



Alexander Burrell

Year of call: 2014

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“Alex has a strong legal understanding and he is very skilful in presenting the client’s case before the courts and arbitral tribunals. He is very thorough and clear in his advice, and is always well prepared. He has an analytical mind and a logical approach.” The Legal 500 EMEA 2023

Alexander specialises in commercial, construction and property disputes, in both UK litigation and in international litigation and arbitration. Alexander is a registered DIFC Court practitioner.

Recommended as a leading junior (Tier 2) in The Legal 500 EMEA, whilst often led, Alexander is frequently instructed as sole counsel in cases of high value and complexity, including in the English High Court, the DIFC Court of Appeal and in arbitration, often appearing against significantly more senior opponents including silks.

Alexander’s commercial cases cover the full spectrum of disputes, including banking and finance, civil fraud, commercial contracts, and insolvency.

Alexander’s construction cases involve a number of high-profile projects, and his clients include multi-national subcontractors, main contractors and developers.

Alexander’s property cases include commercial landlord and tenant, real property, and more recently cases concerning the Building Safety Act 2022.

Alexander is also frequently instructed in energy matters, including cases related to construction, energy supply and energy regulation.

Alexander has extensive courtroom experience, and is highly regarded for his attention to detail and meticulous cross-examination.

Alexander has recently worked as sole counsel on a number of multi-million-dollar cases, including a multi-day arbitration final hearing with a sum in dispute of over \$30m concerning a large retail park, and in the DIFC Court of Appeal in *Panther Real Estate Development LLC v Modern Executive Systems Contracting LLC* CA-016-2022.

Alexander is also on the Attorney General’s C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown, representing Government departments and HMRC.



Areas of expertise

Construction

Commercial

Property and Real Estate Litigation

Energy and Environment

Construction

Alexander is regularly instructed in construction disputes, both led and as sole counsel, in proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court (TCC), in international arbitration (ICC, DIFC-LCIA, ADCCAC, DIAC, ad-hoc) and in adjudication.

These cases include a wide range of technically complex construction disputes, including energy projects, infrastructure projects and residential and commercial building projects (including shopping centres, luxury hotels and large mixed-use developments). Alexander has extensive experience cross-examining experts in both court and arbitration proceedings concerned with these disputes.

Cases of note:

- ***Contractor v Employer*** – Instructed, led by Adam Robb KC, and together with a team of 39 Essex Chambers counsel, for the claimants in an arbitration claim worth over USD 1.4 billion arising out of a large infrastructure project.
- ***Panther Real Estate Development LLC v Modern Executive Systems Contracting LLC*** CA-016-2022 12 May 2023- Represented as sole counsel the appellant, in a two-day appeal before the DIFC's Court of Appeal, the case involved 10 grounds of appeal (5 for each party) on various complex legal issues, in particular relating to EOT notification conditions precedent and the prevention principle, setting DIFC law precedent with wide implications for DIFC construction and contract law.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Panther Real Estate Development LLC v Modern Executive Systems Contracting LLC*** TCD 003/2019 26 September 2022 - Represented as sole counsel the defendant, in what was the first ever construction trial in the DIFC Court's TCD, with DIFC governing law. The case involved a significant number of complex factual disputes and it sets DIFC law precedent on numerous construction law points, including the legal impact of the contents of termination notices, the ability to pursue both general damages and liquidated damages for delay, and EOT notification conditions precedent.
[Judgment](#)
- ***Contractor v Employer*** - Acted as sole counsel for a major real estate developer in emergency arbitration proceedings, securing the dismissal of an application brought by the main contractor, requesting a variety of injunctive relief relating to the encashment of bonds in the value of \$12.25m after the contract had been terminated (DIFC-LCIA).

- **Subcontractor v Contractor** - Acted as sole counsel for a multi-national contractor in a Geneva-seated arbitration valued at over \$32.4m, in respect of a dispute over substructure works for a project which had been planned to be one of the 10 highest buildings in the world (ICC).
- **Subcontractor v Employer** - Acted as sole counsel for a major regional contractor, in respect of a multi-million-dollar dispute concerning fit-out works for a luxury hotel on the Palm Jumeirah, obtaining a declaration of unlawful termination, and succeeding in respect of three separate expert disciplines (delay, quantum and technical) (ICC).
- **Subcontractor v Main Contractor** - Acting as sole counsel for a multi-national steel contractor in an ongoing arbitration against a multi-national main contractor, arising out of a large shopping centre development, with a combined dispute value around \$30m (DIAC).
- **Employer v Contractor** - Acted as sole counsel for a well-known international developer in interim proceedings in an effort to secure the removal of a contractor from the site following its termination, following the successful dismissal of the contractor's jurisdictional challenge (DIAC).

Recommendations

- *"He was, as usual, absolutely brilliant and achieved a fantastic result which I felt was unlikely to be possible."*
- *"He really put himself out to make sure that he went the extra mile in his preparations and I've started the weekend with an extremely happy client"*
- *"Alex did a superb job under pressure"*

Memberships

- The Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- The Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

Qualifications

Education

- University of Bristol

Additional information

Languages

- French (Conversational)

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