Alice Sims



Call: **2004**

"Alice is an excellent advocate. She is articulate and likable, and highly persuasive in her approach to cross-examination. She immediately wins favor with the tribunal. She has a deep knowledge of construction law. Her technical skills are excellent and her commercial acumen is second to none."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

Clerk Details

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Practice Overview

Alice is a leading senior junior specialising in construction, insurance, engineering, energy, infrastructure and utilities. Her practice focuses on high-value, and often multi-party disputes, that are factually, technically and legally complex. She is regularly instructed against Silks and is in demand for her persuasive advocacy and commercial acumen. She balances an air of authority with a down-to-earth approach. Alice also gets stuck into the technical detail of a case and is a fearless cross examiner. Clients praise her for being accessible, practical and commercial.

She is ranked in the Legal 500, Chambers & Partners UK Guide and the Chambers & Partners Global Guide. She is described in the directories as *“a great mind”, “forthright and very precise”, a “whizz on cladding”, “meticulous and patient”*, and *“bring[ing]*

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an air of common sense".

Alice has a wealth of experience in cladding cases. She has been instructed in the Grenfell Litigation and has advised on the Government's White Paper concerning proposed changes to the Building Safety Act. In the past 24 months she has been instructed in over 10 multi-million-pound cladding disputes for parties at all levels of the contractual chain including insurers, architects, D&B contractors, owners and cladding consultants. She is familiar with all of the technical issues concerning fire safety arising out of the Building Regulations, ADB and the Building Safety Act and has a number of cases concerning Remediation Orders, Remediation Contribution Orders and Building Liability Orders, including those with a cross-jurisdictional element. She is a former FTT and Upper Tribunal Judge and so has a deep understanding of the procedure and advocacy style required in tribunals.

She also has particular expertise in energy-related disputes (both onshore and offshore) and has acted for clients in a wide range of litigation concerning ships, renewables, nuclear, oil and gas projects. She also regularly acts in cases relating to the sale and supply of chemicals and the construction of chemical processing plants. She is familiar with all of the major standard forms and standard terms of appointment including NEC, JCT, RIBA, LOGIC, RICS, FIDIC, ICC, ICE and IChemE, and has a wealth of experience of PFI projects.

Alice divides her practice between TCC litigation and arbitrations (both domestic and international). She is familiar with all of the main arbitration rules (ICC, CIArb, LCIA, SIAC, UNCITRAL). She also acts as an arbitrator and has a number of current appointments. She successfully completed the CIArb Accelerated Route to Fellowship in 2023.

Alice is a CEDR trained and incredibly popular mediator. She has an outstanding success rate of settling cases, whether as sole or co-mediator, which clients attribute to her calm but commercial focus. She has conducted in excess of 35 mediations since completing her CEDR training and has an outstanding success rate of over 95%. She most commonly mediates construction disputes (including multi-party disputes) but has also successfully resolved cases involving planning issues, nuisance, lettings and partnership agreements.

Alice has held judicial appointments since 2013 and currently sits as Recorder in the Crown Court. She has sat for more than 580 days and has written hundreds of judgments so she brings extensive judicial experience to her work as a barrister, mediator and arbitrator, both in terms of managing complex hearings but also writing directions.

For mediation enquiries, please contact the ADR Practice Manager Oliver Goldsmith.

Practice Areas

Construction, Engineering & Professional Negligence

- Junior counsel for a defendant in a multi-million-pound case concerning Remediation Orders and Contribution orders.
- Sole counsel for an insurer claimant in a fire safety case concerning BLOs, claims against indemnifiers and claims against the insurers of a company in administration.

