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PIERS STANSFIELD QC

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Areas of practice

- Construction & Engineering
- Energy & Natural Resources
- PFI/PPP
- Professional Negligence
- IT & Technology
- Offshore Construction & Marine Engineering

Clerks' 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.

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.)

Recent Cases

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.

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

Legal 500 UK Bar 2022

Energy & Natural Resources

- Represented an international energy company in disputes with the contractor relating to an offshore wind farm in the UK.
- Advised and represented the contractor in adjudications relating to the design and construction of a waste to energy plant in the UK.
- Advised the contractor in relation to disputes regarding a combined heat and power plant.
- Advised a Korean contractor in relation to the construction of a power station in Pakistan.
- Advised and represented the employer in relation to the construction of an offshore wind farm in Denmark.
- Advised the employer in relation to disputes arising out of a cryogenic storage plant.
- 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.

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

Chambers UK Bar 2019

Professional Negligence

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

Legal 500 UK 2018

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.
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Selected Reported Cases

- Standard Life Assurance Ltd v Gleeds (UK) & Ors [2020] EWHC 3419 (TCC); [2021] BLR 126; and [2021] EWHC 2081 (TCC); [2021] 7 WLUK 423
 - ABC Electrification Ltd v Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd [2020] EWCA Civ 1645; [2021] BLR 97; 193 Con LR 66
 - Essex County Council v UBB Waste (Essex) Ltd (No. 3) [2020] EWHC 2387 (TCC); [2020] BLR 729; 192 Con LR 143
 - Essex County Council v UBB Waste (Essex) Ltd [2020] EWHC 1581 (TCC); 191 Con LR 77
 - MW High Tech Projects UK Ltd v Balfour Beatty Kilpatrick Ltd [2020] EWHC 1413 (TCC); 190 Con LR 25
 - Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd v ABC Electrification Ltd [2019] EWHC 1769 (TCC); [2019] BLR 522; 185 Con LR 1
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- Hamad M Aldrees & Partners v Rotex Europe Ltd [2019] EWHC 574 (TCC); 184 Con LR 145; and [2019] EWHC 526 (TCC); [2019] Costs LR 607
- Axis M&E UK Ltd & Anor v Multiplex Construction Europe Ltd [2019] EWHC 169 (TCC); [2019] BLR 250; 182 Con LR 110
- BHC Ltd v Galliford Try Infrastructure Ltd (t/a Morrison Construction) [2018] EWHC 368 (TCC)
- Castle Trustee Ltd & Ors v Bombay Palace Restaurant Ltd [2017] EWHC 1889 (TCC)
- Mailbox (Birmingham) Ltd v Galliford Try Building Ltd [2017] EWHC 1405 (TCC); 172 Con LR 198; [2017] BLR 443
- Triuva Kapitalverwaltungsgesellschaft v Galliford Try Construction Ltd [2017] EWHC 67 (TCC); 170 Con LR 219; [2017] BLR 180; and [2017] EWHC 275 (TCC)
- Amey Wye Valley Ltd v The County of Herefordshire District Council [2016] EWHC 2368 (TCC); [2016] BLR 698
- Paice v Harding (t/a MJ Harding Contractors) 10 March 2015 (unreported) [2015] EWHC 661 (TCC); BLR 345
- Greenwich Millennium Village v Essex Services Group and Others [2014] EWHC 1099 (TCC), [2013] EWHC 3059 (TCC), 151 Con LR 1, [2014] TCLR 4
- SABIC UK Petrochemicals v Punj Lloyd [2013] EWHC 2916 and 3202 (TCC), [2014] BLR 43
- Lanes Group PLC v Galliford Try Infrastructure Limited [2011] EWHC 1035, 1234 and 1679 (TCC), [2011] BLR 438
- Forest Heath District Council v ISG Jackson Ltd [2010] EWHC 322 (TCC)
- Linklaters Business Services v McAlpine Ltd & Ors [2010] EWHC 2931, 133 Con LR 211
- Tai Ping Carpets UK Ltd v Arora Heathrow T5 Ltd [2009] EWHC 2305 (TCC), [2009] 127 Con LR 43, [2009] BLR 601
- Balfour Beatty Construction Northern Ltd v Modus Corovest (Blackpool) Ltd [2008] BLM Vol.26 No.1 TCC, [2008] EWHC 3029 (TCC), [2009] CILL 2660
- Benfield Construction Ltd v Trudson (Hatton) Ltd [2008] EWHC 2333 (TCC), [2008] CILL 2633
- Westwood Structural Services Ltd v Blyth Wood Park Management Company Ltd [2008] EWHC 3138 (TCC), [2009] CILL 2666
- Hiscox Syndicates v The Pinnacle [2008] EWHC 145 (Ch); [2008] 5 E.G. 166 (C.S.)
- PT Building Services Ltd v ROK Build Ltd [2008] EWHC 3434
- Felton Construction v. Liverpool City Council [2007] EWHC 3049 (TCC)
- British Airways v. Apogee Enterprises [2007] 111 Con LR 200
- Gray and Sons Builders (Bedford) Ltd v Essential Box Company Ltd [2006] 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 [2005] All ER (D) 205 TCC
- Mowlem plc v Stena Line Ports Ltd [2005] CILL 2198 TCC

Education & Professional Career

Bachelor of Laws, University of Bristol	1992
Ashworth Scholar, Inner Temple	1992
Inns of Court School of Law (Overall Grade – Outstanding)	1992-93
Treasurer's Prize and Jardine Studentship, Inner Temple (for highest Bar Finals mark in Inner Temple)	1993
Called to the Bar (Inner Temple)	1993
Pupillage, Keating Chambers	1993-94
Keating Chambers	1994
TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator	
Public Access Training	2007

Memberships

Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

Society of Construction Law

Society for Computers and Law

Seminars, Publications & Papers

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

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.