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clerks@keatingchambers.com

William Webb KC



Call: **2005** Silk: **2023**

"Will is a polished, smooth advocate, with great control of a courtroom and witnesses. His drafting is excellent, and he is everything you want in a new silk, with the work ethic and eye for detail combined with the presence of a great leader."

Construction, Legal 500 2027

Clerk Details

Will Shrubsall
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Practice Overview

Described in legal directories as a “brilliantly analytical barrister” whose advocacy is “elegant and persuasive”, William is a specialist silk working in all aspects of construction and engineering disputes. Over the years, William has been involved in countless claims relating to defects, variations, delay and disruption on projects ranging from minor residential developments to substantial infrastructure projects such as power stations, refineries and highways. William has a particular familiarity with cladding and other fire safety disputes, having been involved in many such claims in the TCC and having been instructed to act for an interested party to the Grenfell Inquiry. He is also very familiar with PFI/PPP disputes having acted for public bodies, ProjectCos, building contractors and maintenance contractors in a wide variety of matters arising under such contracts.

William frequently appears in the Technology and Construction Court, where he has been instructed in some of the largest recent cases involving multiple parties and trials lasting several weeks. He also regularly appears in the Court of Appeal, as well as the Commercial Court and Chancery Division. He is also a TECBAR accredited adjudicator and has received appointments as adjudicator and arbitrator in both domestic and international disputes.

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In addition to domestic court work, William is regularly involved in substantial international arbitrations including claims arising out of projects in Qatar, Oman, Dubai, Yemen, Greece, Spain, Africa, Singapore and Russia. He is familiar with ICC, LCIA and UNCITRAL rules as well as bespoke national provisions.

William is heavily involved in academic and practitioner texts on construction law, being an Editor of Chitty on Contracts (since 2015), an Editor of Keating on JCT Contracts and an editor of the Construction Law Reports.

Practice Areas

Construction & Engineering

- Acting for the main contractor in 11-party TCC proceedings concerning defects at a PFI new Hospital in North East England.
- Acting for a water company in relation to a major delay claim arising from upgrade works to a waste treatment facility in Essex.
- Acting for a main contractor in 3-party TCC proceedings concerning fire safety defects to the external and internal elements of a mixed used development.
- Acting for a building contractor in a High Court TCC trial concerning issues of delay and valuation under a cost plus contract.
- Acting for a Sub-Contractor in a substantial delay and variations claim arising out of the construction of a mechanical and biological treatment facility in West Sussex.
- Acting for a developer in a High Court TCC trial concerning the application of the prevention principle.
- Counsel for a major contractor in a multi-million pound final account dispute in respect of an art gallery in East Anglia.
- Acting for a leading outdoor advertising company in a dispute regarding delay and disruption to a project to extensively upgrade and enhance the advertising estate on a major metro system.
- Acting for a contractor on an arbitration concerning a major road interchange project in Dubai.
- Acting for an engineer on an arbitration concerning a major road project in Hong Kong.

Energy & Natural Resources

- Acting for the main contractor in the TCC in a three-party claim concerning termination of a contract for the construction of an energy-from-waste plant in Hull.
- Acting for the civil works contractor on a TCC claim relating to a power station in Wales.
- Acting for a solar farm developer in a claim arising from a failure to connect several solar farm sites prior to the deadline for a higher rate of ROCs.
- Acting for a contractor in a payment claim by a sub-contractor arising from the construction of a thermal power station.

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- Acting for an electricity supply company on a dispute regarding wrongful termination of the supply contract.
- Acting for the contractor in a dispute concerning the termination of a contract for the supply of components for oil and gas drilling rigs.

Professional Negligence

- Acting for a firm of architects in the TCC and Court of Appeal in a seven-party claim relating to cost overrun at a mixed-use development in Berkshire.
- Acting for a main contractor in TCC proceedings against an architect and approved inspector in relation to defects in the external wall system of a substantial residential development.
- Acting for a group of homeowners in the TCC and Court of Appeal in a claim against a surveying architect who failed to identify defects in a new-build block of flats during construction.
- Acting for the ground engineering contractor in a five party TCC claim involving subsidence of a building in Mayfair.
- Acting for an engineering consultancy in respect of allegations of negligence in ground investigation work.
- Advising and drafting pleadings for the owner of an industrial unit on a claim against the design and build contractor and engineer in respect of water ingress.
- Acting for the owner of a factory on a claim regarding defective design of a waste treatment plant.

