

Tim Chelmick

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Incredibly bright and very much to the point. He marries legal know-how with technical excellence.

- Chambers & Partners

Tim Chelmick specialises in commercial disputes with a particular emphasis on international arbitration, construction, professional liability and costs.

With a strong scientific background, Tim is regularly involved in cases with a scientific or technical element involving complex expert evidence.

Many of his disputes relate to projects in the Middle East as Tim spent 2 years living and working in Dubai. He is one of only two leading juniors recommended for both commercial and construction disputes in Legal 500's UAE guide. Legal Directories characterise his work as including "*shareholder, insurance, and asset-tracing matters*" for commercial and "*heavy infrastructure disputes*" for construction.

Tim is also recommended in the UK legal directories for construction, costs and professional liability. He has been described by clients as "*An incredibly commercial barrister, who is able to cut through all extraneous information and drill down to the facts of the case*" who has "*an uncanny ability to adapt quickly to all kinds of instructions*"; "*an extremely bright mind*" and "*excellent advocacy skills*" with "*the potential to rise to the top of the profession*".

Prior to joining chambers, Tim read chemistry at Magdalen College, Oxford obtaining a first class degree. After leaving Oxford, Tim worked for 2 years as a software developer in the technology department of Goldman Sachs in the London, New York and Hong Kong offices.

Privacy Policy

Click here for a [Privacy Policy](#) for Timothy Chelmick.

Areas of Expertise

International Arbitration

"He steals a march on other barristers in terms of on-the-ground Middle East experience. A go to barrister for the Middle East region." – *Legal 500, 2022*

"He's very hard-working and diligent. He is also technically strong, especially in relation to construction-related arbitration, and he is strong in getting to the heart of the detail and the quantum." – *Chambers & Partners, 2022*



“Commercially minded, excellent drafting that gets straight to the crux of the matter, sensible dealing with pleadings and evidence.” – *Legal 500, 2021*

“My preferred senior junior for international arbitration – he is incredibly good value and hardworking.” – *Legal 500, 2020*

Many of the claims where Tim is instructed are arbitration claims and Tim has extensive experience in arbitrations (including as sole advocate) conducted under a wide variety of rules including UNCITRAL, ICC, LCIA, DIAC and ADCCAC. The arbitrations include complex commercial dispute and construction disputes. The subject matter of the arbitrations is often based in the Middle East, where Tim lived and worked for 2 years.

He has also acted in court proceedings in support of arbitration, with particular experience of applications for anti-suit relief and applications to set aside arbitration awards.

Cases

- **SP v MT**
Application to set aside an arbitration award (for in excess of US\$ 500 million) on the grounds of serious procedural irregularity regarding disclosure.
- **Confidential ICC arbitration**
Acting for the employer in an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of a gas fired power station in Iraq. The claim raised issues of misrepresentation (including fraudulent misrepresentation) along with issues of delay and disruption. The sums claimed were in excess of US\$ 100 million. Tim was instructed as the sole advocate on behalf of the employer at the final hearing before 3 arbitrators that lasted approximately 4 weeks.
- **Maldives Airport Arbitration**
Acting for the GMR-MAHB Consortium in a number of UNCITRAL arbitrations against the Maldives Government relating to the performance and termination a concession agreement relating to the main international airport in the Maldives (with Bankim Thanki QC and Justin Fenwick QC). The sum claimed for wrongful termination exceeded USD 1.4 billion. The claim has also involved two sets of proceedings before the High Court of Singapore for an anti-suit injunction and an injunction preventing termination of the Concession Agreement (Maldives Airports Co Ltd and Anor v GMR Male International Airport Pte Ltd [2013] SGCA 16).
- **Confidential ICC arbitration**
Acting for the sub-contractor in an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of an oil processing facility in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- **Confidential ICC arbitration**
Acting for a JV partner in a dispute involving a site fabrication yard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- **Confidential LCIA arbitration**
Acting for a high profile GCC individual in an LCIA arbitration relating to an investment in a telecommunications company. The claim is for in excess of US\$ 500M. The claim also involved related proceedings in the GCC and an application for anti-suit relief to the Tribunal.
- **Arbitration in Dubai**
Acting for an insurer in an arbitration (in Dubai) regarding an insurance claim following a fire at commercial premises (policy governed by UAE law).
- **Expert determination proceedings**
Acting as sole advocate for the main contractor in ADR proceedings in support of an ICC arbitration relating to the construction of a strategic oil pipeline across the UAE. The contract value was in excess of US\$ 3 billion and the sum in dispute exceeded USD 500 million. The contract was subject to UAE law.



- **Confidential arbitration in Dubai**

Acting for the contractor in an UNCITRAL arbitration relating to a claim brought by a contractor against an employer in respect of the construction of a shopping centre and hotel complex in Dubai following the termination of the main contract (governed by UAE law). The claim involved issues of wrongful termination, delay and disruption and there were also parallel proceedings in the Dubai courts relating to a performance bond.

- **Confidential LCIA arbitration**

Acting for the owners of a Bahraini construction company in an LCIA arbitration relating to a dispute involving a private equity investment in the company by an international investment fund. The claim involved allegations of breaches of warranty and allegations of fraud.

- **Claim against an architect in Dubai**

Acting for a Dubai subsidiary of a Singaporean contractor in a claim against a sub-contractor which involved allegations of defective architectural design work (contract governed by UAE law).

Qualifications & Memberships

MChem (Oxon) Dip. Law (City)

TECBAR – accredited adjudicator

Society for Construction Law

COMBAR

PNBA

Insights

Zuberi v Lexlaw Limited: Damages Based Agreements in England and Wales – a new dawn?

19 January 2021

George McDonald and Tim Chelmick discuss the radical Court of Appeal decision in Zuberi v Lexlaw Limited which has made damages-based agreements in England and Wales far more attractive to solicitors and heralds a new era for contingency arrangements.

The Construction of Contracts

8 May 2018

Lecture by Sir Rupert Jackson and Tim Chelmick at the 4 New Square Construction Law Conference on 1st May 2018

Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability

30 January 2017

Editor of the 7th and 8th Editions

Global Arbitration Review's Guide to Construction Arbitration

1 September 2017

Contributor