in 'document-heavy' matters. He is familiar with the principal international construction contracts and also bespoke clauses and contracts, and with different analytical methodologies such as critical path analysis. Many of Ben's cases have involved claims on behalf of or against states and state-owned enterprises/public sector undertakings.

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.

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

BARRISTERS • ARBITRATORS • MEDIATORS

clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com