

39 Essex Chambers
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David Hopkins

Year of call: 2013

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"David is an excellent advocate and one of the best juniors in this area. His written and oral submissions are compelling, and he is great on his feet when dealing with questions from the bench." The Legal 500 UK 2024

David is a senior junior whose practice spans commercial, construction, and financial services disputes, professional discipline and regulation, and public law. David is regularly instructed in proceedings in the Commercial Court, the Chancery Division, the Technology and Construction Court (TCC) and the Administrative Court and before regulators' disciplinary tribunals. A substantial proportion of David's practice has an international element, particularly in the field of international arbitration, where he has acted in disputes subject to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and Abu Dhabi Commercial Conciliation and Arbitration Centre (ADCCAC) rules. He is a Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR) accredited adjudicator and accepts appointments via the TECBAR adjudication scheme.

David is recommended as a leading junior in Chambers and Partners, The Legal 500, Chambers Global, and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific. He is a contributing editor of the Auction, Bailment and Banking and Bills of Exchange volumes of Atkin's Court Forms (2023 and 2018 issues) and the chapter on determination clauses in Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts (4th edn, 2021). Prior to coming to the Bar, David worked in the City for five years as a foreign exchange and interest rates derivatives structurer.



Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Banking and Financial Services
Commercial
Construction
Energy and Natural Resources
Property
Regulatory and Disciplinary
Sport

Construction

David is familiar with and has acted in and advised on matters involving all the standard forms of contract, including JCT, FIDIC, IChemE, and NEC as well as many ad hoc contracts. He is a TECBAR accredited adjudicator and accepts appointments via the TECBAR adjudication scheme.

Cases of note

- ***Haase Environmental Consulting GmbH v MW High Tech Projects UK Ltd*** – Ongoing in the TCC. Led by Paul Darling KC, acting for the defendant/ counterclaimant in a termination dispute arising out of the claimant's appointment as process plant engineer in relation to an EPC Contract for a waste treatment plant.
- ***Confidential PFI cladding dispute*** – Instructed, led by Adam Robb KC, for a local authority in a dispute arising out of fire safety defects in residential blocks provided under a PFI contract.
- ***Confidential ADCCAC arbitration*** – 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.
- ***Keyline Civils Specialist Limited v Brown & Anor*** – Ongoing in the KBD. Acting for the defendants to a claim under a personal guarantee in relation to construction materials supplied to a company which subsequently entered into administration.
- ***FTH Limited v Varis Developments Limited* [2022] EWHC 1385 (TCC); 203 ConLR 288** – Led by Paul Darling KC, acting for the claimant contractor applying to enforce an adjudication decision in its favour. The defendant resisted enforcement on the grounds that the claimant was in a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) and that enforcing the award would deprive the defendant of security for its alleged cross-claim.
[Judgment](#) on the National Archives website
[Report](#) in ConLR on LexisNexis
- ***Various confidential Building Safety Act matters*** – Following the passing of the Building Safety Act 2022, David has been and is instructed in various matters acting for leaseholders, housing associations and management companies considering potential claims in regards to fire safety defects.
- ***Confidential delay dispute*** – Led by Paul Darling KC, advising the main contractor for a large mixed-use development in Singapore on the extension of time, delay and liquidated damages provisions of an amended Singapore Institute of Architects contract.

Recommendations

Directory rankings:

- Construction, Energy and Infrastructure, Leading Junior – Tier 1, Legal 500 Asia Pacific
- Construction, Leading Junior – Band 4, Chambers and Partners

- Construction, Leading Junior – Band 4, Chambers and Partners Global
- Construction, Leading Junior – Tier 4, Legal 500 UK
- Professional Disciplinary and Regulatory Law, Leading Junior – Tier 4, Legal 500 UK

Recommendations:

- *"David is a pleasure to work with and combines technical excellence with nous and hard work."* Chambers and Partners Global 2024
- *"David provides excellent service, particularly when participating in conferences with lay clients. He will bear in mind the overall commercial issues and the big picture, as well as the fine detail of the points in dispute."* Chambers and Partners Global 2024
- *"David is an excellent advocate and one of the best juniors in this area. His written and oral submissions are compelling, and he is great on his feet when dealing with questions from the bench."* The Legal 500 UK 2024
- *"Solid application to the facts, and a good manner in applying the legal framework."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2023
- *"His particular strength is advising in a way that is very client friendly, he cuts out legal jargon and gets to the point."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021
- *"Sharp, driven, and a pleasure to work with."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2020
- *"Exceptionally capable and extremely versatile."* The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2019

Memberships

- AllBar, supporting those with a disability who are practising at the Bar in England and Wales, or aspiring to do so
- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Bridging the Bar mentor, 2022
- Chancery Bar Association (ChBA)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Constitutional and Administrative Law Association (ALBA)
- Financial Services Lawyers Association (FSLA)
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association (IPBA)
- London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association (LCLCBA)
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)
- Society of Construction Law (SCL)
- Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

Qualifications

Education

- 2011–2013: BPTC, BPP Law School (part-time), Very Competent

- 2009–2011: GDL, BPP Law School (part-time), Distinction
- 2007–2009: MPhil, Economics, Oriel College, University of Oxford
- 2004–2007: BA, PPE, University of York, Starred First Class (first in year)

Scholarships and Prizes

- 2011 Inner Temple Exhibition Scholar (BPTC)

Additional Information

Appointments

- 2020–present: Member of the TECBAR adjudicators panel
- 2019: Member of panel appointed by the IAAF providing legal advice and representation to athletes and officials in disputes arising out of the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha

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