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KEATING
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ADRIAN WILLIAMSON KC

Call: 1983 / Silk: 2002

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Areas of Practice

- Construction & Engineering
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Professional Negligence
- Insurance
- Adjudication
- IT & Technology
- PFI/PPP

Clerks' Details

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Practice Overview

Adrian Williamson KC was called to the Bar in 1983 and has been a practising barrister in Keating Chambers since 1989. Adrian specialises in construction, engineering and technology disputes and he is also highly regarded for his expertise in professional negligence and insurance actions within these specialist areas. He took silk in 2002.

Adrian's practice covers all aspects of law within his specialist fields, including advisory work relating to standard form and bespoke contracts; contractors', sub-contractors' and employers' claims; and professional negligence claims (architects, engineers, surveyors and project managers). This work includes advisory work, drafting and of course advocacy for which he is widely regarded as a formidable opponent. He regularly appears in the Technology and Construction Court in London and in arbitrations in many parts of the UK and abroad. Adrian has also appeared in the Court of Appeal on many occasions and in the Privy Council. He has represented clients in adjudication and mediation and is himself an adjudicator and arbitrator.

Recent Cases

Construction & Engineering

- Claim against contractor for overpayments in relation to PFI-style contract.
- Acting for Main Contractors in arbitration relating to office development in Central London.
- Defending claim in relation to alleged undeclared discounts in respect of London hotel development.
- Making and resisting claims for notified sums in respect of adjudications.
- Appearing on behalf of Franco-Japanese Joint Venture in a US\$80 million Hong Kong arbitration concerning the Strategic Sewage Disposal Scheme.
- Appearing for a UK/Japanese Joint Venture in a London arbitration concerning the Tsing Ma Bridge in Hong Kong (claim for HK\$480 million).
- Representing structural steelwork contractors in respect of a £10 million claim arising out of a crane collapse at Canary Wharf.

“Has a forensically analytical approach to his advocacy, which instantly gains the trust of the court.”

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020

Appointments

I have sat as Adjudicator on numerous disputes including:

- dispute concerning the Project Manager’s assessment of Defined Cost and/or Disallowed Cost on a large infrastructure project;
- a dispute relating to the deduction of damages in respect of an EPC Contract for the construction of a recovered wood fuel chip fired power plant;
- an insolvency dispute in regard to a Sub-Contract for the provision of marine transportation services;
- a dispute concerning Compensation Events under an NEC3 contract for the construction of jetty bridge piles;
- a dispute in relation to the definition of Adjustments in a Project Agreement;
- a delay and disruption claim in regard to a London Underground project.

I have also been appointed to adjudication panels, including the Institution of Civil Engineers Adjudication Panel for the Crossrail project.

I have been a Deputy High Court Judge since 2010, sitting in the TCC and the Queen’s Bench Division. Reported judgments include the following:

Curti Environment Technologies Ltd v Halo Battery Recycling Ltd [2022] 1 WLUK 153.

Paolo Castelli SpA v Buckingham Securities and Investments Ltd [2020] 6 WLUK 172

Gosvenor London Ltd v Aygun Aluminium UK Ltd [2019] 12 WLUK 124

Mediterranean Hospital of Cyprus (MHOC) Ltd v Secretary of State for Defence [2018] 11 WLUK 300

Prezzo Ltd v High Point Estates Ltd [2019] Lloyd’s Rep. I.R. 202

Lea Valley Developments Ltd v Derbyshire [2017] 4 W.L.R. 120

Liconic AG v UK Biocentre Ltd [2014] 8 WLUK 116

Energy & Natural Resources

- Advised on a professional negligence/fraud arbitration in relation to a nuclear power station where the claim was over £100m.
- Advised on a negligence action relating to a coal-fired power station, which is the largest energy-provider of its type in China.
- Advised Contractors on claims regarding the Little Barford CCGT power station.
- Advised Contractors on claims regarding cooling water pipe works at a combined cycle power plant.
- Acting in litigation relating to North Sea wind farm.
- Resisting claims for alleged notified sums in respect of 'excluded operations'.

“He is a master of his art”

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023

Professional Negligence

- Claim against monitoring surveyors relating to various developments in the North of England.
- Acting in architect's' negligence claim on points relating to contractual interpretation.
- Claim against architects in respect of London luxury apartment development.
- Numerous professional negligence matters, including appearance at trial of surveyor's negligence claim in Queen's Bench Division and acting on behalf of solicitors in relation to professional negligence claim being tried in the Technology and Construction Court.

Insurance

- Appearing for Contractors in relation to High Court proceedings in respect of "Claims made" policy.
- Representing Trade Contractors in respect of dispute over Contract Works insurance policy.

“He has a real depth of experience, and is always brilliantly prepared and an easy advocate to listen to. He breaks everything down in a manageable way even when the case is highly complex.”

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

Adjudication

- Various adjudication matters, including advising and preparing documents, appearing at hearings of £2 million professional negligence dispute and accepting appointment as Adjudicator.

IT & Technology

- Appearing in arbitration relating to software dispute relating to project in Saudi Arabia.

- Acted as leading Counsel for the Claimant in arbitration proceedings arising from major disputes relating to the contract for a new computerised ticketing system for the London Public Transport Network.
- Advised UK Global Technology Services and Outsourcing Company on its services agreements relating to a new case records system.

