



*“Decisive, authoritative and excellent with clients.” “If I had a bet-the-farm case, I’d go to Stuart Catchpole QC.”
“A master cross-examiner.”*

Chambers & Partners 2021

Stuart Catchpole QC is recognised as one of the leading advocates at the modern Bar, both internationally and in the UK. He has been consistently identified in the domestic and international legal directories as one of the best dispute lawyers in a variety of different fields including energy & natural resources, international commercial arbitration, construction & engineering, insurance and professional negligence. He is a Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Notre Dame University, Sydney, Australia.

Stuart has a proven track record of exceptional intellectual and analytical ability, leadership, decisiveness, hard work and excellent judgement; all of which is underpinned by an ability rapidly both to assimilate large quantities of information and quickly to gain a detailed understanding of new (and usually highly complex) legal, technical, commercial and factual situations. He is a formidable and highly persuasive advocate who can simplify and explain the most complex issues to a Tribunal. He has a well-deserved reputation as being highly effective in cross-examination, particularly of experts. Clients appreciate the fact that he takes ownership of their problem at an early stage, understands the bigger picture and gives clear advice based on a thorough review of the relevant material. He is user-friendly and is very much the type of advocate who, where appropriate, prefers to work from the client’s offices, as part of an integrated team since this is, in his experience, the way in which the best results are usually achieved.

The foregoing is reflected in the quotes set out at the beginning of this CV. A more detailed selection quotes from the Chambers & Partners’ Directories (UK Bar, Asia Pacific, and Global) and the Legal 500 from 2011 to 2019 has been set out below. The feedback that the Directories’ independent researchers have consistently received from clients and professional opponents over many years speaks for itself.

The majority of Stuart’s practice involves and has always involved substantial and complex litigation, arbitrations or mediations principally concentrated in the construction, engineering, mining, energy (mainly power generation, oil and gas, LNG and renewables) and infrastructure sectors, together with related areas such as shipbuilding (generally fixed production platforms, FPSOs and Semi-Submersible Drilling rigs), insurance / reinsurance and

commercial disputes (again mainly connected to the principal areas of his practice).

GENERAL

As one would expect for an international practitioner, Stuart has extensive experience of all of the major UK domestic and international standard forms of contract and of arbitral rules and institutions worldwide. In the last few years, for example, these have included substantial international arbitrations conducted under the rules of ADCAC, DIAC, HKIAC, ICC, KLRCA, LCIA, LMAA, SIAC, the Swiss Chamber and UNCITRAL. Over a similar period, he has acted either as Counsel or Arbitrator in disputes where the relevant contracts were governed by or subject (wholly or partly) to the laws of Australia, Abu Dhabi, Azerbaijan, Chile, Dubai, France, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Ireland, Jersey, Jordan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Singapore, Switzerland, and Turkey as well as England & Wales.

Although the majority of Stuart's practice involves substantial and complex international private law disputes, particularly in Asia, Australia and the Middle East, he has also acted in a wide range of public law, public procurement, public international law, regulatory, environmental and health & safety matters, extradition and public international law cases. This work has been undertaken mainly for central governments or other public authorities (both in the UK and internationally), including acting in a variety of sensitive cases involving national security issues. He has also been involved in various public inquiries in the UK (including the Hillsborough Inquiry, the BSE Inquiry, one of the Inquiries into the Foot and Mouth crisis, and as adviser to various UK Government agencies in relation to civilian deaths during the Troubles in Northern Ireland and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry).

Stuart has advised and acted on behalf of clients in relation to nearly all forms of dispute resolution procedures. In addition to acting as Counsel, he acts as an international arbitrator and mediator, although he limits the number of appointments that he accepts to ensure that the majority of his work is as Counsel. As noted above, he is a Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. Most of Stuart's domestic cases and a proportion of his international cases involve mediations, early neutral evaluations, dispute boards or some other form of ADR. Stuart is a CEDR-qualified mediator and a TecBar-qualified adjudicator. Prior to moving to Jersey from London in 2012, Stuart sat as Deputy High Court Judge (in both the Administrative Court and Queen's Bench Division), a Crown Court Recorder (in criminal cases) and was a part-time member of the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission which hears appeals against the designation by the UK of organisations as terrorist organisations. He is currently one of the two Deputy Chairmen of the Jersey Complaints Panel (the equivalent of the Ombudsman) and, until December 2019, was a trustee of a substantial charity, Jersey Hospice Care, which provides end of life care to terminally ill patients