PFI/PPP

- Acting for a ProjectCo in the TCC and Court of Appeal in a claim against the building contractor in relation to defective cladding on a hospital.
- Acting for a building contractor in multi-party TCC claim concerning a wide array of alleged defects at a newly constructed Hospital.
- Acting for a ProjectCo in adjudications against a building contractor concerning fire safety issues at seven schools.
- Acting for a ProjectCo in a TCC claim against a sub-contractor concerning defective cladding on a hospital.
- Acting for a facilities management firm in relation to a payment claim for life cycle maintenance costs.
- Acting for ProjectCo in relation to cladding defects in several social housing blocks.
- Advising and representing a facilities management firm in an adjudication concerning fire stopping defects in a hospital.
- Advising and representing a facilities management firm in an adjudication concerning the cost of transferred employees at a hospital.
- Advising and representing three councils in adjudications and Commercial Court proceedings concerning the excess profit share provisions of a long term waste management agreement.
- Advising and representing a waste contractor in an arbitration arising from waste being diverted from an energy-from-waste plant to landfill.

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- Advising a waste contractor regarding the effect of price changes on the energy from waste payment provisions of its waste management agreement.

International Arbitration

- Acting for an EPCM Contractor in a substantial delay and breach of contract claim arising out of a substantial infrastructure project in Qatar.
- Acting for the contractor in an arbitration arising from the termination of a mine shaft sinking contract in Russia.
- Acting for the purchaser in an arbitration about termination of a contract for construction of a deepwater drilling vessel.
- Acting for the owner in a dispute about delay and disruption to an oil refinery upgrade project in Greece.
- Acting for the contractor on a claim arising out of the construction of a major road interchange in Dubai.
- Acting for the contractor on a money claim arising out of rail works in Africa.
- Acting for the contractor on substantial road improvement projects in Oman and Yemen.

Adjudication

- Acting for Referring and Responding Parties in adjudications in many different types of dispute including payment disputes, defect claims, professional negligence claims and PFI disputes.
- Counsel in numerous adjudication enforcement actions in the TCC including stays of execution and adjudicator fee disputes. See reported cases for more information.
- TECBAR accredited adjudicator.
- Editor of the Adjudication Society Newsletter, 2009-2011.

Reported Cases

- Kajima Construction Europe (UK) Ltd v Children’s Ark Partnership Ltd [2023] EWCA Civ 292
- Energy Works Hull v M+W [2022] EWHC 3275 (TCC)
- Building Design Partnership Ltd v Standard Life Assurance Ltd [2022] 1 WLR 878
- Energy Works (Hull) Ltd v MW High Tech Projects UK Ltd & Ors [2020] EWHC 2537 (TCC)
- ABC Electrification Ltd v Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd [2020] EWCA CIV 1645
- Surgo Construction Limited v PlanET Biogastechnik GMBH [2019] EWHC 2310 (TCC)
- Balfour Beatty Regional Construction Ltd v Grove Developments Ltd [2016] EWCA Civ 990
- RMP Construction Services Ltd v Chalcroft Ltd [2015] EWHC 3737 (TCC)

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- Caledonian Modular Ltd v Mar City Developments Ltd [2015] EWHC 1855 (TCC)
- Cockell (t/a Cockell Building Services) v Holton (No 2) [2015] EWHC 1117 (TCC)
- Cockell (t/a Cockell Building Services) v Holton [2015] EWHC 459 (TCC)
- FG Skerritt Ltd v Caledonian Building Systems Ltd EWHC 1898 (TCC)
- True Fix Construction Ltd v Apollo Property Services Group Ltd EWHC 2524 (TCC)
- Hunt & Ors v Optima (Cambridge) Ltd & Ors EWHC 681 (TCC)
- Arcadis UK Ltd v May and Baker (t/a Sanofi) [2013] EWHC 87 (TCC)
- Jerram Falkus Construction Limited v Fenice Investments Inc (No. 3) EWHC 1935 (TCC)
- Fenice Investments Inc v Jerram Falkus Construction Limited (No. 4) EWHC 1678 (TCC)
- Carillion Construction Ltd v Stephen Andrew Smith EWHC 2910 (TCC)
- Countrywide Properties v MDS Civil EWHC 3418 (TCC)
- Fenice Investments v Jerram Falkus Construction (No. 1) EWHC 3272 (TCC)
- Gipping Construction Limited v Eaves Limited EWHC 3134 (TCC)
- PJ Spillings (Builders) Ltd v Bonus Flooring Ltd EWHC 1516 (QB)
- Zurich Insurance Co v Gearcross Ltd EWHC 318 (TCC)
- Aveat Heating Ltd v Jerram Falkus Construction Ltd EWHC 131, [2007] All ER (D) 13
- DGT Steel and Cladding Ltd v Cubitt Building and Interiors Ltd EWHC 1584 (TCC), [2007] All ER (D) 43 (TCC), [2007] CILL 2492, [2007] BLM Vol 24 No.8

