+44 (0)20 7544 2600
clerks@keatingchambers.com

John Marrin KC



Call: **1974** Silk: **1990**

"John Marrin is absolutely charming as an arbitrator, with decades of experience."
"John Marrin is one of the doyennes. He is everything they say he is: very clever, writes beautifully and is so thoughtful."
Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

Clerk Details

Oliver Goldsmith
T: +44 (0)20 7544 2701
ogoldsmith@keatingchambers.com

Elaine Weaver
T: +44 (0)20 7544 2672
eweaver@keatingchambers.com

Practice Overview

John Marrin KC specialises in construction, engineering and energy-related disputes. His experience also extends to various other technical fields such as computer software, rail and supply disputes in the oil and gas sector. John Marrin was named Senior Arbitrator of the Year at the 2026 Legal 500 UK Bar Awards.

John Marrin has practised from Keating Chambers for over 35 years. He served as Head of Chambers from 2005 to 2010. Until 2017, he represented a wide variety of clients in the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the House of Lords and the Supreme Court in England and before various other domestic and international tribunals.

He is a former Recorder of the Crown Court and a former Deputy High Court Judge, sitting both in the Queen's Bench Division and in the Technology and Construction Court. He is a Chartered Arbitrator and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and he is named on various arbitration panels internationally. John Marrin has long experience of acting as an adjudicator and as a mediator. He is a TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator and a CEDR Accredited Mediator.

John Marrin now practises primarily as an Arbitrator.

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Practice Areas

Arbitration

Appointed to chair arbitration tribunals:

- In ad hoc proceedings concerning a biomass power plant in Northern Ireland.
- By the ICC as the Presiding Arbitrator in a dispute concerning delay to and the termination of construction works in the Middle East.
- By the ICC as the Presiding Arbitrator in a dispute over delay to construction works in Kuwait.
- By the parties as the Presiding Arbitrator in a dispute concerning welding and defects to power station components in South Africa.
- As the Presiding Arbitrator in UNCITRAL proceedings relating to electricity pricing in Saudi Arabia.
- In ad hoc proceedings concerning an LNG plant in Oman.
- In ad hoc proceedings relating to the construction of a shopping mall in Dubai.
- In ad hoc proceedings concerning failures in the piled foundations of an office block in Singapore.
- In a dispute under UNCITRAL rules relating to the upgrade of steam turbines at a power plant in Estonia.
- By the ICC in proceedings concerning the construction of a water and power plant in Oman.
- By the DIAC in proceedings concerning a major earthworks contract in Dubai.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to the construction of a hotel in Tajikistan.
- By the ICC in proceedings concerning the refurbishment of a power plant in Trinidad.
- In two disputes governed by the Indian Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1996 relating to the refurbishment of steam turbines at a power plant in Uttar Pradesh.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to a contract for operation and maintenance services for a gold mine in the Republic of Guinea.
- By the DIAC in proceedings concerning a new office block in Dubai.
- By the ICC in a dispute relating to the refurbishment of steam turbines at a power plant in the Philippines.
- By the ICC in a dispute concerning the termination of a contract for cladding works in Saudi Arabia.
- By the HKIAC in a dispute relating to the termination of a contract for the supply of wafers for use in solar panels.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to the construction of three power plants in Saudi Arabia.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to the construction of an explosives factory in Western Australia.

Appointed as a party-nominated Arbitrator:

