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Piers Stansfield KC



Call: **1993** Silk: **2012**

"Piers has the calmness of a Jedi master. He is utterly unflappable, no matter the circumstances. Brilliant service, brilliant expertise and brilliant commerciality from a brilliant advocate."

Chambers UK Bar 2024

Clerk Details

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Practice Overview

Piers has established a reputation as a “formidable advocate” and a “superb fighter” in the many trials that he has conducted. His advocacy is engaging and persuasive, and he is a tenacious cross-examiner. His written work is described as “first class”.

Piers has wide experience of construction, engineering, energy, professional negligence, shipbuilding and IT disputes. He has an “excellent grasp of complex technical issues” including engineering, delay analysis and forensic accountancy. He is known for his meticulous preparation and the clear and attractive presentation of his client’s case to the tribunal. He is described as having “the ear of the Court” and providing “the ideal balance between technical knowledge and effective advocacy”.

Piers continues to be instructed to appear in high-value and hard-fought TCC trials and arbitrations. He represented the successful claimants in a complex PFI dispute (Essex County Council v UBB), a termination case involving a petrochemical plant (SABIC UK Petrochemicals v Punj Lloyd), and the building owner in a multi- party dispute concerning defects in a large residential development (Greenwich Millennium Village v Essex Services Group and Others). Piers has also appeared before both domestic and international arbitral tribunals in substantial shipbuilding and construction disputes.

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Piers also has an extensive advisory practice and is known for his “keen legal acumen and commercial insight”. From 2021, Piers is a joint editor of Keating on Construction Contracts.

(All quotations above are from the Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 guides.)

Practice Areas

Construction & Engineering

- Represented the main contractor in a TCC trial regarding the construction of the Athlete’s Village for the London 2012 Olympics.
- Advised and represented local authorities and contractors in claims arising out of major infrastructure projects.
- Advised and represented a Korean contractor in an ICC arbitration concerned with a port facility in the Middle East.
- Advised and represented clients in various proceedings to enforce adjudicators’ decisions, including successfully defending such proceedings on the basis of breach of natural justice, and winding up proceedings in the Companies Court.

Energy & Natural Resources

- Represented the successful Claimant in the trial of a £15 million claim regarding the termination of a contract to construct a petrochemical plant.
- Obtained an injunction on behalf of a UK Oil Company to compel a contractor to complete pipeline work in North Sea under contract subject to CRINE conditions.
- Acted for a UK bio diesel producer in a dispute with the designer and manufacturer of chemical plant.
- Advised a Korean contractor in relation to contracts for the construction of a power station in Qatar.

PFI/PPP

- Advised the UK government on a multi-billion PFI contract.
- Advised and represented NHS Trusts and major UK contractors in adjudication and Dispute Resolution Board proceedings arising out of PFI projects for the design and construction of hospitals.
- Advised the main contractor in connection with one of the UK’s largest PPP schemes, concerning waste water treatment facilities.

Professional Negligence

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- Acted for the contractor in a claim against consulting mechanical and electrical engineers relating to the alleged negligent installation of a nitrate storage facility.
- Advised and represented a national house builder in a high value claim against specialist planning solicitors.
- Advised a national museum in connection with a negligence claim against Danish architects.
- Defended surveyors against claims for negligence arising from the valuation of a property that subsequently suffered from subsidence.

IT & Technology

- Advised and represented a client in a multi-million pound ICC arbitration involving computerised design development and CNC programming.
- Advised and represented an insurer in TCC litigation arising out of the malfunction of a computerised building management system.

Offshore Construction & Marine Engineering

- Represented the owner in a dispute regarding a £500 million specialist vessel constructed in Korea.
- Represented the owner in an arbitration concerning design defects in a high-speed passenger ferry.

Reported Cases

- Advance JV v Enisca Limited [2022] EWHC 1152 (TCC)
- Essex County Council v UBB Waste (Essex) Limited [2020] EWHC 1581 (TCC)
- ABC Electrification Ltd v Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd [2020] EWCA CIV 1645
- Cambridgeshire County Council v BAM Nuttall Limited [2022] EWHC 275 (TCC)
- Standard Life Assurance Limited v Gleeds [2021] EWHC 2081 (TCC)
- Mailbox (Birmingham) Ltd v Galliford Try Building Ltd [2017] EWHC 1405 (TCC)
- Paice v Harding (t/a MJ Harding Contractors) [2015] EWHC 661 (TCC); BLR 345
- Greenwich Millennium Village v Essex Services Group and Others [2014] EWHC 1099 (TCC), [2014] TCLR 4, [2013] 3059 (TCC), 151 Con LR 1
- Lanes Group PLC v Galliford Try Infrastructure Limited EWHC 1035 (TCC), 1234 and 1679 (TCC), [2011] BLR 438
- Linklaters Business Services v McAlpine Ltd & Ors EWHC 2931, 133 Con LR 211
- Forest Heath District Council v ISG Jackson Ltd EWHC 322 (TCC)

