+44 (0)20 7544 2600
clerks@keatingchambers.com

Krista Lee KC

Call: **1996** Silk: **2020**

"Krista is a leader in her field. She deals with complex issues and is able to explain them to clients in simple and easy-to-understand terms."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027



Clerk Details

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Practice Overview

Krista Chui Lan Lee KC is a specialist in engineering, construction, and energy disputes. She is reputed for her “very incisive manner, forthright at putting forward strong opinions, and excellent judgement”. Her engineering background gives her an edge in understanding a range of technical and design issues. She is also very adept at dealing with all forms of delay analysis.

Krista is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and Chartered Arbitrator. She is a panel arbitrator for HKIAC, SIAC and TecBar. She is regularly appointed by parties and institutions to act as Chair and Sole Arbitrator. She has experience of acting as arbitrator in matters governed by the ICC, LCIA, LCIA-DIFC, SCCA and UNCITRAL rules, as well as determining terms of reference for ad hoc arbitrations. Krista has a detailed knowledge of all the major forms of construction/engineering contracts and partnering agreements including JCT, FIDIC, ICE, ACE, IMechE and RIBA. She has a particular interest in NEC3 and NEC4 and is the co-editor with David Thomas KC of Keating on NEC.

Krista has dealt with disputes where the governing law or procedural law is that of: Ghana, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Iraq, Nigeria, Lithuania, Israel, Finland, Bangladesh, Singapore, Law of California, Scotland and England & Wales. The Parties

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in these disputes have similarly global backgrounds and further include China, Korea, Turkey, South Africa, the Central African Republic, Spain, Germany and the British Virgin Islands.
The range of projects which Krista has arbitrated includes: solar and nuclear power stations, telecoms distribution; infrastructure; hospitals; off shore oil rigs; harbours; aircraft maintenance; metro construction; chemical laboratories; biofuel power projects; pharmaceutical research; housing developments and hotels.

Practice Areas

Arbitrator Appointments

- Co-arbitration in a dispute arising out of the construction of a boron carbide production facility (LCIA)
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute arising from the solar power sector in Europe (LCIA).
- President in relation to a sale of cargo dispute between Middle Eastern and African entities (DIAC).
- Chair of an intellectual property dispute in the pharmaceuticals industry (ICC).
- Sole Arbitrator in a security infrastructure dispute involving an intergovernmental organisation (PCA).
- Co-arbitrator in an aviation dispute (ad hoc).
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute arising out of a railway in the Middle East (ICC).
- Co-arbitrator in an offshore energy dispute in Saudi Arabia (ad hoc).
- Co-arbitrator in relation to a Remote Operated Vehicles contract, for offshore services (LCIA).
- Co-arbitrator for a dispute arising of out the performance of certain equipment at a nuclear power plant in Finland (ICC).
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute concerning the fit out of a laboratory in Lithuania (ICC).
- Sole arbitrator in a consolidated LCIA arbitration concerning an agreement for space services and the development of satellite capabilities (LCIA).
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute concerning DABs arising out of an energy project in South Asia (UNCITRAL).
- Sole Arbitrator in relation to disputes concerning delays/defects in relation to photovoltaic projects in East Africa (ICC).
- Chair of a tribunal in relation to alleged defects in a solar farm in a desert in the Asian Continent (ICC).
- President of a tribunal to resolve disputes arising out of a contract to build 2 hospitals in West Africa (ICC).
- Co-arbitrator in relation to a dispute concerning a Liquid Petroleum Gas mooring facility in the Middle East (DIFC-LCIA).
- Co-Arbitrator in a dispute arising out of electrical and mechanical failures in an island development in Dubai (DIFC-LCIA).
- Sole Arbitrator in relation to the electrical works for a major infrastructure project in Qatar (ICC).

