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clerks@keatingchambers.com

Paul Buckingham KC

Call: **1995** Silk: **2023**



"There is nobody better when it comes to the most highly complex engineering cases, and his passion to get into the detail is clear to see."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

Clerk Details

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Practice Overview

After spending eight years with BP as a chemical engineer in the oil and gas industries, Paul Buckingham was called to the Bar in 1995 and has since specialised in major construction, engineering and energy disputes. His particular area of interest and expertise lies in international arbitration work.

He has worked on a wide range of contentious matters involving international construction and engineering projects. He has extensive experience of numerous arbitrations under ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL and ad hoc rules. He has also acted on disputes involving most standard form contracts and their derivatives, including the JCT, ICE, IChemE and FIDIC Forms.

He regularly acts for clients in court, domestic and international arbitration, adjudication and mediation hearings. Paul also has experience at all levels of alternative dispute resolution including dispute review boards, project appeal panels and direct settlement negotiations. His international work includes matters in the Middle East, Europe, the Far East, Africa and the Caribbean.

In addition, Paul has been appointed as arbitrator, adjudicator, dispute board member and neutral evaluator on a range of disputes involving construction and engineering projects.

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Practice Areas

Construction & Engineering

- Acted for the main design and build contractor defending claims for defects in the construction of a hydrocarbon storage facility in the UK.
- Acted for the oil producer in respect of a claim for the termination of a long-term oil processing agreement as a result of ‘force majeure’.
- Acted for a major middle eastern design and build contractor in respect of claims against the subcontractor arising out of a refinery upgrade project.
- Acted for the main contractor in respect of claims against the subcontractor for defects on the construction of a large coal-fired power station in South Africa.
- Acted for the owner and operator of a UK refinery in respect of claims for cost overruns and delays during an upgrade project.
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- Acting for a contractor in the High Court in respect of claims arising out of the supply of 28 compressors for a pipeline project in Spain.
- Acted for a Korean contractor in an ICC arbitration against its Middle Eastern joint venture partner concerning claims arising out of the construction of a water storage facility in the Middle East.
- Acted for a Japanese/UK joint venture partnership defending subcontractor’s claims in an UNCITRAL arbitration arising out of the construction of an LNG plant in the Middle East.
- Acted for a US design and construction company in a claim for outstanding design fees on a major planned infrastructure and leisure development in the Middle East, conducted under UNCITRAL Rules.
- Acted for Multiplex in a High Court claim to recover a £4 million advance payment under the terms of a personal guarantee.
- Acted for a main contractor in two ICC arbitrations arising out of the design and construction of flue gas desulphurisation plants at power stations in the UK, together with several related adjudications.
- Acting for a contractor in an international arbitration concerning claims arising out of the expansion of an airport in the Caribbean.
- Acted for Multiplex in the High Court in respect of disputes arising out of the construction of the Wembley Stadium in London, including two successful references to the Court of Appeal.
- Acted for a US company on claims in the High Court arising out of the construction of its distribution warehouse in the UK. Participated in a four party mediation and settlement of the matter.

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- Acted for Eurostar on claims in the High Court arising out of the construction of the Waterloo International Terminal. Actively involved in a five party mediation and settlement of the matter.

Energy & Natural Resources

- Acted for a pipeline contractor in an UNCITRAL arbitration arising out of the design and construction of an oil pipeline in West Africa.
- Advised a US design and construction contractor on a series of disputes in the Middle East, including the construction of an oil separation plant, a desalination plant, and a power station.
- Acted for the main contractor in two ICC arbitrations arising out of the design and construction of a gas fired power plant in the Caribbean, together with a series of related dispute board adjudications.
- Acted for the employer against a contractor in an ICC arbitration in respect of claims for defects at a diesel power station constructed in the Caribbean.
- Advising a main contractor in respect of claims arising out of the construction of two power projects in Pakistan.
- Acted for a Baltic oil company in an ICC arbitration defending claims made by a Swedish exploration company in respect of oil exploitation rights and the valuation of assets.
- Acted for an Australian oil drilling and exploration company in a LCIA arbitration concerning claims for unpaid fees arising out of a drilling project in East Africa.
- Advised a major design contractor on disputes arising out of a series of power station developments worldwide, including adjudication and subsequent enforcement proceedings.
- Advised a Chinese construction company on the merits of claims arising out of the design and construction of an oil pipeline in East Africa.

Offshore Construction & Marine Engineering

- Acted for the contractor in an LMAA arbitration concerning delay, variation and termination claims arising out of the construction of a semi-submersible drilling rig.
- Acted for a main contractor in an UNCITRAL arbitration arising out of the construction of offshore processing and accommodation platforms in the Middle East.
- Acted for the employer in two ICC arbitrations concerning defects and variation claims arising out of an offshore wind farm development in the East of England.
- Acted for the employer in proceedings arising out of an offshore wind farm development in the North West of England. The matter proceeded to the Supreme Court in respect of the ‘fitness for purpose’ obligations.