NOMINATIONS

Stuart was one of six silks shortlisted for Barrister of the Year at 'The Lawyer' Awards 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2012. He was awarded the Construction Silk of the Year 2008 at the Chambers & Partners Awards and was one of three silks shortlisted for the same Award in 2006, 2009 and 2010. He was one of three silks shortlisted for the International Arbitration Silk of the Year 2016 at the Chambers & Partners Awards. Chambers & Partners also included him in the "Chambers 100", a list of the top 100 Silks practising at the Bar across all practice areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are a selection of the quotes from clients as reported in, principally, the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners Bar (UK, Asia and Global) directories in the last few years. A full list, with relevant sources, can be provided on request:

2021:

"Masterful construction silk extolled for his courtroom presence and intellectual prowess. He has a renowned domestic practice and is widely respected for his international arbitration work."

"Decisive, authoritative and excellent with clients." "If I had a bet-the-farm case, I'd go to Stuart Catchpole QC." "A master cross-examiner."

"He's very good at pressing clients and shaking the tree before getting to the hearing."

"Extremely capable, charming and a tough advocate." "He is top drawer, and a very reasonable and measured advocate who is very thorough and detail-hungry."

"Stuart understands the commercial and technical details of construction matters. He knows how construction projects proceed and is able to home in on the issues to get to the bottom of a matter. He is personable, easy to work with and incredibly hard-working."

"...a star of the London construction Bar and "a go-to for complicated international arbitration" in the construction and infrastructure sphere across Asia generally."

"He is a fearsome cross-examiner and a huge intellect. His ability to work as part of the large teams of lawyers also stands him out as one of the very best." "He is very bright and analytical, a great strategist and a formidable presence in court. He combines a superb understanding of the law with a very commercial approach."

"One of the premier construction silks at the bar, he is diligent and personable with deep commitment to achieving the best result."

"Unbelievably hardworking and thorough, he leaves no stone unturned in finding solutions to complex issues and exceptionally well prepared for hearings."

"He's an advocate that the judge wants to hear from because his views are respected. He is also very meticulous."

2019:

"Stuart Catchpole QC of 39 Essex Chambers enjoys an enviable reputation, both as one of London's "top construction silks" and as one with "a well-deserved reputation around the world and a lot of work in Asia generally and the Far East in particular."

"Masterful silk extolled for his courtroom presence and intellectual prowess"

"A pre-eminent silk who is renowned for his expertise in international arbitration, specialising in construction and engineering disputes but also covering cases arising in the transport, power generation and energy industries. He provides robust representation in arbitrations under the auspices of the LMAA, ICC and the LCIA. He is also highly regarded as an arbitrator."

"Astonishingly quick and hard-working."

"Intelligent and pragmatic."

"An outstanding barrister who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and has the confidence of the court."

"He is a fearsome cross-examiner and a huge intellect. His ability to work as part of the large teams of lawyers also stands him out as one of the very best."

"He is very bright and analytical, a great strategist and a formidable presence in court. He combines a superb understanding of the law with a very commercial approach."

"He has a good style of submissions and is incredibly persuasive."

"He is a top choice for complicated and high-value claims." "He is a forceful and great advocate in hard cases."

"he can change cases."

2017/2018:

"Very bright, analytical, a great strategist and a formidable presence in court. He combines a superb understanding of the law with a very commercial approach."

"Fearsomely intelligent and incisive. Most impressive."

"Perennially popular with peers, who extol his creativity and charming temperament"

"Has a very, very inventive mind. He's totally on the ball and extremely nice with it."

"Very tenacious, very hard working and very likeable. Judges warm to him."

"A brilliant cross-examiner."

'He commands immense respect as 'one of the pre-eminent practitioners' in the arbitration of construction and engineering disputes, where he frequently appears in cases arising in Asian jurisdictions'

"excellent presentation skills, one source calling him a 'superb cross-examiner'."

"A pre-eminent counsel in the international arbitration field."

"He has a huge capacity for detail and is a cross-examiner par excellence."

2016/2017:

"one of the top three construction silks in the world and an outstanding advocate"

'An "outstanding fellow in every respect"'

"He's a devastating advocate and a fantastic cross-examiner, particularly of experts."

"A brilliant advocate and cross-examiner with an amazing command of the law."

"As good as it gets for construction and infrastructure disputes."

"Exceptional – the overall package and the best around."

"An excellent forensic mind and a formidable presence in any negotiations."

"He has an unrivalled ability to work with instructing solicitors and clients as part of an integrated team."

