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ALEXANDER NISSEN QC

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Areas of practice

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

Clerks' Details

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Practice overview

Alexander Nissen was called to the Bar in 1985 and became a Queen's Counsel in 2006. He specialises in advocacy and advisory work, adjudication, arbitration, litigation and the mediation of construction, engineering, energy and professional negligence disputes.

Alexander's practice covers a wide variety of cases ranging from client/developer claims, PFI disputes, and adjudication enforcement to professional negligence cases (architects, surveyors, valuers, solicitors and civil, structural and geotechnical engineers). He deals with both contractors' and sub-contractors' claims and defects disputes. His work also covers rail projects, disputes relating to bonds (both domestic and international), power stations and oil and gas projects.

Alexander is a Chartered Arbitrator, an accredited adjudicator and mediator. His arbitration work covers both domestic and international disputes. He has been appointed both through party selection and by the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. He was appointed as a Recorder in 2007 and as a Deputy High Court Judge in 2013, now authorised to sit in the TCC.

Recent Cases

Construction & Engineering

- Advised energy services supplier in relation to contract for the provision of heating and cooling services to the Olympic Park and neighbouring shopping centre.
- Advised contractor in relation to delay claim in respect of contract for provision of upgraded railway line.
- Acted for tenant in relation to substantial defects claim at warehouse premises (claim circa £130m).
- Advised client in relation to litigation under Defective Premises Act in respect of a claim against contractor (£35m).
- Acted for local authority in relation to claims made by contractor for rail improvement works (£4m).
- Acted in litigation for contractor in relation to final account claim for construction of art gallery (£5m).
- Acted for main contractor in litigation regarding the existence of contract for M&E works at a hospital.
- Acted in litigation for client in respect of a £20m claim for defective air conditioning installation at office accommodation.
- Acted for subcontractor in adjudication and subsequent litigation concerning the application of a pay when paid clause.
- Acted for contractor in adjudication in respect of claim for fraudulent misrepresentation.
- Advised client in relation to substructure delay claim brought by contractor against a University.
- Advised contractor in relation to liability following extensive fire in local authority tower block (£30m).

“Very thorough and conscientious, he shows great attention to detail”...“A go-to silk with a calm and reassuring manner, who is very commercial in his advice.”

Chambers & Partners, 2015

PFI/PPP

- Acted in adjudication in dispute over provision of catering services at PFI hospital.
- Acted in litigation in respect of a defects dispute under a PFI contract at hospital.
- Advised on operation of payment mechanism under PFI hospital contract following catering service and Helpdesk failures.
- Joint instructions to advise both parties to a payment dispute in relation to contract for the design, construction and operation of police investigation centres.
- Dispute over scope of responsibility for maintenance services in relation to a hospital.
- Payment and termination dispute in relation to the provision of facilities management services at various healthcare facilities, leading to a series of multiple adjudications.
- Joint instructions regarding proposed amendment to a contract relating to the construction of a new development at an existing hospital.
- Dispute over calculation of payment due in relation to a contract for the provision of operational and maintenance services at a hospital.

Professional Negligence

- In litigation, acted for consultant sued in respect of design of a road (£12m).
- In litigation, acted for client in respect of negligent valuation / certification claims against project manager and QS.
- In litigation, acted for civil engineer sued for £6m in respect of claim for defectively designed commercial premises which were the subject of heave.
- In litigation, acted for quantity surveyor sued for £14m in respect of negligent procurement and valuation.
- In arbitration proceedings, acted for contractor/designer on design and build project in which the client sued for the cost of demolishing and rebuilding industrial premises due to settlement conditions. Subsequently acted for contractor in passing on claim to the structural engineers in proceedings before the TCC.
- Acted for client in respect of a substantial claim against architect, engineer and contractor in relation to substantial defects in works in office premises in City.
- Acted for a developer in relation to a £26m claim for negligence and breach of warranty against various professionals and contractors in relation to a ground improvement and redevelopment scheme for a DIY superstore.
- Acted for contractor in professional negligence claim relating to architectural lighting feature.
- Acted for client in claim against engineers relating to supervisory obligations on an affordable housing development.

