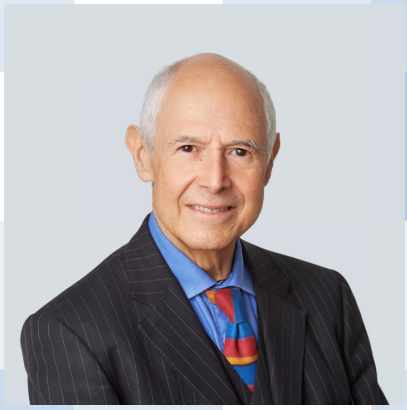
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Dr Robert Gaitskell KC



Call: **1978** Silk: **1994**

"A thorough master of the subject and at the top of the list for construction arbitration."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

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Practice Overview

Dr Robert Gaitskell KC practises from Keating Chambers, specialising in technology, engineering and construction disputes, often of an international nature. He was called to the Bar in 1978, appointed Queen's Counsel in 1994 and sat as a Recorder (part-time judge) from 2000 – 2010. Robert Gaitskell predominantly acts as an arbitrator, adjudicator, dispute board member and mediator. He is both a lawyer and a professional engineer. He is the editor of 'Keating Construction Dispute Resolution Handbook' (3rd edition 2016); and a former Vice President of the IEE/ IET (Europe's biggest professional engineering institution). He is a member of the Singapore National Electricity Market Dispute Resolution & Compensation Panel. Dr Gaitskell has recently been the chairman of a dispute board for a Euro 20 billion nuclear energy project. He writes extensively and lectures throughout the world on legal/engineering subjects, including at CERN in Geneva and Xerox PARC in Silicon Valley.

Current Activities

Dr Gaitskell is currently (or until recently has been) acting as chairman or member of various ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, SIAC, ACICA, AICA/KLRCA, EDF, DIAC, ICDR/AAA, Dubai RTA and other arbitral tribunals, dealing with matters such as oil and gas installations and pipelines, power stations, renewable energy installations, petro-chemical works, and other complex and high-value engineering and process projects. As examples, he is presently involved in, amongst other arbitrations, a major S.E. Asian oil refinery dispute, a dispute concerning a Central American shipping canal, a Middle Eastern infrastructure dispute, an African rail dispute, a Dubai construction dispute, a Korean infrastructure arbitration, and a Qatari utilities dispute. He has recently been the sole arbitrator for a major railway dispute. He was the expert determinator for an Omani power station. He has

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recently mediated a Singaporean hi-tech dispute and chaired a tribunal dealing with energy pricing in S.E. Asia. He has also advised on a dispute concerning a Russian floating nuclear power facility. He was recently a co-arbitrator on an ICC panel dealing with a dispute concerning a sub-sea gas pipeline bringing energy supplies from Russia to Europe. He recently conducted an African mining arbitration and chaired a dispute panel dealing with defence projects in the UK. He advised the Corporation of London on a major structural project and represented the Isle of Man Government in the Privy Council in an infrastructure project.

In addition to his practice at the Bar, Robert Gaitskell is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and is a former Senator of the Engineering Council. He is also a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Robert Gaitskell's wide experience as an engineer, both in the UK and abroad, has included power generation, transmission, distribution and application, motor control and oil rig design.

Robert Gaitskell has lectured on the University of London (King's College and Queen Mary's) LLMs in International Arbitration, dealing with infrastructure arbitrations. Chambers & Partners' directory consistently recommends him as a leading international arbitrator.

He also regularly carries out expert determinations involving complex engineering disputes. He is Chairman of the IET/IMechE Joint Committee on Model Forms, which produces the MF/1-4 suite of contracts used for major electro-mechanical projects worldwide. His doctorate from King's College London concerned standard form engineering contracts. He is a Bencher of Gray's Inn and a former member of the Council of the Inns of Court (COIC) Tribunals Appointment Body. Robert has recently been appointed to the panel of mediators for the Japan International Mediation Centre in Kyoto (JIMC-Kyoto).