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- By the LCIA in proceedings concerning maritime construction works in Saudi Arabian water.
- By the ICC in proceedings concerning the supply of solar panel components to Ukraine.
- By the ICC in proceedings concerning the construction of a loading dock in British Columbia.
- Appointed as a Co-arbitrator in LCIA proceedings concerning the termination of construction works in Abu Dhabi.
- Appointed as a Co-arbitrator in LCIA proceedings relating to the termination of a software contract in the Middle East.
- Appointed by the ICC as a Co-arbitrator in proceedings concerning the termination of works to three biofuel power stations in the UK.
- In ad hoc proceedings relating to a major hydro-electric power project in Pakistan.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to a new industrial plant installation in Jordan.
- By the LCIA in proceedings relating to the construction, operation and management of a waste disposal plant in the South of England.
- In ad hoc proceedings relating to welding defects discovered in a major refinery in Kazakhstan.
- In ICC proceedings concerning the termination of a contract for the construction of office premises in Moscow.
- In ad hoc proceedings relating to the termination of a major Government software contract.
- In DIAC proceedings relating to the construction of a new airport terminal in Dubai.
- By the LCIA in a dispute relating to turbine foundations at a wind farm in the North Sea.
- By the ICC in tri-partite proceedings relating to the termination of a gas-supply contract in the Middle East.
- In ad hoc proceedings relating to the construction of a new power plant in India.
- In ICC proceedings relating to the construction of a new airport terminal in Oman.
- By the ICC in a dispute relating to the construction of a container terminal in the Middle East.
- By the ICC in proceedings concerning the construction of a water and power plant in Bahrain.
- By the LCIA in relation to a dispute concerning oil liftings in the North Sea.
- In ICC proceedings relating to the construction of a new airport in Qatar.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to the construction of infrastructure facilities for a new city in Qatar.
- By the ICC in proceedings concerning welding defects in the components of a gas fired power plant.
- In SIAC proceedings relating to the supply and construction of steel structures and mechanical plant for the handling of iron ore in North West Australia.
- By the LMAA in proceedings concerning the construction and sale of four semi-rigs for use in the North Sea.
- In ad hoc proceedings concerning the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant in Eastern Europe.
- In HKIAC proceedings concerning the design of a water park in Hong Kong.

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- By the ICC in proceedings concerning the quality of materials used in the construction of various commercial aircraft.
- By the ICC in proceedings relating to the termination of a contract for the construction of a metropolitan railway installation in the Middle East.

Arbitrator appointed as a sole Arbitrator:

- In ad hoc proceedings concerning the failure of piled foundations of two residential blocks in Hong Kong.
- By the HKIAC in proceedings relating to the construction of a public housing estate in Hong Kong.
- In ad hoc proceedings concerning the installation of a new communications system throughout the London Underground.
- In RIDR proceedings relating to the charges recoverable by a rail franchise company.
- By the ICC in a dispute between joint venture parties relating to a project in Romania.
- By the Dubai International Arbitration Centre (“the DIAC”) in a dispute relating to the construction of car parking facilities.
- By the SIAC in a dispute relating to a fire at an amusement park.
- By the ICC in a dispute relating to multiple civil engineering works contracts in Ghana.
- By the Institution of Civil Engineers in relation to an earthworks contract in the UK.
- In ICC proceedings concerning defects in plants installed in connection with the decontamination of a uranium mining site in Northern Australia.
- In tri-partite SIAC proceedings concerning the termination of a contract for the construction of an ethanol plant, a power plant and a sewerage treatment plant in the Philippines.
- In ad hoc proceedings concerning the construction of residential premises in Hong Kong.

Adjudicator

- Dispute relating to the quality of maintenance services of a hospital under PFI contract.
- Five separate disputes relating to rail construction works.
- Dispute between an SPV and an NHS Trust relating to management services to be provided under PFI contract.

Mediation

- Dispute relating to a football stadium.
- Dispute relating to the construction of two drilling platforms.
- Dispute relating to the sale of a private jet.