"He's very intelligent, very hard-working and very commercial. A good tactician and strategist, he's very good at getting the tribunal on his wavelength. In addition to being highly intelligent, he's also very easy to work with and he's a good team player."

2015:

"The star of the show on construction and engineering matters."

"He is a force of nature. His ability to get on top of hugely complicated and technical material in no time at all is hugely impressive."

"Frighteningly clever and a very hard worker who has the ability to run rings around the opposition's QC and their experts."

"Thorough and user-friendly, he is a very clever man. He has a great way with clients and he will have thought of 15,000 things you won't have."

"A very impressive performer."

"He's very client-friendly and really understands the commercial needs of the client."

"An excellent advocate"

"Excellent cross-examiner"

"Quickly understands the detail in complex cases."

2014:

"Top silk"

"simply excellent"

"He's a highly talented advocate."

"a street fighter with a fine touch"

"A scarily bright man. He gets on board with matters quickly, understands the issues and has a very good tactical understanding of how to run a case."

"He's phenomenally hard-working, and comes up with a strategy very quickly."

"He has an amazing ability to make clients feel at ease, an impressive work ethic and the ability to swing a case in your favour with his powerful and technically superb arguments."

"Extremely bright, he's very hard-working and unbelievably thorough."

"A construction heavyweight who tends to be extremely busy throughout the year. If you can get him, he's great to have on your side."

"pleasure to work with"

"extremely diligent in getting to know the detail of complex cases"

"works fantastically well as a member of a large team"

2013:

"Superb"

"A name that is universally revered by all who know him"

"His advice is always brilliant, and he understands the bigger picture much better than other barristers"

"Has an excellent reputation for his 'devastating cross-examination of experts' and 'staggering ability to understand complex technical issues'"

"a fine legal mind and a strong strategic sense"

"He is able to grasp key the facts and surrounding details of a matter very quickly and distil them into a persuasive argument, and he commits fully to the case so that clients fell he is fully on their side"

"Undoubtedly the go-to QC in Construction right now"

"A devastating cross examiner"

"He will not give up"

"He is definitely someone you want on your side"

"a fine legal mind combined with great tactical acumen"

"He simplifies the most complex of issues"

2012:

"exceptionally talented and masterful in his contractual analysis"

"wonderful on his feet, clear minded and practical when preparing"

"firmly amongst the top construction silks currently at the Bar"

"one of the driving forces behind the Bar's increasing international presence"

"one of the best advocates in the UK for construction-related disputes."

2011:

"Megastar"

"simply the best...so thorough it's frightening"

"hugely intelligent"

"one of the leading construction silks by a very long way"

“an absolute standout”

“retains the absolute respect of the international arbitration market. Sources are full of praise for this ‘charming man – tribunals like him and he is an incredibly effective performer”

“extremely hard working and has the ability to cut straight to the key issues and identify the shortest possible route to the answer”

“fantastic leader who really gets on top of the papers. He devotes every minute of his waking life to the case and once in court turns in brilliant performances”

APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Fellow, Durham Law School, The University of Durham: 2021

Adjunct Professor of Law, Notre Dame University, Sydney, Australia: 2020

Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration: 2020

Trustee of Jersey Hospice Care: 2015 Deputy Chairman, States of Jersey Complaints Panel: 2014

States of Jersey Complaints Panel: 2013

Deputy High Court Judge (England & Wales): 2010

Governing Barrister Bencher of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple: 2008

Crown Court Recorder: 2004

Queen’s Counsel: 2002

Part-time Legal Member of the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission (one of 5 in the UK) to hear appeals under the UK Terrorism Act 2000: 2001

Attorney-General A Panel: 1999

Attorney-General B Panel: 1998

Treasury Supplemental Panel (Common Law): 1992

* Stuart is an overseas member of 39 Essex Chambers who provides services internationally from Jersey, Channel Islands.

MEMBERSHIPS

- The Administrative Law Bar Association

- The International Bar Association
- The London Commercial & Common Law Bar Association
- The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- The LCIA
- The Technology & Construction Bar Association
- The Commercial Bar Association

QUALIFICATIONS

Registered Practitioner of DIFC (The Dubai International Financial Centre Court): 2008

TecBar Accredited Adjudicator: 2007

CEDR Accredited Mediator: 2002

Inner Temple Examination Scholarship: 1988

Maxwell Law Prize: 1986

BA Hons (Dunelm), Law, First Class (ranked 1st in year): 1986

Durham University: 1983-1986

Colchester Royal Grammar School: 1975-1982

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