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- Sole Arbitrator in relation to a final account dispute arising out of a fit out contract for a 30 storey hotel/residential development in Dubai (ICC).
- Adjudicator in relation to a delays relating to a UK rail project (LCIA).
- Sole Arbitrator in a dispute concerning the performance of series of biomass boiler systems in agricultural use across the UK (ad hoc).
- Sole Arbitrator in a telecommunications dispute in Nigeria (ICC).
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute relating to the proper interpretation of financial terms of a commercial contract (DIAC).
- Co-arbitrator in a dispute arising out of a diving accident during an offshore pipe laying project (LCIA).

International Arbitration

- CAD$m dispute arising out of the external mechanical works for an LNG tank (ICC).
- US$7m dispute arising out of defects and delays in a project to refurbish coal-fired power stations in Southern Africa (SIAC).
- Counsel in a 3 week hearing with several experts dealing with welding, metallurgy and defect detection issues at an offshore wind farm (LCIA).
- Counsel in a 2 week Irish Adjudication hearing concerning allegations of wrongful termination, defective design and delays concerning the design and installation of power supplies at a data centre.
- Three week arbitration, involving cross examination of 4 experts concerning the defective refurbishment of a nursing home and substantial claims for loss of profits (ad hoc).
- US$35 million claim arising out of the failed operation of gold mine on a South Pacific Island. Dispute as to scope of insurance policies covering political risks in the event riots and/or war. (LCIA).
- US$1.3 billion dispute as to liability for construction and running costs and distribution of profits in respect of a thermoelectric power plant in Brazil (UNCITRAL).
- US$40 million letter of credit dispute arising from the performance of a petrochemical plant in Qatar constructed by a French/US joint venture (ICC).
- US$2 million claim arising out of the design, construction and commissioning of an Exxon facility on Sakhalin Island (LCIA/UNCITRAL).

Energy & Natural Resources

- Counsel for the contractor in a TCC claim arising out of enabling works at a nuclear facility.
- Acted for the developer in a £5m adjudication arising out of the construction of a nuclear processing plant in the UK.
- Counsel for a multinational renewable energy company in a dispute concerning defective solar panels installed across several UK solar farms.

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- Counsel for the EPC Contractor for one of Europe's largest Energy from Waste plants. Involved in adjudications and arbitrations
- Legal adviser to the UK's largest offshore wind farm.
- Counsel in a counterclaim concerning the quality of the foundations at a UK offshore wind farm project.
- Civil works final account claim arising out of the installation of a flue gas desulphurisation plant at a coal-fired power station.
- Negotiation and drafting of a £multi-million engineering contract (based on NEC3) for the design, installation and commissioning of a new power station.
- Counsel in a multi-billion dollar claim arising out of a consortium agreement for the construction and operation of a gasfuelled power station in South America.
- Advised defendants in a multi-party claim arising out of an explosion at Humber Oil Refinery during the installation of a Diesel Hydrodesulphurisation Unit.
- Counsel acting for a Joint Venture between Birse Construction Ltd and Bilfinger and Berger UK Ltd, main contractors in respect of the construction of Didcot B power station.

Infrastructure & Utilities

- Acting for the employer in a series of disputes arising out of design changes and delays in a multimillion road project in the UK.
- Junior Counsel, responsible for delay, in an arbitration between joint venture parties in respect of the Nottingham Express Transit.
- Multi-million dollar dispute concerning the sale of telecoms capacity on sub-marine cables linking London and West Africa.
- Counsel in a substantial dispute brought by Thames Water concerning a framework agreement to make new water supply connections. This case involved substantial works in the highways and the parties' obligations under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991.
- Acted for the developer of a major bypass road and the impact of failure to comply with the Flood Risk Assessments.
- Domestic arbitration arising out of the supply and installation of conductor wire for overhead transmission of electricity.
- Advised on the CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) Scheme and its impact on domestic energy suppliers' obligations to reduce CO2 emissions.
- Acted for UKPN in a series of adjudications concerning a contractor's final account claim on termination of a framework agreement for civil engineering works and groundworks in respect of new connections to the electricity network and fault repairs.
- Counsel for a Highway Authority concerning a £20m transport/road scheme relating to a final account claim with the main contractor and a professional negligence claim against the company responsible for carrying out topographical surveys.
- Advised in respect of the gas meter installations required for the 2012 Olympics. Disputes arose as to the parties' obligations under contracts based on the NEC3.