IT & Technology

- Acted of the provider of high-speed broadband in respect of payment claims made by the installation subcontractor.

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- Acted for a major US contractor in an LCIA arbitration concerning the termination of a contract during the supply of a major government IT system.
- Acted for a Japanese telecoms company in an ICC arbitration arising out of the construction of a telephone network in the Philippines. Advised on proceedings issued in the local court by the defendant and on a parallel local arbitration commenced by the defendant.
- Acted for a Baltic telephone company in an ICC arbitration concerning claims arising out of an agreement for the modernisation and development of the existing telephone network.

Professional Negligence

- Acted for the owner of a mixed hotel/residential/commercial property in respect of claims against the architect and professional team for fire safety and cladding defects.
- Acted for the NHS Hospital in respect of claims against the design and build contractor for fire safety and cladding defects.
- Acted for the main contractor in respect of claims for defects in the cladding at a student halls of residence facility in central London.
- Advised a local authority in respect of claims against its professional advisers in respect of under-performance issues at a waste processing facility and associated gasifier.
- Acted for the police authority in respect of fire safety and cladding defects at a police station and court facility in the UK.
- Acted for Multiplex in its claims against Mott MacDonald in the High Court arising out of the construction of the Wembley Stadium in London.
- Acting for the employers in respect of claims against the architect on a high value residential building project.

PFI/PPP

- Acted for Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust in a High Court dispute concerning construction defects in a medium secure mental health facility in Middlesborough.
- Acted for the SPV responsible for the operation of numerous prison facilities in the UK in respect of outstanding payment claims against the Ministry of Justice.
- Acted for a local authority in the North-West in respect of a dispute concerning penalty deductions for the defective performance of a PFI contract for street lighting.
- Acted for a local authority in respect of claims for under performance and delay on a waste processing facility and associated gasifier.
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- Acted for Essex County Council in a High Court dispute concerning the performance of a waste treatment facility in Essex and the council’s right to terminate the contract.

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- Advised the SPV in respect of disputes concerning life cycle maintenance obligations arising out of a PFI project in Scotland.
- Acted for the concessionaire on a PFI hospital project in the North East in connection with disputes concerning availability payments and entitlements to extensions of time.

Reported Cases

- Essex County Council v UBB Waste (Essex) Limited [2020] EWHC 1581 (TCC)
- MT Hojgaard v EON Climate and Renewables and another [2015] BLR 55. [2014] CILL 3523, [2014] EWCA Civ 710
- F Ltd v M Ltd 1 Lloyds Rep 537, [2009] CILL 2681, [2009] 2 All ER (Comm) 519, [2009] EWHC 275 (TCC)
- MT Hojgaard A/S (Respondent) v E.ON Climate and Renewables UK Robin Rigg East Ltd and another (Appellants) [2017] UKSC 59 BLR 477
- MT Hojgaard v EON Climate and Renewables and another [2014] BLR 450, [2014] EWHC 1088 (TCC)
- Vector Investments v J D Williams EWHC 3601 (TCC)
- Beck Interiors Ltd v Dr Russo 1 BLR 37, [2009] EWHC 832 (TCC)
- BT PLC v SAE Group Inc BLR 231, [2009] EWHC 252 (TCC)
- The Dorchester Hotel Ltd v Vivid Interiors Ltd BLR 135 TCC, [2009] CILL 2676, [2009] EWHC 70 (TCC), (2009) 25 Const LJ 449, 122 Con LR 55, [2009] Bus LR 1026, 25 Const LJ 449
- Multiplex Constructions (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd 1 Costs LR 55, [2008] 122 Con LR 88
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd All ER (D) 04 (Oct), [2007] All ER (D) 358 CA
- Multiplex Constructions (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd 118 Con LR 16 CA
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd ALL ER (D) 288, (2007) 111 Con LR 48
- Multiplex Constructions (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd Con LJ 299
- Multiplex Constructions (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd Vol. 23 No. 4 p. 299 TCC
- Multiplex Constructions (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd 107 Con LR 1 TCC
- Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd v Serco Ltd [2004] EWHC 3336 (TCC)

Other information

Education & Professional Career

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- Approved Arbitrator, Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration, 2015
- Fellow of the IChemE (FIChemE), 2007
- IChemE Accredited Arbitrator and Adjudicator, 2006
- Called to the Bar (Middle Temple), 1995
- Chartered Engineer (CEng), 1990
- British Petroleum (Design and Construction), 1985-1993
- BSc Chemical Engineering (First Class), Birmingham, 1985

Additional Information

Paul's interests include running, skiing and classic cars.

Appointments & Awards

- Construction Junior of the Year (Chambers & Partners), 2018

Memberships

- Chairman, IChemE Dispute Resolution Committee
- IChemE Contract Committee
- Society of Construction Law
- Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

Seminars & Publications

- Construction Law Journal – International Case Note Editor
- Construction Dispute Resolution Handbook, 2nd edition, published in 2011 – Arbitration Section
- Keating on Construction Contracts, 9th and 10th edition – Contributor
- He is a regular contributor to industry journals on construction law and a speaker at a wide range of seminars and events.

