



Adrian Hughes KC

Year of call: 1984 | Silk: 2006

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Adrian Hughes KC acts as counsel and arbitrator with a broad international and UK construction and commercial practice. He focuses on complex contract disputes spanning a wide range of sectors, including construction and engineering, energy and natural resources, international trade, shipbuilding, transport and infrastructure, investment and public international law, information and communication technology and commercial disputes including agency, insurance and joint venture cases.

Whilst his domestic practice centres on the Technology & Construction Court and the Commercial Court, the majority of his work involves international arbitration and associated court proceedings. He regularly conducts commercial and construction arbitration work as counsel in many different jurisdictions. Recent cases have included major international arbitrations arising from power and infrastructure projects in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, with seats in London, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and China.

Adrian increasingly sits as arbitrator in international disputes, as president, party nominated arbitrator or sole arbitrator, appointed by all the main international institutions. He also acts as chairperson and member of dispute boards for international construction projects as well as mediator and adjudicator.

He has a leading practice relating to China and regularly conducts advocacy and advisory work involving Chinese parties. Recent cases have included a number of prominent international arbitration and court cases in, and related to, China. He is instructed as expert to the Great Britain China Centre / Foreign Office on UK / China Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, and is on the advisory board of the Oxford University Belt and Road Institute directed at the impact of China's outbound investment policy. He acts as expert witness on English law issues and was the first English barrister to act in this capacity in Chinese commercial court proceedings.

His early practice included extensive Supreme Court and Commercial Court proceedings arising from the collapse of the International Tin Council, involving issues of public and private international law relating to the enforceability of arbitration awards against an international organisation and its Member States. This experience carries through to public and private international law issues arising in his current work.

He sits as a part time judge, having for a number of years acted as Recorder and Examiner of the Court, and has recently been appointed to the Court of Appeal of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. He is a past Chair of the UK Society of Construction Law (SCL), the country's leading multi-disciplinary construction law association.

Areas of expertise

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Commercial
Construction, Engineering and Infrastructure
China Related Practice
Information Technology
Professional Negligence
Energy and Natural Resources

International Arbitration - Arbitrator

Adrian has many years of experience as arbitrator in international commercial arbitration, including acting as Presiding Arbitrator, Party Nominated Arbitrator and Sole Arbitrator in numerous international commercial arbitrations over the last twenty years.

He regularly sits as arbitrator in proceedings under a variety of arbitration rules, including the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC"), the United Nations Commission on Trade Law ("UNCITRAL"), London Court of International Arbitration ("LCIA"), Singapore International Arbitration Centre ("SIAC"), Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre ("HKIAC"), Stockholm Chamber of Commerce ("SCC"), and the Dubai International Arbitration Chamber ("DIAC"), including the former DIFC/LCIA. He has a specialist knowledge of arbitration and dispute resolution in China and sits on several panels in China including CIETAC, SHIAC, SCIA and CCPIT (Mediation Panel). He also acts as chairperson and member of dispute adjudication boards for international construction projects.

Adrian is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a former Chair of the Society of Construction Law and a member of the Society of Construction Arbitrators.

Current and recent international arbitral appointments include:

- Presiding Arbitrator (ICC) in a dispute arising from the construction of a gas plant in Saudi Arabia (applicable law - Saudi Arabian law; seat in London).
- Chairman DAB (ICC) for a dispute arising from Combined Cycle Power Plant in Iraq (applicable law – Iraqi law; seat in London).
- Presiding Arbitrator (SIAC) in a dispute arising from the supply and construction of compressors for an oil refinery in Thailand (applicable law – English law; seat in Singapore).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (LCIA) in an extensive dispute arising from the construction of a nuclear power plant in Abu Dhabi (applicable law - English law; seat in London).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (ICC) in a dispute arising from the design and construction of a solar photo-voltaic plant in Africa (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Presiding Arbitrator (ICC) in a dispute arising from the design and supply of a plant for the manufacture of plastic packaging (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (LCIA) in a dispute arising from the design and construction of a hydropower plant in Africa (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (SCC) in a dispute arising from the construction of a coal fired power station in Brazil (applicable law - Brazilian law; seat in Stockholm).
- Party nominated DAB member (ad hoc) in a dispute arising from the construction of a coal fired power station in South Africa (applicable law – South African law; seat in Johannesburg).
- Presiding Arbitrator (DIFC-LCIA) in a dispute over an agency agreement for the marketing of IT technology (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Presiding Arbitrator (LCIA) in a company share purchase dispute in the aviation sector (applicable law – English law; seat in London).

