



## Karen Gough

Year of call: 1983

Email: karen.gough@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

*"The sort of advocate that most clients dream of instructing."* The Legal 500

*"Immensely hard-working, is tireless, resourceful, well-prepared at all times and a delight to work with."* The Legal 500, Leading Juniors, Tier 2, International Arbitration: Counsel 2021

*"Karen is tenacious, accomplished, thorough and constructively fierce when required. One of the best barristers we have worked with."*

### The Legal 500, Leading Juniors, Tier 3, Construction

Karen Gough practises internationally as counsel, attorney-at-law, arbitrator, adjudicator and ADR neutral. She has specialised, for more than 35 years, in complex construction, engineering, professional negligence and general commercial disputes whether resolved by litigation, arbitration, adjudication or other forms of ADR.

Karen has appeared before the Courts of England and Wales at all levels including the Privy Council. She is dual qualified as a practising attorney in the Caribbean, a Chartered Arbitrator, a Certified International ADR Practitioner (FAiADR). She is widely recognised as an expert in the resolution of disputes under the FIDIC and NEC forms of contract and acted as a friendly reviewer of the FIDIC 2017 SFCs and is a member of the working group to produce FIDIC Practice Note(s) as part of FIDIC'S Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Forum.

Karen has a strong arbitration practice as counsel and as arbitrator (since 1990) and has conducted as counsel or been appointed as sole, co-arbitrator or chairman/presiding arbitrator in cases conducted under many different institutional rules including LCIA, ICC, SIAC, DIAC and the PCA in the Hague. She also acts as adjudicator/dispute board/conflict avoidance panel member.

Karen represents a wide range of clients including governments, government agencies, local authorities, educational institutions, contractors, sub-contractors, and major commercial organisations. Her construction practice includes disputes under bespoke contracts and many SFCs including JCT, NEC and FIDIC, concerning private domestic and commercial industrial and retail developments, major public works

and infrastructure projects including energy facilities, involving claims for payment, extensions of time, delay and disruption, termination disputes and other specialist disputes involving complex M&E and building management systems, ground conditions, cladding and roofing projects. Her professional liability and regulation practice concerns claims and disciplinary proceedings against construction professionals. She also acts for clients in insolvency/insolvency related disputes and is a past chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Insolvency Licensing Committee.

Karen is a past global President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She is an expert advisor on construction, ADR and arbitration matters to the AIAC (Malaysia), IWHAAM (Bahamas), and JAIAC (Jamaica), a member of the International Statutory Adjudication Forum of Experts ("ISAF"), a member of the ICC UK Arbitration & ADR Committee, a Co-Chair of the ICPC of the IPBA, the Vice Chairman of the SCL UK, and a teaching fellow at the College of Law in Australia. She is also frequently invited to speak at international conferences and on construction and arbitration/ADR matters and regularly contributes articles to publications on these subjects.

She is described in Chambers UK as being *"Just the person you want if the battle is going to be hot"* in construction claims, and having *"immense arbitral experience"*, and by Legal 500 as *"outstanding in her detailed and analytical grasp of her field and fearless in her protection of the client"*.

Karen was shortlisted for The Legal 500 UK Awards 'International Arbitration Junior of the Year' in both 2018 and 2020 and 'Construction Junior of the Year' in 2019.

## Areas of expertise

Arbitrators  
Construction  
Commercial  
Professional Liability

## Professional Liability

---

*"She has a no-nonsense approach."* The Legal 500

In her professional liability practice she has advised and/or prosecuted and defended architects, engineers, surveyors, quantity surveyors, construction management professionals, accountants and solicitors. In addition, Karen has extensive experience of advising arbitrators and parties concerning matters of conduct and procedure in commercial arbitrations (she appeared in the case of Cofely Limited v Bingham and Knowles [2016], and later related proceedings), represents barristers, solicitors and construction professionals on professional conduct charges before professional regulatory tribunals.

## Recommendations

---

- *"Superb rapport with clients and tremendously knowledgeable"* The Legal 500
- *"Demonstrated expert knowledge and rapidly and incisively mastered the voluminous and intricate documentation"* The Legal 500
- *"She has a no-nonsense approach, good tactical nous and gravitas to her name"* The Legal 500
- *"A prominent arbitration barrister, who is great at handling clients"* The Legal 500
- *"She has a no-nonsense approach"* The Legal 500
- *"Very approachable and easy to get on with"* The Legal 500
- *"Very experienced"* The Legal 500

## Appointments

---

- Member CI Arb. Chartered Arbitrator Selection Group 2023
- Panel Arbitrator DIAC, 2023
- Panel Arbitrator Borneo ICAM 2023
- Co-Chair Inter Pacific Bar Association, International Construction Projects Committee 2023
- Member ICC UK Arbitration and ADR Committee 2022
- Teaching Fellow, College of Law Australia 2022
- Appointed to the Advisory Board of the Jamaica International Arbitration Centre Ltd (JAIAC) (2019)
- Fellow of the Asian Institute of ADR (2018)
- Council Member of the UK Society of Construction Law (2017), Vice Chair 2022-2024
- Panel Arbitrator with the Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (2014)
- Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' Insolvency Licensing Committee 2013-2016
- ICAEW Lay member Insolvency Licensing Committee: 2008; Vice Chairman 2011-2012
- CEDR "Super Adjudicator" Panel: 2008
- Committee Member of South Eastern Circuit of the Bar: 2005-2011
- Secretary to the Sole Practitioners' Group: 2005-2011
- Panel Arbitrator/Adjudicator CI Arb. London Housing Panel
- Committee Member TECBAR: 2004-2012
- President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators: 2001-2002
- Chairman of the Council of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators 2001-2002
- Chairman of the Executive Board of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators: 1997-2000
- Member of the Council of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators: 1992-2003

## Memberships

---

- ISAF (Chair of Drafting Committee for the [draft model law on statutory adjudication for construction disputes](#)  
[Appendix](#))
- TECBAR
- LCLBA
- CI Arb
- LCIA
- AIADR
- SCL
- IPBA
- Inner Temple
- ICC United Kingdom 4
- The South Eastern Circuit of the English Bar
- Attorney-at-law of the Jamaican Bar
- Attorney-at-law Trinidad and Tobago

## Qualifications

---

- Certified International ADR Practitioner AIADR 2021
- Admitted as Attorney-at-Law in Jamaica 2016
- Admitted to the Bar of Trinidad and Tobago: 2008; 2009, 2016 (with full rights of audience)
- CEDR "Super Adjudicator" Panel: 2008
- TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator: 2004
- FCI. Arb.; Dip IC Arb; Chartered Arbitrator: 1999
- Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, Dip IC Arb: 1998
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators: 1991

---

### 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