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**KEATING**  
CHAMBERS

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## MARCUS TAVERNER QC

Call: 1981 / Silk: 2000

mtaverner@keatingchambers.com

### Areas of Practice

- Arbitrator
- Construction & Engineering
- Professional Negligence
- Infrastructure & Utilities
- Energy & Natural Resources

### Clerks' Details

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### Practice Overview

Regularly nominated by the Legal 500 and other bodies, Marcus Taverner QC was named top construction silk in 2009 and 2015 by Chambers & Partners. He was recommended as "the leading construction silk at the bar today" (Who's Who Legal 2016). The Legal 500 UK 2018 reported him as "Incredibly hardworking, consistently energetic, and rightly regarded as a doyen of the construction sector". He was recently identified in Chambers UK 2020 as "A commanding advocate who is, in our view, second to none in the construction field."

He is well known for his understanding of the commercial aspects of litigation and his mastering of the technical detail of complex and high value cases. The combination of "unparalleled advocacy skills" and "sound judgment" make him a popular choice for international and domestic clients.

Marcus has an extensive advisory practice and a reputation as a skilful advocate. He has appeared in all tiers of the UK Courts in the UK over the last 40 years. He has advised and represented clients on projects around the world including Australia, Brazil, China, Estonia, Egypt, Italy, India, the Middle East, Hong Kong, Jordan, Nigeria, Peru, Russia and the West Indies. He has acted on behalf of UK governmental bodies, foreign governments and many of the UK's largest construction and engineering companies, developers, construction professionals and their insurers. He is currently acting for a Core Participant at the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.

In recent years Marcus has sat as an Arbitrator on many ICC, LCIA, SIAC and other panels as well as Dispute Adjudication Boards in the UK and around the world. Recent appointments, several as Chairman, include multi-million dollar disputes relating to energy projects in Australia; a mining development in Australia; power stations in South Africa; a chemical plant in the Middle East; an oil exploration concession in Nigeria and a joint venture dispute in the West Indies.

Amongst other work, he is also presently engaged in work relating to the Grenfell Inquiry.

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## Recent Cases

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### Arbitrator

- Chairman of a DAB relating to dispute arising of two power plants constructed in South Africa.
- Appointed as Tribunal member in an ICC arbitration regarding disputes arising out of the construction of anhydrous ammonia production facility.
- DAB member of a dispute arising out of a power plant in Costa Rica.
- Chair of a SIAC Arbitration concerning a multi-million dollar dispute relating to a mining project in Australia.
- Chair of an ICC Arbitration concerning a multi-million US dollar dispute regarding a mining concession in Australia.
- Appointed as Tribunal member in an ICC Arbitration concerning a US billion-dollar dispute relating to the construction of an export pipeline and gas collection header at an LNG plant in Australia.
- Appointed as Arbitrator in an oil concession dispute in Nigeria.
- Appointed as Tribunal Member in joint venture dispute arising out of construction of a production facility in Trinidad.
- Sole Arbitrator in a domestic dispute regarding a commercial development in the South of England.
- Named adjudicator in several infrastructure projects.

### Construction & Engineering

- Representing a Core Participant at the Grenfell Tower Inquiry.
- Representing various parties in multi-million pound negligence claims arising out of commercial developments.
- Appeared in the commercial court with regard to a challenge to an arbitration award.
- Appeared in the TCC in a lengthy multi-million pound dispute concerning the construction of a waste treatment plant.

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“A commanding advocate who is, in our view,  
second to none in the construction field.”

Chambers UK 2020

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### Professional Negligence

- Advising with regard to the cause and spread of fire within industrial and commercial premises.
- Advising with regard to negligent advice concerning the purchase and development of commercial premises.
- Advising with regard to the negligence of construction professionals relating to the construction of new residential tower blocks.

## Infrastructure & Utilities

- Acted for Transport for London in a dispute arising out of the design and construction of East London Line.
- Acted with regard to various disputes arising out of Crossrail project.
- Acting for LUL with regard to various PFI contracts

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““A balance of top-quality analysis with excellent judgement and ferocious cross-examination against difficult witnesses or experts.””

Chambers & Partners 2020

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## Energy & Natural Resources

- Acted last year in the High Court for Essex County Council in a recent hundred million pound dispute concerning a waste facility.
- Advised with regard to a billion Euro dispute relating to the design and construction of nuclear power plant in Europe.
- Fronted a team of three QCs, four juniors and a substantial solicitor team to success in an LCIA arbitration concerning the manufacture, transportation and subsequent installation in one of the biggest offshore wind farms in the world.