- Party nominated Arbitrator (SIAC) for a dispute arising from contracts for the purchase and sale of aircraft (applicable law – Singapore; seat in Singapore).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (UNCITRAL) for a dispute arising from a power and water purchase agreement in Saudi Arabia (applicable law - Saudi Arabian law; seat in Bahrain).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (AIAC) for a dispute arising from a power purchase agreement for a power plant located in East Malaysia (applicable law – Malaysian law; seat in Kuala Lumpur).
- Presiding Arbitrator (ICC) in a high value dispute arising from a government construction project in Qatar (applicable law - Qatar law; seat in Doha).
- Presiding Arbitrator (CIETAC, Beijing) for a construction dispute arising from the construction of the world's largest warehouse complex in Wuhan, China (applicable law – PRC law; seat in Beijing).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (ICC) in a high value dispute arising from a residential construction project in Qatar (applicable law - Qatar law; seat in Doha).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (DIFC/LCIA) for a construction dispute arising from a project in Abu Dhabi (applicable law - Abu-Dhabi/UAE; seat in Dubai/DIFC).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (DIFC/LCIA) for a construction dispute arising from an iconic commercial development in Dubai (applicable law - Dubai/UAE law; seat in Dubai/DIFC).
- Party nominated DAB member for a dispute arising from an airport project in Oman (applicable law – Oman; seat in London).
- Party nominated arbitrator (ICC) in a dispute arising from the design and construction of a city metro project (applicable law - Qatar law; seat in Doha).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (LCIA) in a dispute arising from construction of support base and facilities within an oilfield in Iraq (applicable law – Iraqi law; seat in London).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (ICC) for a dispute between Malaysian and French parties over a construction project in Kuala Lumpur (applicable law – Malaysian law; seat in Kuala Lumpur).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (ICC) for a dispute arising from a highways project in Sierra Leone (applicable law – Sierra Leone; seat in London).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (ICC) for a dispute arising from a highways construction project in Poland (applicable law - Polish law; seat in Warsaw).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (Shanghai International Arbitration Centre) for an IP dispute between US and Chinese parties relating to plastics manufacturing technology (applicable law – Chinese law; seat in Shanghai).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (LCIA) for a dispute arising from the termination of a major IT project in Asia, affected by sanctions (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Party nominated Arbitrator (HKIAC) for a dispute between Chinese and Hong Kong parties arising from a major IT project in mainland China relating to computer screen technology (applicable law - Hong Kong law; seat in Hong Kong).
- Sole Arbitrator (ICC appointment) in a dispute over a distribution and marketing agreement covering the Middle East in the pharma sector (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Sole Arbitrator (ICC appointment) in an international sales dispute between suppliers of oil slurry feed pumps and main contractor for an oil and gas project in Asia (applicable law – English law; seat in London).
- Member of the panel of arbitrators under the Host Broadcasting Agreement for the First European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He has conducted many domestic arbitrations as sole arbitrator particularly arising from construction disputes and Lloyds' insurance disputes.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mediation

He qualified as a mediator with CEDR in 1999. Since then he has been involved in many mediations as counsel and as mediator, mainly in the fields of construction and commercial law, both domestic and international.

He is a member of RESOLEX and in particular of its Construction Contracts Mediators panel.

Significant recent cases as Mediator have included:

- Mediator in a large claim involving the construction of a Caribbean airport. Multi party mediation also involving EU as funding authority.
- Mediator in a groundworks dispute arising from a large construction project in Belfast.

Adjudication

He is a TECBAR qualified adjudicator in which capacity he has the benefit of his longstanding experience as counsel in many TCC adjudication related court cases and adjudications.

Appointments

- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Justice of the Court of Appeal of the Falkland Islands [2017 to present]
- Recorder [2001-2016] Court Examiner [2001 to 2016]
- Bencher of the Middle Temple
- Dispute Board Member of the Singapore Infrastructure Dispute-Management Protocol Panel, Singapore Mediation Centre [2019-2021]
- Chairman of the Society of Construction Law [2010-2011]
- Chairman of the China Law Council Legal expert to the Great Britain China Centre on UK China Dispute Resolution
- Advisory Board, Oxford University Belt and Road Institute
- Chairman, UK-Azerbaijan Law Association

Memberships

- ICCA
- LCIA
- Society of Construction Arbitrators
- Society of Construction Law
- COMBAR
- TECBAR

Recommendations

Adrian is consistently recommended in both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, in particular for the practice areas of International Arbitrator, International Arbitration Counsel, Construction and Engineering, Energy and Professional Negligence. He appears in the Legal 500 Arbitration 2023 Powerlist for both the UK and for China and in the International Arbitration Spotlight section for Chambers Global 2023.

Recent quotes include:

*'Extremely user-friendly and a star in international arbitration'... "He shows great attention to detail, determination and commercial sense"*The Legal 500

*"A very able counsel with excellent advocacy skills, and a great team player too' ... "He is an excellent lawyer, with strength across the board"... "He has become a major player in international arbitration' and in particular has 'very good strength in depth in construction arbitration"*The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

*"Extremely personable and handles clients brilliantly" ... "excellent to work with and his work product was second to none"*Chambers and Partners

*"He delivers highly innovative and persuasive submissions'...'He builds a strong personal rapport with clients'...'An extremely hands-on and user-friendly silk."*The Legal 500

*"Has vast experience in international commercial arbitrations"*and is further acclaimed as *"a class act"*and *"one of the best construction specialists"*in the international arbitration field

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