PFI/PPP

- Advising and representing a major UK Contractor in a series of adjudications in connection with a number of issues connected with large disputes (regarding a building contract and payment entitlement) arising out of two major PFI projects connected with the design and construction of two hospitals.

“Leading silk when it comes to disputes about building contracts due to his concise, practical advice and excellent service.”

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

Selected Reported Cases

- Harding (t/a MJ Harding Contractors) v Paice and another [2015] EWCA Civ 1231
- Severfield (UK) Ltd v Duro Felguera UK Ltd [2015] EWHC 2975
- Severfield (UK) Ltd v Duro Felguera UK Ltd [2015] EWHC 3352 (TCC).
- Galliford Try Building Ltd v Estura Ltd [2015] EWHC 412 (TCC) (27 February 2015)
- Richard Hough v Greathall Ltd [2015] EWCA Civ 23
- MT Højgaard A/S v E.ON Climate and Renewables UK Robin Rigg East Ltd & others [2015] BLR 55
- West & another v Ian Finlay & Associates (a firm) [2014] BLR 324
- Muneer Hamid (T/A Hamid Properties) v Francis Bradshaw Partnership [2013] EWCA Civ 470
- Cleveland Bridge (UK) Ltd v Whessoe-Volker Stevin Joint Venture (a Partnership Comprising Whessoe Oil & Gas Ltd & Volker Stevin Construction Europe BV) [2010] BLR 415
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd [2010] EWCA Civ 139, Court of Appeal
- Seele v Tokio Marine [2009] BLR 261, [2009] EWHC 255 (TCC)
- Kajima v Underwriter Insurance [2008] Lloyd’s Rep IR 391, 122 Con LR 123, [2008] EWHC 83 (TCC), [2008] 1 All E.R. (Comm) 855 and [2008] CILL 2567
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd [2008] All ER (D) 04 (Oct), [2007] All ER (D) 358 CA
- RC Pillar & Son v The Camber (Portsmouth) Ltd [2008] 115 Con LR 102 TCC and [2007] EWHC 1626 (TCC)
- McGlenn v Waltham Contractors & Others (No. 3) [2007] 111 Con LR 1, [2007] EWHC 149 (TCC), [2007] CILL 2441 and [2008] Bus LR 233
- McGlenn v Waltham Contractors (No 4) [2007] BLR 188, 112 Con LR 148, [2007] EWHC 698 (TCC), and [2008] Bus LR 278
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd [2007] 111 Con LR 48 and [2007] ALL ER (D) 288
- McGlenn v Waltham Contractors [2006] 108 Con LR 43 and [2006] EWHC 294

- Associated British Ports v Hydro Soil Services [2006] EWHC 1187 (TCC) and [2006] All ER (D) 269
- Kier Regional Ltd v City & General (Holborn) [2006] BLR 315
- Skanska Construction UK Ltd v Egger (Barony) Ltd [2005] ALL ER (D) CA, [2002] ALL ER (D) 271 CA
- Mersey Docks Property Holdings v Birse Construction Ltd [2005] 99 Con LR122 TCC
- Mersey Docks Property Holdings v Michael Kilgour Transco Plc [2004] BLR 412 TCC
- Galliford Try Construction Ltd v Michael Heal Associates Ltd [2003] 99 Con LR19 and [2003] All ER(D) 07 (Dec)
- Hewden Tower Cranes Ltd v Yarm Road Ltd [2004] Con LJ Vol. 20, No. 3 p.137 CA
- R. Durnnell & Sons Ltd v Kaduna Ltd [2004] Con LR 36 TCC
- Yarm Road Ltd v Hewden Tower Cranes Ltd [2003] 85 Con LR142 TCC
- Royal Brompton NHS Trust v Hammord [2002] 88 Con LR 1
- Birse Construction Ltd v Haiste Ltd [1996] 1 WLR 675 and [1996] 2 All ER 1
- Barclays Bank v Fairclough Building Ltd [1995] QB 214; [1994] 3 WLR 1057, [1995] 1 All ER 289 and [1994] EWCA Civ 3

Seminars, publication & paper

- Co-author, Keating on Construction Contracts - Tenth Edition (2016)
- Keating on JCT Contracts - General Editor
- Contributor, Keating on Construction Contracts - Eighth Edition (2006) and Ninth Edition (2012)
- Editorial team of Keating on Building Contracts, 5th, 6th and 7th Edition
- Joint Editor Halsbury's Laws of England, Volume 4 (3) Building Contracts

Education & Professional Career

BA in Law, Trinity Hall, Cambridge (1st Class Hons)	1982
Called to the Bar, Middle Temple	1983
2 Crown Office Row	1985-89
Keating Chambers	1989
Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb)	1999
Queen's Counsel	2002
Recorder (Civil)	2004
Public Access Training	2007
TECBAR Accredited Adjudicator	
Recorder (Crime)	2009
Deputy High Court Judge	2010
MPhil, Trinity Hall, Cambridge	2010
PhD 2014, Trinity Hall Cambridge	2014
Elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, May 2015	2015

Memberships

Technology & Construction Bar Association (TECBAR)

Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)

The Society of Construction Law

Additional Information

Interests include supporting Arsenal FC, squash, tennis and reading.