

Adrian Williamson KC

Call: 1983 Silk: 2002

"Adrian Williamson KC is clear-thinking, cuts straight to the point, absorbs facts and information, and reaches conclusions swiftly."

Chambers UK Bar 2024



Practice Areas

- Adjudication
- Arbitration
- Dispute Boards
- Litigation
- Mediation
- Professional Negligence
- Construction & Engineering
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Infrastructure & Utilities
- Offshore Construction & Marine Engineering
- PFI & PPP
- Independent Appointments

Clerk details

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Practice Overview

Adrian Williamson 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.

Practice Areas

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.

Appointments

I have sat as Adjudicator on numerous disputes including:

- a 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'.

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.

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.
- Appearing in Chancery division in pensions dispute arising out of PFI contract

Reported Cases

- MW High Tech Projects UK Limited v Outotec (USA) Inc Metso OYJ [2023] EWHC 2885 (TCC)
- Energy Works Hull v M+W [2022] EWHC 3275 (TCC)
- Energy Works (Hull) Ltd v MW High Tech Projects UK Ltd & Ors [2020] EWHC 2537 (TCC)
- Bresco Electrical Services v Lonsdale; Cannon Corporate v Primus Build [2019] EWCA Civ 27
- Outotec (USA) Inc & Anor v MW High Tech Projects UK Limited [2024] EWCA Civ 844
- Castle Trustee Ltd & Ors v Bombay Palace Restaurant Ltd [2018] EWHC 1602 (TCC)
- Colas Ltd & Ors (CVU) v Transport for London [2018] EWHC 831 (TCC)
- HSM Offshore BV v Aker Offshore Partner Limited [2017] EWHC 2979 (TCC)

- MT Hojgaard v EON Climate and Renewables and another [2015] BLR 55, [2014] CILL 3523, [2014] EWCA Civ 710
- McGee Group Ltd v Galliford Try Building Ltd [2017] EWHC 238 (TCC)
- Galliford Try Building Ltd v Estura Ltd [2015] EWHC 412 (TCC), [2015] BLR 321, [2015] EWHC 412 (TCC), 159 Con LR 10
- Richard Hough v Greathall Ltd [2015] EWCA Civ 23
- West v Ian Finlay & Associates [2013] EWHC 868 (TCC), [2014] BLR 324
- Liconic AG v UK Biocentre Limited (Unreported, TCC)
- Muneer Hamid (T/A Hamid Properties) v Francis Bradshaw Partnership EWCA Civ 470
- Cleveland Bridge (UK) Ltd v Whessoe-Volker Stevin Joint Venture BLR 415, 130 Con LR 159, (2010) 26 Const LJ 670, [2010] CILL 2876
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd EWCA Civ 139, Court of Appeal
- Seele v Tokio Marine EWHC 255 (TCC), [2009] BLR 261
- Kajima v Underwriter Insurance 1 All E.R. (Comm) 855, [2008] CILL 2567, [2008] Lloyd's Rep IR 391, 122 Con LR 123 and [2008] EWHC 83 (TCC)
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd All ER (D) 04 (Oct), [2007] All ER (D) 358 CA
- Seele Austria v Tokio Marine Europe BLR 337 CA
- RC Pillar & Son v The Camber (Portsmouth) Ltd 115 Con LR 102 TCC and [2007] EWHC 1626 (TCC)
- McGlinn v Waltham Contractors (No 4) BLR 188, 112 Con LR 148, [2007] EWHC 698 (TCC), and [2008] Bus LR 278
- Multiplex Constructions (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd Vol. 23 No. 4 p. 299 TCC
- McGlinn v Waltham Contractors & Others (No. 3) 111 Con LR 1, [2007] CILL 2441, [2007] EWHC 149 (TCC) and [2008] Bus LR 233
- Multiplex Construction (UK) Ltd v Cleveland Bridge UK Ltd ALL ER (D) 288, (2007) 111 Con LR 48
- McGlinn v Waltham Contractors 108 Con LR 43, [2006] EWHC 294
- Associated British Ports v Hydro Soil Services All ER (D) 269 and EWHC 1187 (TCC)
- Kier Regional Ltd v City & General (Holborn) CILL 2353 TCC
- Kier Regional Ltd v City & General (Holborn) BLR 315
- Skanska Construction UK Ltd v Egger (Barony) Ltd ALL ER (D) CA, [2002] ALL ER (D) 271 CA
- Mersey Docks Property Holdings v Birse Construction Ltd 99 Con LR 122 TCC
- Skanska Construction UK Limited v Egger (Barony) Limited CILL 1969 CA
- Mersey Docks Property Holdings v Michael Kilgour Transco Plc BLR 412 TCC
- Hewden Tower Cranes Ltd v Yarm Road Ltd Con LJ Vol. 20, No. 3 p.137 CA

- Galliford Try Construction Ltd v Michael Heal Associates Ltd 99 Con LR 19; [2003] All ER(D) 07 (Dec)
 - Yarm Road Ltd v Hewden Tower Cranes Ltd 85 Con LR 142 TCC
 - R. Durnell & Sons Ltd v Kaduna Ltd Con LR 36 TCC
 - Royal Brompton NHS Trust v Hammord 88 Con LR 1
 - Skanska Construction Ltd v Egger (Barony) Ltd BLR 236 CA
 - Demolition Services Ltd v Castle Vale Housing Action Trust Ltd 79 Con LR 55. TCC
 - Birse Construction Ltd v Haiste Ltd 1 WLR 675; [1996] 2 All ER 1
 - Barclays Bank v Fairclough Building Ltd QB 214; [1994] 3 WLR 1057, [1995] 1 All ER 289 and [1994] EWCA Civ 3
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Other information

Education & Professional Career

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

Additional Information

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

Memberships

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

Seminars & Publications

- 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

Recommendations

"Adrian Williamson always thinks strategically and has an incredible knowledge of the law."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2025

'Adrian Williamson KC is clear-thinking, cuts straight to the point, absorbs facts and information, and reaches conclusions swiftly.'

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2024

'Adrian's advocacy is very effective; he focuses on the key points.'

Construction, Legal 500 2023

"His technical knowledge is second to none. Good skills with clients probably outside those who normally instruct him. He is diplomatic when dealing with a large team structure."

Construction, Legal 500 2022

"He is a formidable advocate."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2022

"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."

Professional Negligence, Chambers UK Bar 2021

"He is a first-rate legal mind, who is incisive and gives clear but robust advice." "A very thorough and thoughtful barrister who leaves no stone unturned."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2021

"Clear thinking, concise, focused. Gets to the nub of the matter swiftly."

Construction, Legal 500 2021

"Fantastic advocate with good attention to detail."

Construction, Legal 500 2020

"He gives good strategic and tactical input. He is very user-friendly and provides important reassurance to clients."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2020

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

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2020

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

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2019

"Cuts through to the key issues, no nonsense."

Construction, Legal 500 2018

"A really persuasive advocate who is clearly highly respected by the judiciary."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2019