*“He will turn stuff around at very short notice,
and is very easy to work with.”*

Chambers & Partners, 2015

Energy & Natural Resources

- Acted for subcontractor in arbitration proceedings in relation to £16m final account claim for civil engineering works at power station.
 - Acted for company engaged in commercial exploitation of natural gas produced at landfill site in relation to proposed claim circa £20m.
 - Acted for contractor in respect of claim for installation of wind turbines in Scotland.
 - Acted for contractor in respect of arbitration claims for work done at mineral sands extraction process plant and associated sub-station works in Mozambique.
 - Acted for employer on £2m adjudication dispute relating to the installation of a gas pipeline.
 - Acted for contractor in respect of dispute concerning the installation of an energy from waste facility, including claim for £16m liquidated damages.
 - Acted for contractor in respect of dispute concerning conversion of wood to energy plant.
 - Acted for contractor in TCC litigation concerning £4.5m claim in respect of the design and construction of a petroleum complex in Qatar.
 - Acted for contractor in respect of loss and expense claim for work done at a power station.
 - Acted for subcontractor in respect of claims relating to design work done on an offshore rig.
 - Acted for contractor in ICC arbitration claim relating to a power station in the Far East. The dispute concerned claims for additional costs, extensions of time and defective work. Value of US\$100m.
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“Exceptionally bright.”

Legal 500, 2011

Offshore Construction & Marine Engineering

- Acted for subsea services provider in respect of claim for accidental damage costs of £15m.
- Acted for Korean shipbuilder in connection with claim for delay relating to a semi submersible drilling rig (\$100m).
- Acted for party in connection with late delivery of vessel for use in North Sea.
- Acted for party in connection with claims (value circa £100m) under EPC contract for delivery of topsides, process and utility equipment.
- Acted for party in connection with diving services contract in North Sea.
- Acted in a matter regarding the installation, commissioning and post delivery of the two main propulsion thrusters fitted to a cable repair vessel.

Examples of Tribunal Appointments

- Appointed as party nominated arbitrator on ICC arbitration in respect of a US \$100m dispute over the construction of a hotel in Azerbaijan.
 - Appointed as party nominated arbitrator on ICC arbitration in respect of a dispute over the price for supply of gas supplied by Swiss Company to Italian purchaser.
 - Appointed as party nominated arbitrator on DIAC arbitration in respect of late completion of a substantial development project.
 - Appointed as party nominated arbitrator on DIAC arbitration in respect of dispute concerning termination, extensions of time and costs of major City Expansion Scheme.
 - Appointed as sole arbitrator by the ICC in respect of a dispute concerning termination of a shareholder's agreement in Nigeria.
 - Appointed as arbitrator by Supreme Court of Turks and Caicos to determine dispute between contractor and hotel developer in Turks and Caicos.
 - Appointed as sole arbitrator by the ICC in connection with a dispute concerning the audit of records on a project for the production and delivery of two off-shore production structures, production decks and related equipment in the Black Sea.
 - Appointed by the parties as sole arbitrator in a £14m dispute relating to design manufacture, delivery, erection and commissioning of a bio diesel and glycerine production plant.
 - Appointed as sole arbitrator by the ICC for a US\$6m claim and counterclaim between international parties relating to a road building project in East Africa.
 - Appointed as sole arbitrator on a JCT Arbitration between a contractor and hotelier relating to refurbishment works at a hotel.
 - Appointed by parties as international adjudicator on a dispute concerning corrosion in a substantial tank used to treat water for drinking in Qatar.
 - Appointed as adjudicator on dispute relating to payment, extensions of time and loss and expense.
 - Appointed by parties as adjudicator in relation to a dispute over a collision involving a tube train.
 - Appointed as mediator in respect of a Commercial Court dispute (\$25m) about the partial collapse of a beam on a semi-submersible drilling rig in Singapore.
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- Appointed as mediator in respect of TCC litigation over the outcome of a profit share agreement on two development schemes.
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over variation claim in relation to a community school PFI project.
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over termination in relation to a PFI contract for the design, construction and maintenance of new accommodation for the kennelling of military dogs.
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over compensation event claim in relation to contract for the demolition and new build or refurbishment of sheltered and warden supported properties under a PFI contract.
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over deductions made by an Authority in relation to contract for the demolition and new build or refurbishment of sheltered and warden supported properties under a PFI contract.
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over further deductions made by an Authority in relation to drainage at sheltered and warden supported properties under a PFI Contract.
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over scope of contractual obligations arising out of Project Agreement for the demolition and new build or refurbishment of schools pursuant to the BSF initiative (PFI contract).
- Appointed as adjudicator by the parties in a dispute over a Compensation Event pursuant to a contract concerning a flood prevention scheme in Scotland.

