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MARCUS TAVERNER KC

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Areas of Practice

Arbitrator and Adjudicator
– Construction & Engineering
– Energy & Natural Resources
– Professional Negligence
– Infrastructure & Utilities

Clerks' Details

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Practice Overview

Marcus Taverner KC became a full time arbitrator and adjudicator in October 2021. He was described by Legal 500 (2020) as 'One of the leading new generation construction arbitrators – he has a good incisive brain; listens to arguments carefully but makes his mind up and is decisive.'

He has received instructions as arbitrator/adjudicator for the past 20 years. He has sat on panels governed by ICC, LCIA, SIAC, DIAC, HKIAC and other institutional rules as well as on Dispute Adjudication Boards in the UK and worldwide. His experience as counsel and as an arbitrator and adjudicator includes high value engineering, construction and energy related disputes in the UK and in jurisdictions around the world, including Australia; South Africa and other African nations (including Nigeria and Uganda); Europe, the Middle East (Oman, Qatar, Dubai, Jordan, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia), the USA, India, Vietnam and Hong Kong.

Before focussing on sitting as arbitrator and adjudicator, Marcus Taverner KC was awarded "Construction Silk of the Year" 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 particularly 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" made him a popular choice for international and domestic clients. Clients have included UK governmental bodies, foreign governments and many of the world's largest construction, engineering and oil companies, developers, related professionals and their insurers. His experience includes disputes subject to Civil, Common, Islamic and International jurisdictions and law.

Recent Appointments

- Member of a Tribunal in an Ad hoc Arbitration concerning a sub-sea pipe line in the Middle East.
- Tribunal Member in an EDF Rules Arbitration concerning a large road project in central Africa.
- Chair of a DIAC Rules Arbitration relating to a process plant in Saudi Arabia.
- Member of LCIA Tribunal Arbitrating a dispute relating to the sale of power equipment for installation in a Combined Cycle Power Station in the West Indies.
- Tribunal member in an ICC Arbitration concerning an oil refinery in Oman.
- Member of LCIA Tribunal relating to a dispute concerning an expressway in Oman.
- President of an ICC Arbitration concerning a large dispute relating to a Biofuel development in the USA.
- Adjudicator in a high profile infrastructure dispute in the UK.
- Tribunal member in an Arbitration concerning a dispute relating to drilling rigs in Bangladesh.
- Sole Arbitrator with regard to a multi-party infrastructure dispute in Hong Kong.
- Member of a DAB panel relating to a power station in Africa.
- President of an ICC Tribunal in a dispute concerning a transport project in Saudi Arabia.
- Adjudicator in a large PFI hospital dispute in the UK.
- Chair of a DAB relating to dispute relating to two power plants constructed in South Africa.
- Tribunal member in an ICC dispute relating to a biomass project in the UK.
- Tribunal member in an ICC arbitration regarding disputes arising out of the construction of an anhydrous ammonia production facility.
- DAB member of a dispute arising out of a power plant in Costa Rica.
- Arbitrator in ICC Arbitration relating to an oil refinery in Egypt.
- Chair of a SIAC Arbitration relating to a mining project in Australia.
- Chair of an ICC Arbitration concerning a mining concession in Australia.
- Tribunal member in an ICC Arbitration concerning a dispute relating to the construction of an export pipeline and gas collection header at an LNG plant in Australia.
- Arbitrator in an oil concession dispute in Nigeria.
- Tribunal member in joint venture dispute arising out of the construction of a production facility in Trinidad.
- Sole Arbitrator in a domestic dispute regarding a commercial development in the South of England.

“One of the leading new generation construction arbitrators - he has a good incisive brain; listens to arguments carefully but makes his mind up and is decisive.”

Legal 500 UK 2021 (International Arbitrators)

Selected Reported Cases

- Essex CC v. UBB Waste (No. 2) [2020] EWHC 1581 and Essex CC v. UBB Waste (No. 3) [2020] 2387

- Arcadis Consulting (UK) Ltd v Amec (BSC) Ltd [2016] EWHC 2509 (TCC)
- Leeds Beckett University v Travelers Insurance Company Ltd [2017] EWHC 558 (TCC)
- Mutual Energy Ltd (1) Starr Underwriting Agents Ltd (2) Travellers Syndicate Management Ltd [2016] EWHC 590 (TCC)
- RWE Npower Plc v Alstom Power Ltd & Ors [2010] EWHC 3061 (TCC); 133 Con. L.R. 155; [2010] All ER (D) 15 (Dec)
- London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority v Halcrow Gilbert Associates Ltd [2007] EWHC 2456 (TCC)
- Gerling General Insurance Co. & others v Canary Wharf Group plc [2005] All ER (D) 356 (Oct); [2006] 1 Lloyd's Rep 68
- 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
- Bellefield Computer Services v E. Turner & Sons Ltd (No. 2) [2003] TCLR 10. CA; [2002] EWCA Civ 1823

“One of the very best construction silks at the Bar, who is increasingly building a reputation as a first-rate arbitrator.”

Legal 500 Asia 2021

Education & Professional Career

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
King's Counsel	2000
Bencher of Gray's Inn	2007
Head of Keating Chambers	2015 - 2020
Full time Arbitrator/Adjudicator	2021

Memberships

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

“Mastery of his subject, allied to extensive experience. Marcus is a joy to work with.”

Construction, Legal 500 EMEA 2024

Additional Information

Occasionally lectures on construction and related disputes. 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.