Recommendations

"Excellent attention to detail and brilliant in conference; he gets to the bottom of things well and gives good written feedback."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Paul is very diligent, willing to get into the detail where required and always a pleasure to work with."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

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“His knowledge is fantastic. I would like to note his ability to translate technical engineering gobbledygook into plain English. He is exceptionally good with clients.”

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Paul demonstrates a great understanding of technical matters.”

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Paul's intelligence and ability to cut through the detail to get to the core of a matter shine through.”

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“He's excellent - he is a chemical engineer as well as a barrister and really knows his stuff.”

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“He's exceptional and one of the finest construction and engineering silks at the Bar, especially for tricky heavy engineering cases. He is at the top of his game.”

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Excellent for tricky technical disputes. Very good at explaining complex expert issues in pleadings and for tribunals.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

“Paul is among the best at the Bar when it comes to the most complex engineering disputes. He’s so easy to work with and has a unique style.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2026

"He is approachable and strategic and offers practical advice that provides for the realities of working with busy and under-resourced clients."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"There is nobody better when it comes to the most highly complex engineering cases, and his passion to get into the detail is clear to see."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Paul is able to digest down information into a format that is understandable by the client. He exceeds expectations in the way he provides advice."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Paul Buckingham is excellent - he is great on technical cases."

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Paul's relaxed and approachable style is a hit with clients but takes nothing away from his skill and intellect."

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"When you need to understand engineering, he is a very good choice."

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Paul is very good on the detail and he is good on the technical issues within claims."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Paul Buckingham is a robust and technically gifted counsel who is able to distil complex legal scenarios into simple, client-focused messages."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"He gets it straight away."

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

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"Paul was an engineer, so he has an advantage on petrochemical cases."

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Paul gets the issues straight away and rolls his sleeves up."

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"A clear thinker with a friendly approach."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"He is adept at handling the most complex of engineering-related disputes, and he is happy to roll up his sleeves."

Energy, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"Paul is superb at putting clients at ease and explaining their own case to them."

International Arbitration: Counsel, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"Paul is very user friendly and the quality of his written work is superb."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2023

"He combines a strong intellect and an impressive knowledge of the relevant law with a willingness to roll up his sleeves and immerse himself in the details of matters."

Energy, Legal 500 UK Bar 2022

"Paul is very considered and with very good legal knowledge and analysis. His background also gives him good practical insight, especially in cases with engineering elements."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2022

"A brilliant barrister with a very sharp and analytical legal brain. His pleadings in arbitration cases are brilliant."

International Arbitration, Chambers UK Bar 2022

"He is very easy to work with, very knowledgeable and really willing to roll up his sleeves and get into the detail." "He is very practical in his approach to cases and is a persuasive advocate."

Energy, Chambers UK Bar 2022

"His standard of work is excellent, he is meticulous and his breadth of experience is very wide. He also very quickly makes a great rapport with the client."

International Arbitration, Chambers UK Bar 2022

"He is calm and conducts pleasing advocacy." "Absolutely excellent."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2022

"A qualified chemical engineer, solicitor and barrister who utilises his background to great effect especially when dealing with matters with a technical background."

International Arbitration, Legal 500 UK Bar 2021

"He is calm, considered and incredibly likeable and he always appears completely in control."

Energy, Legal 500 UK Bar 2021

"Calm and considered. Always appears completely in control. Incredibly likeable."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2021

"A class act." "His drafting is technically very good."

International Arbitration, Chambers UK Bar 2021

"Very good on the quantum side of things." "A familiar feature in energy."

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Energy, Chambers UK Bar 2021

"He has excellent attention to detail, he is user-friendly and a terrific advocate."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2021

"Very thoughtful, hard-working and reliable. He displays excellent judgement and never puts a foot wrong on the law. He is a pleasure to work with."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2020

"A very clever junior with a great cross-examination style".

Who's Who Legal 2019: UK Bar Construction

"Strong work ethic, rolls up his sleeves and gets involved."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2020

"He was an engineer in a former life, which is great because he understands the clients' world as well as the lawyers' world."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2019

"Impressive cross-examination and very hard-working."

International Arbitration, Chambers UK Bar 2020

"Assimilates and recalls information at a very detailed level; uses his engineering background to offer practical, creative advice."

Energy, Legal 500 2018

"He is detail-focused and is very good at grasping complex technical issues in construction disputes."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2019

"Paul is a pleasure to work with. He immediately engages with a case and stays on top of every element of it for the duration."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2018

"Quick to identify the key issues in the case and to formulate an appropriate strategy. He is very personable and quickly won the confidence of the client."

International Arbitration, Chambers UK Bar 2018

"Calm and collected in hearings, he really stands out."

Energy, Chambers Global 2018