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“A master tactician, strategic thinker and ferocious cross-examiner.”

Chambers & Partners 2019

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## Selected Reported Cases

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- Essex CC v. UBB Waste (No. 2) [2020] EWHC 1581 and Essex CC v. UBB Waste (No. 3) [2020] 2387
- Mutual Energy Ltd (1) Sattr Underwriting Agents Ltd (2) Travellers Syndicate Management Ltd [2016] EWHC 590 (TCC)
- Commercial (Investments) Ltd v (1) Mitchell Design & Construct Ltd (2) Regorco Ltd (Formerly Roger Bullivant Ltd) [2016] EWHC 76 (TCC)
- Vivergo Fuels Ltd v Redhall Engineering Solutions Ltd [2013] EWHC 4030 (TCC); [2013] All ER (D) 156 (Dec)
- RWE Npower Plc v Alstom Power Ltd & Ors [2010] EWHC 3061 (TCC); 133 Con. L.R. 155; [2010] All ER (D) 15 (Dec)
- AE Yates Trenchless Solutions Ltd v Black & Veatch Ltd [2008] EWHC 3183 (TCC); [2009] CILL 2669, [2009] TCLR 4 and 124 Con LR 188
- London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority v Halcrow Gilbert Associates Ltd [2007] EWHC 2456 (TCC)
- Clerical Medical Investment Group Ltd v Crest Nicholson (South West) Ltd & Ors [2006] EWHC 2481 (TCC)
- Gerling General Insurance Co. & others v Canary Wharf Group plc [2005] All ER (D) 356 (Oct); [2006] 1 Lloyd's Rep 68

- Decoma UK Ltd v Haden Drysys International Ltd [2006] CILL 2303 TCC
- Decoma UK Ltd v Haden Drysys International Ltd (No.2) [2005] All ER (D) 408 TCC
- Mersey Docks Property Holdings v Birse Construction Ltd [2005] 99 Con LR 122 TCC
- Thames Water Utilities Ltd v London Regional Transport [2004] 95 Con LR 127 TCC (causation issues in relation to the failure of a substantial water main)
- Hurst Stores and Interiors Ltd v ML Europe Property Ltd [2004] 94 Con LR 66; [2004] BLR 249 CA
- Tesco Stores Ltd v Costain Construction Ltd [2004] CILL 2062 TCC
- Try Construction Ltd v Eton Town House Group Ltd [2003] 87 Con LR 71; [2003] BLR 286 TCC
- Scottish & Newcastle Plc v GD Construction [2003] BLR 131, [2003] 86 Con LR 1 CA
- Bellefield Computer Services v E. Turner & Sons Ltd (No. 2) [2003] TCLR 10. CA ; [2002] EWCA Civ 1823
- HOK Sport v Aintree Racecourse Co Ltd [2003] 86 Con LR 165 TCC
- Royal Brompton Hospital NHS Trust v Hammond (No 3) [2002] 1 WLR 1397; [2002] 81 Con LR 2 House of Lords (already reported in All ER)
- BICC Ltd v Parkman Consulting Engineers Parkman Consulting Engineers v Cumbrian Industrials Ltd [2000] 78 Con LR 18 TCC (2001) 79 Con LR 112 CA [2002] BLR 64 CA
- St Martins Property Corporation v Sir Robert McApline & Sons Limited [1994] 1 AC 85

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## Education & Professional Career

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| Bachelor of Laws, University of Leicester | 1979           |
| Master of Laws, King's College, London    | 1980           |
| Called to the Bar (Gray's Inn)            | 1981           |
| Keating Chambers                          | 1985           |
| Queen's Counsel                           | 2000           |
| Bencher of Gray's Inn                     | 2007           |
| Head of Keating Chambers                  | 2015 - present |

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## Memberships

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Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)  
 Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)  
 Society of Construction Law (SCL)

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## Additional Information

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Occasionally lectures on construction and related disputes. He supervises dissertations on the MSc in Construction Law and Management for King's College, University of London.

He is married with four children and lives in Hertfordshire. His interests include acting, guitar, walking, theatre, all types of music and opera. He is a Director of Stevenage FC.

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