Practice Areas

Arbitration

- Dr Gaitskell has conducted over 200 arbitrations, throughout the world. He regularly lectures on the subject, including for the ICC, SIMC, CIArb etc.
- Party Nominated Arbitrator in an ICDR Arbitration under AAA Rules regarding an oil rig (Seat in Houston). Robert Gaitskell is on the AAA Roster of Arbitrators.
- ICC arbitrations regarding disputes arising out of the construction of the Panama Canal (seat Miami).
- Member of arbitration tribunals dealing with inter alia, disputes concerning an under-sea fibre-optic cable, an Indian housing project, an Iraqi power station, and a Russian oil and gas project.
- Chairman of ICC arbitration tribunals hearing, amongst other things, multi-million pound disputes concerning offshore oil exploration, a Ukrainian infrastructure project and a US military facility.
- Sole arbitrator dealing with an Omani power station, a Caribbean hospital, a Middle East commercial building, an infrastructure project in the D.R of the Congo, a gas engineering plant and a Hong Kong public works project.

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Adjudication

- Acted as adjudicator on over 50 major disputes relating to engineering, energy and infrastructure disputes. He is the named adjudicator in various Channel Tunnel Rail Link contracts, and has conducted a number of adjudications on this project.
- Regularly appointed by the President of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IEE/IET) in respect of electrical and mechanical engineering disputes and by CEDR on domestic and international adjudications.
- Advised the construction industries in two foreign countries as regards the introduction of statutory adjudication, and lectures widely on the subject.

More detailed information is available on request.

Dispute Board Appointments

Dr Gaitskell has for a number of years, until recently, been the chairman of the European ITER nuclear fusion project Dispute Board. He is an experienced Dispute Board (DB) Chairman who lectures and writes upon the process. Robert Gaitskell gave an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Lecture on Dispute Boards at the launch of the ICC's DB Rules, and recently gave an ICC lecture on Dispute Boards. A paper by him on the subject is available on the Society of Construction Law website. He recently lectured at the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators on DBs.

Robert Gaitskell is also the Editor of the Keating Construction Dispute Resolution Handbook (3rd edition 2016), in which he deals with the DB procedure in international disputes.

His current and recent DRB appointments include:

- conducting a Dispute Board relating to the Caribbean oil industry;
- chairing two dispute boards concerning one of the world's largest power stations, based in Africa;
- acting as Dispute Review Board Chairman in respect of a World Bank funded telecommunications project in India;
- acting as Sole Member for a DB procedure concerning a defence installation project; and
- acting as Dispute Board Chairman in respect of two major (£0.5 billion each) construction projects involving the British MOD.

Mediation

Robert Gaitskell has carried out over 100 mediations in the commercial, construction, engineering and intellectual property sectors; many abroad including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Africa. He is one of the Bar Council's recommended experienced mediators at the Bar. He is recommended by 'The Legal 500' as a leading mediator. He has recently lectured in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and at the IBA conference on oil and gas mediations.

Expert Determinations

Recent appointments (drawing on Dr Gaitskell's status as a Chartered Engineer) concern a Zambian mine plant and a Middle East power station.

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Arbitration & Litigation (As Counsel)

- Advised a European contractor on claims regarding power station desulphurisation conversion.
- Advised a major Scottish engineering contractor on delay and loss and expense claim.
- Advised the Corporation of London on a multi-million pound professional negligence claim in a complex engineering project.
- Advised on the decommissioning of a major UK power station.
- Represented a foreign government in the Privy Council in a sewerage project dispute.
- Advised a foreign government on a major national library project.

Dr Gaitskell has worked in (amongst other places) the United States, Canada, Mexico, Denmark, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Mauritius, Switzerland, Belgium, Panama, France, New Zealand, Australia, Zimbabwe, Taiwan, Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Dubai, Oman and Abu Dhabi.