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Construction & Engineering

- £35m TCC professional negligence claim arising out of alleged defects in the refrigeration system of the UK's largest 3 meat abattoir.
- £3m professional negligence adjudication arising out of an education/schools upgrade project.
- Final account dispute arising out of the construction of the Burj Khalifa, Dubai.
- £32m claim arising out of the construction of a purpose built factory, for the relocation of three businesses serving the automotive industry.
- Counsel in a US$35m claim relating to defects and delay in a Coca-Cola megaplant in Ballina, Ireland.
- Successfully resisted enforcement of an adjudicator's award on the ground that "more than one dispute" had been referred.
- Advising a Borough Council on its obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 with regard to the remediation of contaminated land.

Reported Cases

- TClarke Contracting Ltd v Bell Build Ltd [2024] EWHC 992 (TCC)
- Palmer Birch v Michael Lloyd & Christopher Lloyd [2017] EWHC 914 (TCC)
- Wilson & Sharp Investments Ltd v Harbour View Developments Ltd [2015] EWCA Civ 1030
- St. Austell Printing Co. Ltd v Dawnus Construction Holdings Ltd [2015] EWHC 96 (TCC)
- William Hare Ltd v Shepherd Construction Ltd EWCA Civ 283; [2010] BLR 358, [2010] 12 EG 96, 130 Con LR 1, [2010] CILL 2825, [2010] 22 EG 108
- Carillion JM Ltd v PHI Group Ltd EWHC 496 (TCC)
- Mayhaven Healthcare Ltd v Bothma (t/a DAB Builders) EWHC 2634 (TCC), 127 Con LR 1, [2010] BLR 154
- William Hare Ltd v Shepherd Construction Ltd EWHC 1603 (TCC), [2009] BLR 447, 125 Con LR 123, [2009] CILL 2753, [2010] BCC 332
- Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions (UK) Ltd v Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd [2008] 1 CLC 625, [2008] Lloyd's Rep IR 617, [2008] EWCA Civ 286, [2008] 2 All ER (Comm) 584, [2008] BLR 285, 118 Con LR 25 and [2008] 14 EG 100
- Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions (UK) Ltd v Rolls - Royce Motor Cars Ltd LTL 11/07/2007
- Sydenhams (Timber Engineering) Ltd v CHG Holdings Ltd EWHC 1129 (TCC)
- Permasteelisa Japan UK v Bouygesstroi All ER (D) 97 TCC
- David and Teresa Bothma (in partnership) t/a DAB Builders v Mayhaven Healthcare Ltd EWHC B2 (TCC) , [2007] EWCA Civ 527 (114 Con LR131)

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- Khan v Khan [2006] EWHC 1477 (ChD); All ER (D) 217
- Isaacs, Harrison v Belfield Furnishings Ltd and ors 2 BCLC 705
- Infiniteland Ltd v Artisan Constructing Ltd EWHC 955 (ChD); [2004] All ER (D) 350
- Hitesh Lad v (1) Subhas Patel (2) Satyadev Patel (3) Central Coating Ltd LTL
- Secretary of State for Trade & Industry v Goldberg & Anor EWCA Civ 1292; [2003] EWHC 2843 (ChD); [2003] All ER (D) 369
- Re A Company (number 1299 of 2001) June CILL 1745

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- BA (Hons) Jurisprudence, University College Oxford (International Sale of Goods, Public International Law), 1995
- Exhibitioner at University College Oxford, 1993
- Megarry and Sunley Scholarships, Lincoln's Inn, 1996
- Called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn, 1996
- Hilda Martindale Scholar, 1996
- BCL, University College Oxford (Conflicts of Laws, Corporate Insolvency, Restitution, Evidence), 1997
- Began full time practice at the Bar, 1998
- MA, University College Oxford, 2001
- BSc (Hons) (Open) (Engineering Mechanics: Solids and Fluids, Thermofluid Mechanics, Heat Transfer, Failure of Stressed Materials, Inorganic Chemistry), 2003
- TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator, 2007
- Public Access Training, 2007
- Chartered Arbitrator, 2007
- TECBAR panel of Arbitrators, 2013
- Associate Membership of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, 2013
- Queen's Counsel, 2020
- Deputy Head of Keating Chambers, 2023