Selected Reported Cases

- *Al-Waddan Hotel Ltd v Man Enterprise Sal (Offshore)* [2015] BLR 478
 - *Rendlesham Estates Plc & Ors v Barr Ltd* [2015] BLR 37, [2015] WLR 3663
 - *UK Highways A55 Ltd and Others v Hyder Consulting UK Ltd and Hyder Consulting* [2013] BLR 95
 - *Priory Caring Services Limited v Capita Property Services Limited* [2010] 129 Con LR 81 (CA), and [2010] EWCA Civ 226
 - *Priory Caring Services v Capita Property Services* [2010] EWCA Civ 226, 129 Con LR 81
 - *William Hare Ltd v Shepherd Construction Ltd* [2010] EWCA Civ 283; [2010] BLR 358, [2010] 12 EG 96, 130 Con LR 1, [2010] CILL 2825, [2010] 22 EG 108
 - *William Hare Ltd v Shepherd Construction Ltd* [2009] EWHC 1603 (TCC), [2009] BLR 447, 125 Con LR 123, [2009] CILL 2753, [2010] BCC 332
 - *CR Reynolds Construction Ltd v Shepherd Construction Ltd* [2010] EWCA Civ 283, [2010] 12 EG 96, 130 Con LR 1, [2010] CILL 2825, [2010] BLR 358, [2010] 22 EG 108
 - *LPI (Hotels) Ltd v Technical and General Guarantee Co SA* [2010] EWHC 2049 (TCC), CILL 2926 TCC; Vol.132 Con LR 90
 - *CR Reynolds Construction Ltd v Shepherd Construction Ltd* [2009] BLR 447 TCC
 - *VGC Construction Ltd v Jackson Civil Engineering Ltd* [2008] EWHC 2082, LAWTEL TCC, (2008) CILL 2627
 - *Claymore v Nautilus Properties* [2007] BLR 452 TCC and [2007] EWHC 805 (TCC)
 - *Mott MacDonald Ltd v London & Regional Properties Ltd* [2007] All ER (D) 431 TCC, [2007] CILL 2481, 113 Con LR 33 and [2007] EWHC 1055 (TCC)
 - *McConnell Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Limited v National Grid Gas plc* [2006] EWHC 2551, ALL ER (D) 27 (TCC), BLM Vol.24 No1 TCC and [2007] BLR 92
 - *L Brown & Sons v Crosby North West Homes* [2005] All ER (D) 63 TCC and [2005] EWHC 3503 (TCC)
 - *Birse Construction Ltd v McCormick (UK) Ltd* [2005] EWCA Civ 940; [2005] B.L.R. 523; [2005]
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All E.R. (D) 366 (Jul)

- *Newfield Construction Ltd v Tomlinson* [2005] 97 Con LR 148 TCC and [2004] EWHC 3051 (TCC)
- *GPN Ltd v O2 (UK) Ltd* [2005] CILL 2285 TCC and [2004] EWHC 2494 (TCC)
- *Earl's Terrace Properties Ltd v Nilsson Design Ltd* [2004] 94 Con LR 118, [2004] BLR 273, [2007] Lloyd's Rep PN 28 and [2004] EWHC 136 (TCC)
- *RSL (South West) Ltd v Stansell Ltd* [2003] CILL 2012 TCC and [2003] EWHC 1390 (TCC)
- *Earls Terrace Properties Ltd v Waterloo Investments Ltd* [2002] CILL 1889 TCC
- *Discain Project Services Ltd v Opecprime Development Ltd* [2001] 80 Con LR 95 and [2001] BLR 285 TCC
- *ABB Power Construction Ltd v Norwest Holst Engineering Ltd* [2001] 17 Const LJ 246 and 77 Con LR 20
- *Christiani and Nielsen Ltd v The Lowry Centre Development Co. Ltd* [2000] TCLR 2 TCC
- *Demolition Services Ltd v Castle Vale Housing Action Trust Ltd* [1999] 79 Con LR 55. TCC
- *Darlington Borough Council v Wiltshire Northern Ltd* [1995] 1 WLR 68; [1995] 3 All ER 895

Education & Professional Career

LL.B., University of Manchester	1984
Called to the Bar (Middle Temple)	1985
Keating Chambers	1989
FCIArb	2000
TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator	2002
Chartered Arbitrator	2003
Accredited Mediator	2004
Queen's Counsel	2006
Recorder	2007
Public Access Training	2008
Deputy High Court Judge (Administrative Court)	2013
Approved Arbitrator, Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration	2014
Deputy High Court Judge (TCC)	2015

Seminar, Publication & papers

- Role of the Expert Witness Alexander Nissen QC 11 February 2008.
- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts - Eighth Edition (2006), Ninth Edition (2012) and Tenth Edition (2016).
- Editorial team, Keating on Building Contracts, (5th, 6th and 7th editions including supplement to 7th edition).
- Associate Editor of Construction Law Yearbook (1995 – 2000).
- Article: Construction Law Journal (2003).

Memberships

Society of Construction Law (former Council Member)

Technology and Construction Bar Association (TECBAR) (Vice Chairman)

Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

Law Society Panel of Arbitrators 2006

Additional Information

Alexander enjoys theatre and watching (but not playing) tennis.