

## Hugh Saunders

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*“A class act, great on his feet”* – Legal 500 2020

*“... personifies cool, calm and collected ...”* – Chambers & Partners 2020

Hugh is a leading junior in **construction, engineering and technology disputes** who is described in the directories as *“considerably experienced”* yet *“down-to-earth and approachable”* and someone who *“quickly builds a rapport with clients and is a reassuring addition to any team”*. He also has significant experience in associated fields including **professional liability, property damage, insurance, bonds and guarantees, public procurement, injunctions, and insolvency**.

Hugh’s expertise is recognised in Chambers & Partners, where clients say that he is a *“junior with a rapidly growing reputation”* who is *“equally good on his feet as he is on paper”*, is *“very commercial and has excellent analytical skills”*, and gives advice that *“is first-class, comprehensive and answers the question”*. He is also listed as a leading junior for construction work in the Legal 500 and is ranked in Who’s Who Legal: Construction 2020 in their “Future Leaders” section as one of the world’s leading construction lawyers aged 45 or under.

Although he is usually instructed as sole counsel, Hugh is often led (by silks both inside and outside chambers) and he is increasingly instructed to lead more junior counsel on significant matters. Hugh has also been appointed to act as adjudicator in statutory and contractual adjudications.

A confident and persuasive advocate on his feet and on paper, Hugh regularly appears before the High Court (particularly in the TCC) and the County Court. He also has extensive experience in adjudications (including enforcements in the High Court) and in domestic and international arbitration. Hugh has acted for clients around the world, including in the Caribbean, China, Europe, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Turkey and throughout the Arabian Peninsula, both on matters within the UK and within their own jurisdictions.

Clients describe Hugh as being *“very strategic and user-friendly”* and say that he is *“easy to work with, his drafting style is clear and precise and he just works well as an extension of the team”*.

Before returning to the Bar in 2014, Hugh practised for over seven years in the specialist construction groups at some of the world’s leading law firms, including White & Case and Nabarro (now CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang), acting on a wide range of commercial matters and disputes. This background gives him a genuine understanding of the needs of his instructing solicitors and his clients’ commercial interests, and of the importance of finding practical, cost-effective solutions where possible, including alternatives to pursuing litigation, adjudication or arbitration. Hugh’s commercial experience means that he is still instructed to



advise on non-contentious matters including contract drafting and procurement and he is familiar with all the major standard-form construction contracts including the JCT, NEC, FIDIC and LOGIC forms and SOPC-based PFI contracts.

Hugh is the co-author (with Ben Patten QC) of *Professional Negligence in Construction* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Informa) and he writes the RICS iSurv materials on Contract Administration. He is also a member of TECBAR (serving on the committee between 2014 and 2018), the SCL, the Adjudication Society (and a former editor of the Society's newsletter), the PNBA and the BILA.

## Privacy Policy

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## Areas of Expertise

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### Property Damage

Hugh has a well established practice in property damage cases, particularly where the damage is alleged to have occurred as a result of fire, water, or construction operations. Typically, Hugh is instructed as sole counsel in complex, multi-party disputes in the High Court where the other parties are represented by Silks or very senior juniors. Most of Hugh's cases in this field relate to residential developments and infrastructure works, and he has been instructed in relation to numerous cladding claims following the Grenfell disaster.

Hugh's recent cases in this field include:

- Acting for one of 10 defendants in a £22m claim by a property developer arising out of a fire in a development of over 450 homes.
- Instructed by an insurer in a complicated claim arising from a fire caused by damage to a buried electrical cable by a contractor carrying out water repair works.
- Acting for the contractor defendant in a £6m claim relating to a fire in a high-class residential apartment block in central London.
- Acting for the contractor defendants in a claim relating to damage to a sewer that was allegedly caused during a £200m PFI housing regeneration project.
- A £1m claim relating to water damage to electrical panels that were to be installed in a datacentre.

## Qualifications & Memberships

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Hugh is a member of:

- TECBAR (The Technology and Construction Bar Association)
- The Society of Construction Law
- The Adjudication Society
- The Professional Negligence Bar Association
- COMBAR (The Commercial Bar Association)
- The British Insurance Law Association

Hugh served as a committee member of TECBAR between 2014 and 2018. He is a former editor of the Adjudication Society Newsletter.

Hugh is accredited by Gray's Inn as an advocacy instructor.

### Education

- LLB Law (First Class), University of Hertfordshire (awarded the A&R Woolf Scholarship for the top First in the year)
- BEng Software Engineering, University of Sheffield



## Insights

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**Professional Negligence in Construction (2nd edition, Informa) (with Ben Patten QC)**