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- Sole counsel in a multi-million pound claim for a company involved in F1 concerning fluctuating steel prices as a consequence of the war in Ukraine.
- Junior counsel for the architect defending a case worth more than £40m in relation to a multi-party cladding dispute (involving BLOs, including against foreign defendants) in a mixed-use commercial development in London Listed for an 8-week trial in 2025.
- Junior counsel for the Employer in a multi-party dispute concerning a high profile, multi-million pound, multi-party dispute about the cladding on a high-profile building in the South of England.
- Junior counsel for the NHBC in numerous multi-party, multi-million pound cladding disputes
- Counsel for a specialist tunnelling contractor in relation to various contractual disputes with a number of employers on the HS2 project.
- Sole counsel for a specialist roofing contractor in a claim relating to the design and construction of a psychiatric hospital worth over £5m. Listed for a 4-week trial in 2025.
- Sole counsel for a concrete flooring designer in a multi-million pound dispute relating to a manufacturing facility.
- Sole counsel for a firm of engineers in relation to a multi-million pound claim arising out of the design of a heating system in a landmark building in London.

Energy & Utilities

- Sole counsel for the owner of a power station in a Part 8 claim concerning a contractual dispute with a supplier.
- Junior counsel for Alstom Power in a multi-million pound dispute concerning a chemical processing plant.
- Junior counsel for a leading manufacturer of petro-chemicals in connection with a multi-million pound dispute against a specialist designer of chemical processing plants.
- Advisory work for a main contractor in relation to a dispute arising under an NEC contract and concerning the construction of treatment works within a nuclear power plant.

Arbitration

- Junior counsel in a multi-million pound final account dispute between a Council and a contractor carrying out housing repairs. 4-week trial listed in 2025.
- Sole counsel for the insurers in a multi-million pound cladding dispute about a mixed-use building in the South-West of England.
- Junior counsel for the employer in a multi-million pound ICC international arbitration concerning a high- profile development in downtown Moscow.
- Sole counsel for a sub-contractor in an international arbitration concerning a commercial dispute about oil and gas separation plants in Libya.
- Sole counsel for the main contractor of a hydropower project in Kenya in relation to a multi-million dollar arbitration.

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- Junior counsel for the main contractor in a multi-million-pound ICC international arbitration concerning a large offshore wind farm.

IT & Technology

- Advisory work for a major supplier of internet services to the NHS Ambulance service.
- Junior counsel in a dispute concerning the functioning of bespoke servers in a leading mobile network provider's main UK call centre.
- Sole counsel for a leading telecommunications supplier in claims relating to the laying of telephone cables and the installation of telegraph poles.

Offshore Construction & Marine Engineering

- Sole counsel for the contractor in relation to disputes arising out of a £200m contract relating to river flood defences.
- Sole counsel for an international energy company relating to a dispute about one of the largest umbilical cable carousels in the UK.
- Junior counsel for a main contractor in a multi-million pound TCC dispute about the construction of a soft yoke mooring platform in Russia.
- Acting for the Defendant in connection with an alleged commercial fraud concerning the purchase of an oil platform in Brazil.

Recent Appointments

- Sole arbitrator in an ad hoc domestic arbitration concerning the construction of a new-build property
- Co-arbitrator in an international arbitration under the ICC rules concerning the sale and supply of goods in Malaysia
- Co-mediator with Rosemary Jackson QC in a multi-million pound, multi-party cladding dispute
- Mediator in a dispute concerning the trespass of gas flues in a housing association property into the air space above a commercial premises, preventing its upward development.
- Mediator in a multi-million-pound residential dispute concerning alleged architect's negligence.
- Mediator in a dispute between hundreds of residents and a housing association concerning planned construction and refurbishment of a London housing development.
- Adjudicator in a contractual dispute at a commercial development between an Employer and an architect.
- Adjudicator in a final account dispute.

Reported Cases

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- Wallace Estates Limited v Durkan Estates Limited [2026] EWHC 2133 (TCC)
- Durkan Estates Ltd v Wallace Estates Ltd [2026] EWHC 2003 (TCC)

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- CIARB Accelerated Route to Fellowship, 2023
- CEDR Accredited Mediation Member, 2021
- London School of Mediation (Training in Conducting Online Mediations), 2021
- TECBAR Mediation Member, 2011
- London School of Mediation (full accredited course), 2011
- Tenancy, Keating Chambers, 2008
- Tenancy, 4 Pump Court, 2006
- Pupillage, 4 Pump Court, 2005
- Bar Vocation Course (Outstanding – 5th in year), ICSL 2004
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law (Very Competent), City, University of London 2003
- MA Social Anthropology (First Class – 5th in year), Cambridge University 2002

Additional Information

Alice is a keen scuba diver, horse rider, skier and cyclist. Alice loves travel, socialising and good food.

