



## Niraj Modha

Year of call: 2010

Email: niraj.modha@39essex.com

*"As far as barristers go, Niraj is one of the most approachable. He is measured, technically astute and very highly respected and regarded by his peers."* The Legal 500 2023

Niraj is a property, commercial, and construction law specialist. His cases frequently involve issues relating to contested interests in land, civil fraud, insolvency, professional negligence, and disputes between shareholders, partners, and joint venturers. He acts for a range of clients including property developers, investors, local authorities, contractors, and multinational conglomerates.

Niraj appears as sole counsel in trials and applications in the Chancery and Queen's Bench Divisions of the High Court and in the appellate courts. He also acts as counsel in arbitration proceedings (both institutional and ad hoc), invariably with an international element, and represents clients at mediation.

Niraj accepts appointments as an arbitrator. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of several panels including the CI Arb Business Arbitration Scheme and the Law Society President's Panel. Niraj has been appointed as an arbitrator in more than 25 matters within the past three years. He is also available to act as a tribunal secretary.

## Areas of expertise

Property and Real Estate Litigation  
Commerical Dispute Resolution  
Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure Disputes  
International Arbitration  
Arbitrators

## International Arbitration

Niraj practises as counsel in international commercial and construction arbitration. He has experience with court-related arbitration applications including the challenge of awards under ss67-69 Arbitration Act 1996.

### Cases of note:

- **Confidential (ICC, Doha)** - Claims and counterclaims relating to the delayed construction of an industrial plant (\$350m).

- **Confidential (ICC, Paris)** - Arbitration proceedings between an East African government and a European contractor engaged in a road-building project. Claims for an extension of time and costs (\$30m).
- **Confidential (AAA, New York)** - Claim by an Asian telecommunications provider against an African mobile telecommunications company under a master services agreement for the provisions of telecommunications software, hardware, and services (\$3m).
- **Confidential (CIArb, London)** - Software licensing dispute between licensor and reseller (£1m).
- **Confidential (Hunt Arbitration Service, London)** - Franchising dispute relating to an online trading platform.
- **Confidential (LCIA, London)** - Claim by engineering consultancy firm for payment in debt or damages for breach of contract following the provision of design and planning services.

## Recommendations

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Niraj is ranked in The Legal 500 in Property and Real Estate Litigation:

- *"A highly intelligent and careful junior with strong specialist knowledge. Ultra-responsive though very busy. I would not hesitate to recommend him for any property related dispute."*The Legal 500 (2022)
- *"User-friendly and a strong team player."*The Legal 500 (2022)
- *"His attention to detail is superb and he has an ability to grasp difficult and detailed facts quickly. Ability to remain calm under pressure."*The Legal 500 (2021)
- *"Whilst always meticulously prepared, he is also extremely good on his feet."*The Legal 500 (2020)

## Memberships

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- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Property Bar Association (PBA)
- Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)
- Young Arbitrators' Forum of the International Chamber of Commerce (YAF)
- Young International Arbitration Group of the London Court of International Arbitration (YIAG)

## Qualifications

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### Education

- Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration (CIArb)
- BVC (Outstanding)
- GDL (Distinction)
- Qualified Teacher Status (2007)
- BA (First Class Honours), Robinson College, University of Cambridge (2006)

### Scholarships and Prizes

- Travelling Scholarship in Dispute Resolution (The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators)
- Levitt Scholarship, Buchanan Prize, Lord Denning Scholarship, Lord Haldane Scholarship and Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn)

- 3 Verulam Buildings Prize for best overall performance on the GDL (City Law School)
- Titular Scholarship and College Prize (Robinson College, University of Cambridge)

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