

Matthew Finn

Call: 2011

"Matthew is one of the best all-round juniors on the market for big-ticket construction cases."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2025



Clerk Details

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Practice Overview

Matthew Finn is a commercial barrister specialising in high-value, complex, and often highly technical, commercial disputes. His practice encompasses disputes in the construction and energy sectors and a wide range of other commercial disputes, including claims of civil fraud, and disputes concerning the sale of goods, shipping, and aviation.

Matthew regularly acts for clients in the High Court, the Court of Appeal, and in the Supreme Court, as well as in major international arbitrations and in adjudications (contractual and statutory).

Client Testimonials

"Matthew is one of the best all-round juniors on the market for big-ticket construction cases." (Legal 500, 2025)

"A great adviser and a really impressive advocate. He is an unbelievably persuasive orator." (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

"Matt is a pleasure to work with, provides excellent insight on strategy and has an impressive manner with clients." (Chambers & Partners, 2024)

"Incredibly hard-working and user-friendly. A go-to senior junior for high-value, complex cases." (Legal 500 UK 2024)

"Very bright, comprehensive, and tactically very good. He has the ability to distil complex legal matters down into common-sense advice" (Legal 500 UK 2023)

"He produces precise and efficient pleadings that are very hard for the opposition to knock back." (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

"He is clear and concise in his advice ... he operates really well under pressure." (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

"An excellent junior with a keen eye for detail, Matthew delivers crisp submissions which cut through complex arguments." (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

"He is an excellent junior who punches above his weight. He is very responsive and provides clear and considered advice." (Chambers & Partners, 2023)

"Extremely intelligent, with mature judgement. He is accessible and very articulate." (Legal 500, 2022)

Ongoing and Recent Matters

Matthew is presently acting in, or has recently acted in, the following matters:

- Sole Counsel in a \$100m dispute relating to the renovation of a Ukrainian nuclear power plant (ICC arbitration)
- For the claimants in a \$1 billion dispute relating to the construction of a coal-fired power station in South Africa (ICC arbitration)
- With Veronique Buehrlen KC in a \$250m sale of goods dispute, relating to an oil and gas field offshore Ghana (Commercial Court)
- Sole Counsel in a conflict of laws dispute regarding the misappropriation of funds by a Spanish company operating in Norway and Monaco
- With David Thomas KC and Calum Lamont KC in a £200m infrastructure dispute involving a UK governmental body (serial adjudications and arbitrations)
- Sole Counsel in a sports law dispute in a claim relating to unpaid agency fees arising from the transfer of a well-known footballer
- With Robert-Jan Temmink KC in a £170m civil fraud claim against US and Finnish companies relating to a state of the art energy plant (High Court, London)
- For the claimants in a £100m civil fraud dispute relating to a PFI contract (High Court, London)
- For the claimants in a \$80m dispute concerned with the construction of an underground metro system (ICC arbitration)
- Sole Counsel in respect of two linked disputes worth \$10m, relating to the construction of a casino in Macau (LCIA arbitration)
- Sole Counsel, in a £5m corporate finance dispute relating to the return of IPO investment funds (Commercial Court)
- Acting with Alexander Nissen KC in a dispute concerned with the proper interpretation of the Construction Act (Court of Appeal)

- Acting with Lord Banner KC in a planning dispute (Supreme Court)

Reported Cases

- MW High Tech Projects UK Limited v Outotec (USA) Inc Metso OYJ [2023] EWHC 2885 (TCC)
- Hillside Parks Ltd v Snowdonia National Park Authority [2022] UKSC 30 [2022] UKSC 30
- Clin v Walter Lilly & Co. Ltd [2021] EWCA Civ 136
- C Spencer Limited v MW High Tech Projects UK Limited [2019] EWHC 2547 (TCC)
- ICE Architects LTD ("ICE") v Empowering People Inspiring Communities ("EPIC") [2018] EWHC 281 (QB)
- Gary Kitt and EC Harris v The Laundry Building Ltd and Etcetera Construction Services Ltd [2014] EWHC 4250 (TCC)
- NATS (Services) Limited v Gatwick Airport Limited [2014] EWHC 3728 (TCC)

Other information

Education & Professional Career

Professional Training

- Bar Professional Training Course – Distinction.
- Oxford University - Keble Advanced International Advocacy Course.

Academic Qualifications

- Cambridge University (St Catharine's College), MA Cantab 1st Class:
 - History, with year at Judge Business School.
 - Placed 3rd out of cohort of 100.

Additional Information

Matthew is a keen sportsman, and regularly plays football, tennis and golf, in that order of ability.

Practitioner's Texts

Matthew contributes to the following practitioner's texts:

- Keating on Construction Contracts
- Keating on JCT

Scholarships & Prizes

- Lincoln's Inn:
 - Lord Denning Scholar
 - Hardwicke Scholar
- Cambridge University:
 - Arthur Andersen Prize
 - Gooderson Scholar
 - Thomas Hobbes Scholar
- Essay prizes:
 - Jane Lemon Essay
 - Jonathan Brock Memorial Essay

Recommendations

"He is always available, well prepared and on top of the detail."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Matthew Finn is hugely industrious."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Matthew is very responsive and able to get to grips with complex details in no time at all."

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"He is an excellent junior who punches above his weight. He is very responsive and provides clear and considered advice."

Construction, Chambers & Partners 2022

"He is very personable and gets to the issues quickly."

Construction, Chambers & Partners 2022

"Extremely intelligent, with mature judgement. He is accessible and very articulate."

Legal 500 2022

"Matthew is astute, quick to respond and able to deal with the fundamental issues directly, concisely and persuasively."

Legal 500 2021
