

## Paul Fisher

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*Paul was incredibly diligent and easy to work with – a keen sense of detail coupled with a firm technical and legal understanding*  
- Legal 500

Paul also has a thriving public law practice. His work is advocacy-heavy, complemented by the fact that he serves as Counsel on the Attorney General's Civil Panel (C Panel). In this capacity he frequently acts for and advises various government bodies, including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Environment Agency and the Department for Communities and Local Government. This includes judicial review and applications for interim relief in cases relating to alleged unlawful detention, human trafficking and unlawful deportation as well as the lawfulness of sanctions regimes.

Paul is no stranger to disputes with an international angle. Outside of the UK, he has particular expertise in projects within the Middle East and the CIS/Central Asia. He is a busy junior advocate with plenty of experience acting as sole counsel and with silks. Notable recent cases include:

1. A series of hearings before the High Court in which Paul successfully obtained freezing orders in respect of commercial debts arising from the largest private prosecution in British legal history (*Mirchandani -and- (1) Gheewala (2) Augusta Ventures Ltd [2020] EWHC 1742 (QB)*);
2. A number of cladding cases in which Paul acts for claimants and defendants in actions arising out of investigations instigated following the tragic Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017. This includes a case arising out of the significant Media City UK development in Salford, in which Paul acts for one of the defendants (led by Sian Mirchandani QC);
3. Proceedings before the Qatar Civil and Commercial Court for enforcement of performance/advance payment bonds (*Obayashi Qatar LLC v Qatar First Bank LLC (Public) [2020] QIC (F) 5*) and in a trial concerned with a debt owed for the supply and installation of ATMs in Doha for a major Qatari bank (*Protech Solutions LLC v Qatar Islamic Bank QPSC [2020] QIF (F) 14*).

Paul frequently writes for publications throughout England and the Middle East on matters pertaining to his main areas of practice. He provides seminars and talks tailored to the needs of individual firms and has given lectures abroad on advocacy and the English legal system. Paul also has Russian language skills and has experience of legal issues surrounding significant infrastructure projects arising out of the CIS.

For more details about Paul's work in respect of each of his practice areas, please refer to the relevant headings below.

## Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Paul Fisher.

## Areas of Expertise

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### Construction

**“An excellent construction lawyer, with first class legal skills and the ability to work as part of a team.”** – *Legal 500, 2022*

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Paul has extensive experience of construction-related litigation and arbitration. His experience includes disputes arising from major infrastructural projects in the UK and the Middle East encompassing complex claims for prolongation costs, extensions of time, variation and unlawful termination. Paul is recognised as a Leading Construction Junior by Legal 500.

He has experience of advising and acting in disputes relating to all the major contract suites, including JCT, FIDIC and NEC. He also has experience of the civil codes of Qatar, the UAE and Bahrain in the context of construction disputes and working throughout the Persian Gulf and the Sultanate of Oman.

- Proceedings before the Qatar Civil and Commercial Court for enforcement of performance/advance payment bonds (*Obayashi Qatar LLC v Qatar First Bank LLC (Public)* [2020] QIC (F) 5);
- A number of cladding cases in which Paul acts for claimants and defendants in actions arising out of investigations instigated following the tragic Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017. This includes a case arising out of the significant Media City UK development in Salford, in which Paul acts for one of the defendants (led by Sian Mirchandani QC);
- A £50 million LCIA arbitration brought against insurers for damage under a Contractors’ All Risk Policy (led by Roger Stewart QC);
- A claim purportedly worth in excess of \$US20 million relating to the construction of an immersed tunnel in Scandinavia;
- An action brought in the TCC by two universities for the provision of allegedly negligent advice on EU and national procurement rules (led by Patrick Lawrence QC);
- A trial in the Technology and Construction Court concerning the installation of an industrial ventilation system at a battery sub-station in Leighton Buzzard. Paul successfully defended a sub-contractor from a counterclaim alleging breach of duties in failing to ensure that the system provided conditioning within a certain temperature range;
- An ICC Arbitration relating to works undertaken at an airbase in the Middle East;
- An ICC Arbitration with an Omani seat concerning a major airport in the Middle East.
- An ICC arbitration with a Qatari seat relating to a major airport in the Middle East.
- Advising in an ICC arbitration in respect of a major energy plant in the Middle East.
- Advising on contractual termination within the construction context pursuant to the Qatari Civil Code;
- Assisting with a claim concerning fit out works to residential units in the City of London;
- Assisting in respect of a claim against multiple parties arising from property damage sustained due to poor quality foundational work and/or design and/or geotechnical advice;
- Assisting in respect of a claim for costs and delay arising from a major transport and infrastructural project in England;
- Assisting in respect of a claim for costs and delay arising from a compensation event pursuant to the NEC3 Standard Form contract relating to a transport and infrastructural project in England;
- Advising in a subcontractor claim relating to a hospital in Doha, State of Qatar;
- Frequently advising on the operating and scope of joint venture agreements in the construction context.

Paul frequently writes on points of legal interest for construction lawyers and professionals for publications in the UK and in the Middle East.

## Qualifications & Memberships

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## Memberships

COMBAR, PNBA, TECBAR

## Education

Paul read law at St. Catherine's College, Oxford where he obtained a first class degree and was awarded a David Blank Scholarship. At the same institution Paul achieved a distinction on the BCL studying with the benefit of a graduate scholarship. Throughout this time Paul received various university prizes including for his performance in Competition, Labour and EU Constitutional law. Having studied the BPTC at Cardiff University (graded Outstanding) Paul was called to the Bar at Middle Temple where he is an Astbury Scholar and a Lechmere Essay Prize winner. In 2012 he was awarded the Access to Justice Foundation Student Essay Prize. Paul has served as a part-time Lecturer at St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford teaching the law of contract and constitutional law. Paul also has an MA in Russian studies from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London (Distinction).

## Insights

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### **Wheeldon Brothers Waste Limited v Millennium Insurance Company Limited [2018] EWHC 834 (TCC): the construction of a condition precedent relating to storage of combustible materials**

30 April 2018

When a fire caused damage at a waste processing plant owned by the Claimant, Wheeldon Brothers Waste Limited ("Wheeldon"), the Defendant insurer, Millennium Insurance Company Limited ("Millenium"), declined an indemnity on the grounds that, among other things, Wheeldon had been in breach of conditions precedent to liability. Judgment in favour of Wheeldon's claim for declaratory relief, and indemnity and/or damages (liability only) was given by Jonathan Acton Davis QC sitting as Deputy High Court Judge. The case serves as another reminder of the principles applicable to contractual construction and the operation of conditions precedent to liability in insurance contracts. The Court's decision is considered by Paul Fisher of 4 New Square.

### **Ambitions for Astana**

7 March 2018

Paul Fisher writes for Practical Law in the first of a series of articles on dispute resolution in the new Astana International Financial Centre and its Court. [Click to read the article.](#)

### **Soviet Union's Approach to Arbitration and its Enduring Influence Upon Arbitration, Russian Law Journal, 2017 5(4):129-150**

4 November 2017

### **Milton Furnitures Limited v Brit Insurance Limited [2015] EWCA Civ 671**

7 July 2017

### **Building Qatar: International Diplomacy and the Contractual Bargain**

7 July 2017

### **Liability insurance: governing law and jurisdiction**

1 September 2016

### **Atlasnavios – Navegacao, LDA v Navigators Insurance Company Ltd & Ors [2016] EWCA**



NEW SQUARE

**Civ 808**

1 August 2016