Reported Cases

- Mount Murray v Department of Transport UKPC 57
- Directory of Historic Key Reported Cases involving Members of Keating Chambers Various
- Costain Civil Engineering Ltd v Zanen Dredging and Contracting Ltd 85 BLR 77

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- Member of BICAM’s Panel of Arbitrators, 2023
- Mediation Panel, Japan International Mediation Centre in Kyoto, 2018
- Mediation Panel, Singapore International Mediation Centre, 2015
- Approved Mediator, Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration 2013
- Council of the Inns of Court Tribunals Appointments Body, 2012
- Approved Arbitrator, Engineers Ireland Panel of Arbitrators, 2011
- NEMS (Singapore National Electricity Market): member of Dispute Resolution & Compensation Panel. 2008
- Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, 2006

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- Approved Arbitrator, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, 2006
- CEDR Adjudicator Panel, 2006
- Member of the Dubai International Arbitration Centre, 2007
- Master of the Bench of Gray's Inn, 2003
- Recorder (part-time judge), 2000-2010
- CEDR Accredited Mediator, 1999
- Fellow of Institution of Mechanical Engineers (FIMechE), 1998
- PhD, King's College, University of London, 1998
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), 1995
- Queen's Counsel, 1994
- Fellow of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (FIEE/FIET), 1993
- Chartered Engineer, 1993
- Keating Chambers, 1979
- Called to the Bar (Gray's Inn), 1978
- S Africa and projects for North Sea oil rigs and the Thames Barrier, 1978
- Working as an electrical engineer in the UK, Zimbabwe, 1971
- BSc in Electrical Engineering, University of Cape Town, 1971

Additional Information

Dr Gaitskell is a Bencher of Gray's Inn. He was also a member of the Bar Council's Information Technology and Services Committee, and serves on various other professional committees. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers, and of the Company of Arbitrators and was a member of the Court of Assistants of the latter.

Memberships

- Chairman of the Joint IET/IMechE Committee on Model Forms (which produces the MF/1-4 suite of contracts)
- Heilbron Committee on Civil Procedure
- Technology and Construction Bar Association (Committee Member 1987-1993), (TECBAR)
- London Commercial & Common Law Bar Association (Committee Member 1987-2000)
- Singapore International Arbitration Centre 2006 (Fellow)
- CEDR Adjudication Panel
- SIMC Mediation Panel (top level)

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- Chair, The Academy of Experts' Fellowship Appointment Panel

Seminars & Publications

- Seminar – 'Winning in International Arbitration: the Arbitrators' Views', Eversheds Sutherland Global Construction and Engineering Practice Annual Conference, December 2018
- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts – 11th Edition 2021
- Webinar – "Mediation style", Dec 2014.
- Webinar – "The Nuclear Option: A guide to avoiding dispute meltdown", Dec 2014.
- Webinar – "Cost-Effective Construction Arbitration", Sep 2014.
- New forms of energy: Nuclear fusion – Dispute boards for the ITER project: OGEL 10th Volume Special Issue, March 2012.
- 'Trendsetters: Asia-Pacific Jurisdictions lead the way in Dispute Resolution,' Penn State University, 'Yearbook on Arbitration and Mediation', 2012.
- Trends: dispute resolution in the credit crunch: Construction Law International (IBA) Robert Gaitskell QC Vol.6, Issue 3, October 2011.
- Construction Dispute Resolution Handbook 2nd Edition Editor: Robert Gaitskell QC May 2011, Thomas Telford.
- Mediation in three dimensions, Construction Law Review 2010.
- Oil, Gas & Energy Disputes: Trends in Tough Times Robert Gaitskell QC 5 October 2009.
- Break It Up! At a time when disputes are becoming all too common it's vital to know how to manage them without destroying your company Robert Gaitskell QC 27th February 2009 Building Magazine.
- Legal Update columnist for Engineering Management Journal.
- Editorial team member for Construction Law Yearbook. Nos. 1 -3.
- Publication on MF/1 model form: Power Engineering Journal Dec 2001.
- Publication on "Technological literacy in China: The international role of professional engineering institutions", Cambridge Review of International Affairs Vol XIV No.1, 2001.
- Publication on engineering and scientific forensic experts, Engineering Management Journal Jan 2000.
- Publication on legal and other implications of information technology, Engineering Management Journal Feb 2000.