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- Tai Ping Carpets UK Ltd v Arora Heathrow T5 Ltd EWHC 2305 (TCC), [2009] 127 Con LR 43, [2009] BLR 601
- Westwood Structural Services Ltd v Blyth Wood Park Management Company Ltd EWHC 3138 (TCC), [2009] CILL 2666
- PT Building Services Ltd v ROK Build Ltd EWHC 3434
- Benfield Construction Ltd v Trudson (Hatton) Ltd [2008] EWHC 2333 (TCC)
- Balfour Beatty Construction Northern Ltd v Modus Corovest (Blackpool) Ltd BLM Vol.26 No.1 TCC, [2008] EWHC 3029 (TCC), [2009] CILL 2660
- Felton Construction v. Liverpool City Council EWHC 3049 (TCC)
- British Airways v. Apogee Enterprises [2007] EWHC 93 (TCC)
- Gray and Sons Builders (Bedford) Ltd v Essential Box Company Ltd All ER (D) 285 TCC, [2006] EWHC 2520 (TCC), 108 Con LR 49, [2006] CILL 2395
- S&W Process Engineering Ltd v Cauldron Foods Ltd All ER (D) 205 TCC
- Mowlem plc v Stena Line Ports Ltd CILL 2198 TCC
- Legg v Carver v Lovell Projects BLR 452
- Lovell Projects Ltd v Legg and Carver 89 BLR 452 TCC
- Guardi Shoes Ltd v Datum Contracts CILL 1934 Companies Court
- All-in-One Design Limited v Motcomb Estates Limited Times Law Reports 4th April
- Ahmad Ali-Naimi v Islamic Press Agency Incorporated CILL 1443 in the High Court (Official Referee) and [2000] BLR 150 in the Court of Appeal

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- Public Access Training, 2007
- TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator
- Keating Chambers, 1994
- Pupillage, Keating Chambers, 1993-94
- Called to the Bar (Inner Temple), 1993
- Treasurer’s Prize and Jardine Studentship, Inner Temple, 1993

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- (for highest Bar Finals mark in Inner Temple)
- Inns of Court School of Law (Overall Grade – Outstanding), 1992-93
- Ashworth Scholar, Inner Temple, 1992
- Bachelor of Laws, University of Bristol, 1992

Additional Information

Piers is a keen cyclist and participates in races in the UK and occasionally on the continent. He also enjoys travel, theatre and music.

Memberships

- Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)
- Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
- Society of Construction Law
- Society for Computers and Law

Seminars & Publications

- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts, Ninth Edition (2012)
- Contributor, Keating on NEC3

Recommendations

“Piers is first-rate. Clients trust him implicitly. His advice is user-friendly and clear. He works seamlessly with us as part of a team, bringing real insight and clarity. His arguments are terrifyingly clear, concise and persuasive.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Piers is very clever, considerate, strategic, and a good draftsman. Piers is very clear-thinking and helpful.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

“Piers’ analytical and legal skills are first class. His written work is excellent — he presents issues in a way that makes it easy for the decision maker to find in your favour.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2026

"Piers's insight and intellect are second to none. He prepares meticulously and then makes the presentation of arguments look effortless."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Piers Stansfield provides astute advice on technical interpretations and how they are to be applied to the wider strategic approach to preserving and promoting the client's interests."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

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"He provides really carefully thought-out drafting."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Piers Stansfield is extremely intelligent."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Piers is incredibly bright. He discards the noise and gets to what matters. Written work of the highest standard. A fantastic crosser and a measured but extremely powerful interrogator. Top advocacy."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

'Piers has the calmness of a Jedi master. He is utterly unflappable, no matter the circumstances. Brilliant service, brilliant expertise and brilliant commerciality from a brilliant advocate.'

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2024

'Piers provides excellent input, comprehensive thinking and strong drafting skills.'

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2024

"He has a gentle manner but is very persuasive within a court, with his advocacy being well pitched and well received by judges."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2022

"Ultra-reliable with very sound judgment. He has the ear of the court and is very experienced. Painstaking prepared, and a good listener."

Construction, Legal 500 2022

"Provides the ideal balance between technical knowledge and effective advocacy in the TCC."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2021

"Piers approaches every case methodically and always knows the legal, factual and technical details inside out. He is also cool, calm and persuasive on his feet. He is a great QC to have on your side."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2020

"A tower of strength, methodical and cool."

Construction, Legal 500 2020

"Highly refined and very reliable as an advocate. He produces high-quality written output and is a tremendous cross-examiner."

Construction, Chambers & Partners 2019 (UK)

"Piers really gets into the details of a case, understands the technical complexities and applies flawless logic and first-rate legal analysis."

Construction, Legal 500 2018

"Gets stuck into the legal, factual and technical details of a case. He has a calm demeanour and advises with a quiet confidence."

Construction, Chambers & Partners 2018 (UK)

"He's very meticulous and his clarity of thought and writing are phenomenal. He thinks about things very deeply and his output is always excellent."

Construction, Chambers & Partners 2018 (UK)