Reported Cases

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- MT Hojgaard A/S (Respondent) v E.ON Climate and Renewables UK Robin Rigg East Ltd and another (Appellants) [2017] UKSC 59 BLR 477
- MT Hojgaard v EON Climate and Renewables and another [2014] BLR 450, [2014] EWHC 1088 (TCC)
- Lanes Group Plc v Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd (t/a Galliford Try Rail) EWCA Civ 1617
- Reinwood Ltd v L Brown & Sons Ltd CA BLR 37
- AMEC Civil Engineering Ltd v Secretary of State for Transport (2005) 1 WLR 2339 CA, [2005] Con LJ Vol. 21 No.8 p.640 CA, [2005] 101 Con LR 26 CA, [2005] CILL 2228 and [2005] BLR 227 CA and [2005] CILL 2189 TCC (the meaning of 'dispute' and the operation of Clause 66 of the ICE standard form)
- AMEC Civil Engineering Ltd v Secretary of State for Transport (101 Con LR 26 CA) 101 Con LR 26 CA
- AMEC Civil Engineering Ltd v Secretary of State for Transport (Con LJ Vol. 21 No. 8 p.640 CA) Con LJ Vol. 21 No. 8 p.640 CA
- AMEC Civil Engineering Ltd v Secretary of State for Transport (CILL 2189 TCC) CILL 2189 TCC
- AMEC Civil Engineering Ltd v Secretary of State for Transport (CILL 2228 and [2005] BLR 227 CA) CILL 2228 and [2005] BLR 227 CA
- Rolls Royce Power Engineering Plc v Ricardo Consulting Engineers Ltd 98 Con LR 169 TCC
- Directory of Historic Key Reported Cases involving Members of Keating Chambers Various

Other information

Education & Professional Career

- Deputy High Court Judge, 2008 – 2014
- Bencher of the Inner Temple, 2002
- Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb), 1998
- Deputy Judge of the Technology and Construction Court, 1997 – 2014
- Recorder of the Crown Court 1997 – 2014
- CEDR Accredited Mediator, 1993
- Assistant Recorder of the Crown Court, 1993
- Queen's Counsel, 1990
- Called to the Bar, Inner Temple, 1974

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- MA in Law, Magdalene College, Cambridge 1973

Additional Information

From 2005-2010 John Marrin was the Head of Keating Chambers, having previously served both as Treasurer and as Deputy Head of Chambers. He regularly presents papers on topics relating to the Construction Industry and International Dispute Resolution. He supervises students undertaking MSc studies in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution at King's College, University of London.

Seminars & Publications

- Concurrent Delay 18 Construction Law Journal 436, 2002.
- Concurrent Delay Revisited, Feb. 2013, SCL Paper No. 179.
- Multiple Party Actions in Arbitration, Oxford University Press: Chapter entitled "Multiparty Arbitration in the Construction Industry", 2009.

Recommendations

"John Marrin is absolutely charming as an arbitrator, with decades of experience."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"John Marrin is one of the doyennes. He is everything they say he is: very clever, writes beautifully and is so thoughtful."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2027

"John Marrin is very thorough, hardworking and extremely diligent and on top of things at all times. It is quite extraordinary what he manages to achieve consistently."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"John is extremely hardworking and consistently on top of the details. He is unflappable in his mastery of the most challenging cases. The parties could not be in better hands."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 UK Bar 2027

"John has an extraordinary ability to grip huge amounts of detail."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"John is a very calm, measured and experienced barrister."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2026

"John Marrin knows everything that there is to know about construction arbitration."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"He's extremely forensic and very diligent."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"He is utterly fearless in diving in."
International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"John's brilliant."

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International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"He's tremendously courteous as an arbitrator."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"John Marrin is extraordinarily well prepared for hearings."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

"Total doyen of Arbitrators. Outstanding."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 UK Bar 2025

"John is decisive, efficient and fair."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2024

"John is an excellent arbitrator for construction, infrastructure and energy disputes. He possesses all of the key qualities expected of an arbitrator."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2022

"He is a great person to have as chair. He is hugely experienced."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2022

"He is an excellent arbitrator. He is thorough, very studious and very astute."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2022

"Heavyweight advocate with decades of experience."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Legal 500 2021

"Exceptionally experienced international arbitrator who is diligent, thorough and careful - a pragmatic chair/president who is the ideal choice for a factually or technically complicated construction, energy or infrastructure disputes."

International Arbitration: Arbitrators, Chambers UK 2021

"Hugely experienced, one of the truly great construction arbitrators."

Asia Pacific: The English Bar, Legal 500 2021