Robert Gaitskell has lectured to a wide variety of professional audiences including the Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (California), the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Society of Construction Law, the Engineering and Technology Board in Mauritius, the European Particle Physics Establishment in Geneva, the KLRCA in Malaysia, the SIMC and the IET in Singapore, and the New Zealand SCL. He has been visiting Lecturer at King's College and at Queen Mary's College, London.

Recommendations

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"Robert has very good analytical skills and a lot of experience in construction matters."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"Excellent arbitrator with a good technical understanding and always scrupulously fair."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

"Robert Gaitskell is a thorough master of the subject and at the top of the list for construction arbitration."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Robert is on top of people's lists when it comes to serious engineering arbitrations. He is very even tempered and patient."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Robert is a very good lawyer who has a very good appreciation for the technical details of complicated cases."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"Robert Gaitskell is very thorough in the analysis and understanding of the case and highly knowledgeable on construction and engineering issues. He is highly recommendable as an arbitrator."
International Arbitration, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2025

"Robert is very bright and has a good technical mind and working knowledge of the law. He has a good manner in arbitration, with witnesses as well as clients."
International Arbitration, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2025

"He is very thorough in the analysis and understanding of a case and highly knowledgeable on construction and engineering issues."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"I wouldn't hesitate to recommend him for difficult construction disputes."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Robert Gaitskell is an exceptional practitioner."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"He's highly proficient in all aspects of construction and a delight to work with."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Robert is up there as one of the pre-eminent construction arbitrators in the world."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Robert is one of the elite construction arbitrators, and highly in demand. Vast experience and is hard working. Dual qualification as a lawyer and engineer stands him in good stead."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2025

"Robert Gaitskell has enormous experience in the construction arbitration field."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

'Robert Gaitskell is informed and hard-working.'
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2024

'He is extremely diligent, well prepared and a delightful person.'
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2024

‘A pre-eminent arbitrator of construction disputes. He is extremely collegiate to work with and has a very pleasant manner with the parties and witnesses – impeccably polite. He provides very thoughtful input on the issues especially through his questions

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which always seem to raise really important points for clarification. An excellent arbitrator.'

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2024

"He is extremely able and extremely hard-working."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2022

Robert is extremely conversant with construction and infrastructure. He is on top of the materials and he is one of the premier construction arbitrators in the world."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2022

"One of the most sought-after arbitrators in the biggest construction and energy cases. Highly experienced, patient and efficient. His qualification as an engineer is very useful. "

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2022

"A highly experienced arbitrator who is pragmatic, efficient and diligent - an excellent choice as chair for a complicated construction dispute."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2021

"A go-to arbitrator when it comes to a technical matter and to really dig into an engineering and construction dispute."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2021

"An outstanding arbitrator in his specialist field."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2021

"Hugely knowledgeable in the construction sector and an absolute pleasure to work with."

Construction, Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021

"An outstanding and pre-eminent arbitrator with the huge advantage of an engineering as well as a legal background."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2020

"Outstanding. His background in engineering is a significant asset."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2020

Robert Gaitskell QC is a highly distinguished barrister in the field. He is a favourite among clients and peers, who “have no hesitation endorsing him”, and laud him as “undoubtedly one of the top construction arbitrators, with enormous experience” , further noting him as “unflappable and efficient”.

Who's Who Legal 2019: Global Construction

Robert Gaitskell QC is “an excellent arbitrator” who acts in a broad range of international arbitration tribunals, working in high-value cross-border proceedings.

Who's Who Legal 2019: UK Bar Construction

"One of the premier construction arbitrators in the world: very experienced, efficient, patient and fair."

Construction, Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2019

"A superbly experienced arbitrator."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2019

"Without doubt one of the most sought after and experienced construction arbitrators."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2018

"He is an outstanding arbitrator in the field of construction with his temperament, his specialist knowledge and his expertise in engineering."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2018

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"He is without doubt one of the premier construction arbitrators in the world."

Construction, Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2017

"He is experienced, efficient, a delight to work with and has superb technical knowledge."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2017