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Memberships

- Fellow Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- HKIAC Panel Arbitrator and Adjudicator
- SIAC Panel Arbitrator
- Institute of Mechanical Engineers
- London Court of International Arbitration
- International Chamber of Commerce
- Technology and Construction Bar Association
- Society of Construction Law

Seminars & Publications

- Co-editor, Keating on NEC – Second Edition (2022)
- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts – Twelfth Edition (2024)
- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts – Tenth Edition (2016)
- Developing an Arbitration Practice, University of Exeter (2015)
- International Dispute Resolution in the Construction Industry, University of Exeter (2014)
- Costs in International Arbitration, RICS (2014)
- Expert Evidence: Immunity, Reports, Preparation for Hearings, Techniques for giving evidence (Constructing Excellence North East (2014)
- Evidence in International Arbitration: Documentary, Factual and Expert, Reed Smith (2013)
- Contributing author and assistant editor of Keating on NEC3 First Edition (2012)
- Researcher, Keating on Construction Contracts – Ninth Edition (2012)
- E-Disclosure, Hill International (2011)
- Adjudicating More than One Dispute – Adjudication Society Newsletter (December 2006)
- The New Administration Regime (April 2006)
- Pride & Prejudice -s459 of the Companies Act 1985 (March 2006)
- Arbitration: Practical self-study course on best practice (Informa (2005)
- Civil War Exclusion Clauses – (On Risk Spring 2005 – Insurance Newsletter)
- Performance Bonds & Guarantees (November 2005)
- Concurrent Delay in Construction Claims (September 2005)

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- The Liability of Construction Professionals (April 2005)
- Brokers – The New Regulatory Framework (March 2005)
- Liquidated Damages Clauses in Construction Contracts (August 2004)
- Unlawful Financial Assistance – Recent Cases (March 2004)
- The Enterprise Act 2002 – Impact on Corporate Insolvency (December 2003)
- Freezing Injunctions -A Practical Guide (March 2002)
- Winding up petitions following an application for payment (Tolley's Newsletter 2001)

Recommendations

"Her engineering background is a very great benefit. She is a dream to work with; one of my top five to consider."
Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Krista is a leader in her field. She deals with complex issues and is able to explain them to clients in simple and easy-to-understand terms."
Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Krista is really good technically because she used to be an engineer."
Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Krista Lee is very user-friendly and works well as part of a wider team."
Construction: Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Krista is a great advocate who is able to present a case, including the more technical and legally complex arguments, in a clear, straightforward, and very persuasive manner. She thinks quickly on her feet and is always able to respond to/rebut any points made by her opponent. Krista has a great manner with clients and instructing solicitors - she is friendly, polite, approachable, positive but robust, and always available to assist on a matter, including in circumstances where the timeframes are tight."
Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

"Great understanding of highly technical matters."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

"Krista provides robust and detailed advice on the legal elements of any case often identifying novel arguments following a thorough review of the facts of a case and any relevant case law."
Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2026

"Krista Lee is very impressive, charming and clients love her. She is strong on written work as well as advocacy."
Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Krista offered good and clear advice on a few difficult legal questions. She was able to anticipate questions that might arise and answer them ahead of being asked."
Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Krista has an in-depth technical knowledge and understanding of the construction profession."
Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

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"Krista Lee is very diligent, with great attention to detail."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"She is an incredibly smart and effective advocate."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Krista is a super-smart person who is very user-friendly. She is well liked by clients and has a calming presence, which is a real strength."

Construction: Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"She is very calm and collected and her legal advice is spot-on."

Construction: Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Krista is very diligent with great attention to detail. She is careful and thorough."