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- Keating Chambers 2006-present
- Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law 2004-2005
- BCL (Distinction), St. Catherine’s College, Oxford 2003-2004
- LL.M., University of Virginia School of Law 2002-2003
- BA (Law), Trinity College, Cambridge 1999-2002

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Memberships

Society of Construction Law

Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

Seminars & Publications

- Editor of Chitty on Contracts, 32nd Edition.
- Contributor to Keating on Construction Contracts, 9th and 10th Edition.
- Editor of the Construction Law Reports.

Recommendations

“A long-term favourite – fantastic at developing cases and providing robust advice.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“He had a phenomenal ability to get to the core of the detail.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“His advice is intellectually robust and puts us and clients at ease.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Will is a polished, smooth advocate, with great control of a courtroom and witnesses. His drafting is excellent, and he is everything you want in a new silk, with the work ethic and eye for detail combined with the presence of a great leader.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

“William is a brilliant advocate, with excellent cross-examination skills and great control of the courtroom. His grasp of technical details is impressive and he is approachable and easy to work with.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2026

"He offers very sound advice and is confident."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"William Webb is a genuine expert in all things construction."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"William Webb is one of my go-to barristers on construction-related disputes."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"William Webb is a class act and a cut above the rest. He is very client-friendly, strategic and commercial in his approach and a very safe pair of hands on the most complex of disputes."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"William is very pragmatic and he will work hard to deliver the right result."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"William Webb is very measured and has an excellent knowledge of construction issues."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"William is user-friendly, with a razor-sharp legal mind and, most importantly, he is commercially focused."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

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"William is very good at getting on with it, setting out what is required, and delivering without unnecessary questions or delay. He is responsive and practical, and always delivers when on his feet, with clients appreciating his approach."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"Will is an extremely confident barrister who has great communication skills with both instructing solicitors and clients alike. Will's advocacy shines through in cross-examinations. His preparation is meticulous and this shines through when he is on his feet."

Construction, Legal 500 2024

"Will has been absolutely fantastic."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2024

"Forensic in his analysis, William distils very complex points down into easy to follow and logical points. He is incredibly intelligent, user-friendly, and his advocacy is eloquent and persuasive."

Construction, Legal 500 2023

"A brilliantly analytical barrister who will always look several steps ahead, truly understanding the objectives of his client."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022

"A technically savvy junior who is an utter delight to work with. His written submissions are brilliant but he also has two feet firmly on the ground and gives good, practical advice."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022

"Will is fantastic. A really excellent legal mind, with the ability to distil detail and convey complex arguments accessibly and compellingly. He provides good commercial advice - and does not shy away from taking a stance on big points. He inspires confidence."

Construction, Legal 500 2022

"William develops an exceptional grasp of the factual and technical detail. He is approachable and commercial which makes him popular with clients."

Construction, Legal 500 2021

"He has provided first-class representation and is a man of impressive gravitas, who takes a forensic approach to cases."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

"A super reliable barrister who is phenomenal in his written and oral advocacy."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

"He develops an exceptional grasp of the factual and technical detail. He is approachable and commercial, which makes him popular with clients."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020

"Always ready to help and gives no-nonsense advice." "Hard-working, responsive and decisive."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020

"An excellent barrister who gives clear, succinct advice."

Construction, Legal 500 2020

"A very cerebral lawyer" with "excellent legal knowledge and analysis".

Who's Who Legal 2019: UK Bar Construction

"You're always in safe hands with him - he's strategically and commercially excellent."

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Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

"Great specialist knowledge and a confident court presence."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

"Hardworking, clever, responsive and decisive."

Construction, Legal 500 2018

"One of the best juniors around. Cerebral, friendly and gives no-nonsense advice."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2018