Appointments & Awards

- Recorder (Crime) S.E. Circuit (ticketed to hear serious sex cases), 2019
- Deputy Judge in the Upper Administrative Appeal Tribunal, 2018-2024
- Tribunal Judge in Mental Health (Restricted Panel Patients), 2018-2022
- Independent Member of the Parole Board, 2016-2021
- Legally Qualified Chair Police Misconduct Tribunals, 2014-2024
- Tribunal Judge in Social Security and Child Support, 2013-2021

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- Scholarship from the South Eastern Circuit to attend an advocacy course run by the Florida Bar Association, 2009
- Internship Award, Inner Temple, 2004
- Everard Ver Heyden Scholar, ICSL, 2004
- Princess Royal Scholarship, Inner Temple, 2003
- Exhibition Award, Inner Temple, 2002
- Dame Rosemary Murray Scholar, Cambridge University, 2001
- Cambridge Commonwealth Scholarship, Cambridge University, 2000

Memberships

- TECBAR (Alice is a current committee member with joint responsibility for the TCC users-committee)
- SCL
- COMBAR
- The South Eastern Circuit

Seminars & Publications

- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts (current and previous Editions). Alice co-authors the “ADR” chapter.
- Contributor, The Construction Law Reports (monthly publication).

Recommendations

“Alice Sims is very detailed but also provides a clear and determined strategy.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“An excellent all-rounder – she is very responsive and hard-working.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Her advocacy is impressive. She has brilliant technical skills and offers valuable strategic insight that others may have overlooked. She is highly approachable and generous with her time, making her a trusted and valued adviser for complex matters.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“I can let Alice run with a case. She has the experience and is very good at seeing a case how a judge would see it. She is good on the strategic side, how you might negotiate and other parties’ approaches.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“She is excellent in cross-examination during trial and very adept at extracting important information from witnesses.”

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Alice is the best mediator I have worked with. She works very hard, she asks the right questions, and she gets the deal done.”

Mediators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

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“She’s great. She really understands what parties need.”

Mediators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

“Alice is an excellent advocate. She is articulate and likable, and highly persuasive in her approach to cross-examination. She immediately wins favor with the tribunal. She has a deep knowledge of construction law. Her technical skills are excellent and her commercial acumen is second to none.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

“Alice's advocacy skills are excellent. She is extremely well articulated, concise and clear. She is a formidable advocate who easily deals with aggressive opponents.”

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2026

"Alice is a great junior to work with. She's sharp, not afraid to roll up her sleeves and great with clients."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Alice is brilliant and one of the best barristers I have ever worked with. She is exceedingly smart and has excellent advocacy skills."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"She is also very personable and great with clients."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Alice Sims is a great mind."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"She cuts through issues easily to get to what is important."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Alice's drafting is clear and persuasive, and her strategic advice perceptive."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"She brings an air of common sense and she has the client's interests in mind."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Alice has a very good depth of experience, thanks to her work as a judge sitting on various tribunals in various specialist fields, and always brings a good and fresh insight to the case."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"Alice is meticulous, patient, and willing to assist the parties in overcoming deadlocks when they arise."

Mediators, Legal 500 UK Bar 2024

"Alice is incredibly user-friendly, pragmatic, and a pleasure to work with. She immediately grasped the client’s commercial objectives and put forward strategies to achieve them."

Construction, Legal 500 UK Bar 2024

"A strong and thorough drafter."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2024

"She is a bit of a whizz on cladding, very bright and very user-friendly."

Construction, Chambers UK 2023

"Extremely efficient and direct."

Construction, Chambers UK 2019

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"Forthright and very precise in her approach, she develops relationships with others on the case really well."

Construction, Chambers UK 2018

"She deals well with extremely difficult clients... very efficient."

Construction, Chambers UK 2016

"Her ability to distil complex technical details into concise pleadings when under high levels of pressure is very impressive."

Construction, Chambers Global 2016