Construction: Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Krista Lee takes really technical matters and cuts right to the heart of them quickly. Clients love her."

Construction: Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"She provides terrific guidance, and is always accessible. In a hearing she comes across as measured but fierce. She is incredibly likeable, and a pleasure to work with."

Construction, Legal 500 EMEA 2025

"Her advice is brilliantly clear and concise."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Krista is highly intelligent."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Krista Lee is extremely bright, very commercial and great to work with."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Krista is a calm presence and integrates as part of the team."

Construction: Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Krista has a brilliant analytical mind. She is one of the few barristers at the Bar who really understands technical points in design and construction."

Professional negligence, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"Krista is an excellent barrister. She provides robust and detailed advice on the legal elements of any case often identifying novel arguments following a thorough review of documents, identifying the relevant facts and applicable case law quickly, and explaining the position in a clear and straight forward manner. Krista has the in-depth technical knowledge and understanding of the construction."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"She is excellent, thorough, and has in-depth knowledge of the law. A very effective advocate and arbitrator who inspires confidence."

Construction, Legal 500 EMEA 2024

"Very sharp-minded and always calm in high-pressure situations. Incisive and direct in advocacy and great at reading people and assessing the best approach. A go-to for construction."

Construction, Legal 500 2024

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"Absolutely outstanding. Very focused, able to get to grips with a large amount of very technical material; totally on top of the factual evidence and the legal issues."

Professional Negligence, Legal 500 2024

"Krista Lee brings a technical understanding to her cases which means it's super easy to work with her. She's brilliant."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2024

"I've been really impressed with her incredible intellect and her personability. She's a brilliant strategist and her pleadings are excellent."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2024

"I have been really impressed with her incredible intellect and her personability. She is also a brilliant strategist and her pleadings were excellent."

Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2024

"Krista is bright, articulate, cool, calm and collected. She is just what you want on high value and complex disputes where a lot is at stake."

Construction, Legal 500 EMEA 2023

"Krista is a born advocate and an astute counsel."

Legal 500 2023

"Krista is very clear-minded and sees the bigger picture. Her advocacy is calm, considered, and excellent."

Legal 500 2023

"Krista is a streetwise counsel, and has always impressed all in the litigation team with her grasp of complex legal and project-specific issues. Her ability to identify the core issues, and plot a course that all can follow. She is a born advocate."

Legal 500 2022

"A superb advocate in pure construction disputes and her cross-examination can eliminate the opposition." "A very client-friendly, clear and persuasive advice."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2022

"She is superb. Quietly authoritative, a really good advocate and a real expert in construction law as well as having great attention to detail. It's a real pleasure to work with her."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2022

"Her understanding of construction-related professional indemnity claims is excellent. Her advice is accurate and strategic and she also recognises the commercial concerns of clients."

Legal 500 2021

"Excellent grasp of detail. Quickly spots the best and worst points of a case. Very approachable and easy to work with."

Legal 500 2021

"She is very good on paper, hard-working and an effective advocate." "Her drafting is thorough and precise, her advice is accurate and strategic, and she also recognises client commercial concerns in addition to her excellent understanding of construction matters."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2021

"Her cross-examination of witnesses is effective and on point - she brings out their evidence in a way that affects their credibility."

Middle East: The English Bar, Construction, Legal 500 2021

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"Reliable and effective in construction cases." "Quick to respond and succinct in her advice."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2020

"Diligent, good tactically and well prepared."

Legal 500 2020

"Presents very precise advice, has good judgement and is thorough in her analysis."

Chambers UK Bar 2019

"Very incisive manner, forthright at putting forward strong opinions, and has excellent judgement."

Legal 500 2018

"Very good and quick at turning around pleadings, and we like her advocacy. She's a good all-rounder."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2018

"Krista is very sparkling. She has a lot of energy and is very enthusiastic and able to move at a quick pace."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2018

"She has an agile brain and is a thoughtful but robust advocate."

Legal 500 2017

"She is incisive and has the ability to see the real issues, and deal with them incredibly effectively."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar Guide 2017