

## 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

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### Construction & Engineering

**"Tim is a great team player and works very hard. He is very bright and technically strong."** – *Legal 500, 2022 (Middle East: Construction)*

**"Tim is a very thorough and skilful barrister who is able to provide clear and pragmatic advice in relation to the dispute subject matter."** – *Legal 500, 2022*



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**“He is highly capable of dealing with complex legal issues.”** – *Chambers & Partners, 2022*

**“Highly commercial, responsive, understands immediately what clients need and delivers.”** – *Legal 500, 2021*

**“He is an outstanding professional and is very quick in grasping, analysing and articulating a case. His drafting is a big strength and he cross-examines very ably.”** – *Chambers & Partners, 2021*

**“Ruthlessly efficient in trial.”** – *Legal 500, 2020 (Middle East: Construction)*

Tim is a recommended junior in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 for construction and engineering disputes.

As noted in the directories, his practice encompasses the full spectrum of litigation and arbitration, both domestic and international. Tim is often instructed in disputes relating to projects in the Middle East involving, in particular, allegations of delay and disruption. He is familiar with most standard form contracts with particular expertise in FIDIC based contracts. He has also been involved in a number of disputes involving PFI and other long term relationship contracts.

Tim is a TECBAR accredited adjudicator who acts in adjudications both as adjudicator and counsel. He is also often involved in proceedings for the enforcement of adjudication awards in the Technology and Construction Court. He has dealt with a number of adjudications which raised issues of jurisdiction and procedural unfairness.

## Cases

- **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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Lalana Hans Place v MBP**

Acting for a firm of structural engineers in respect of a dispute involving the design of substantial basements constructed beneath high-value residential property in central London. The case settled on the day the trial was listed to start.

- **Claim against a structural engineer**

Acting for a firm of structural engineers in respect of a dispute involving the design of staircases and transfer beams in a central London development. The claim involves issues of delay and disruption.

- **Claim against an architect**

Acting for a firm of architects in a claim involving allegations of negligence regarding the design and construction of security measures at a jewellery shop in London following a raid where watches worth several million pounds were stolen.

- **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).
- **Claim against a quantity surveyor**  
Acting in an adjudication where the allegation was negligent certification of a final account by a quantity surveyor. The adjudication involved cross-examination of expert quantity surveyors.
- **Claim against an M&E contractor**  
Acting in a substantial adjudication involving allegations of defective works in the construction of the development used as the Olympic Village for the 2012 games.
- **Dispute regarding waste handling contract**  
Acting in a number of related adjudications in relation to the long term PFI contracts regarding sewage processing in Northern Ireland (with Anneliese Day QC).
- **PFI dispute**  
Acting in adjudication proceedings relating to the contract to supply and install water meters in Central London.
- **Family Mosaic Housing v Mears Ltd**  
Acting (with Anneliese Day QC) in Part 8 Proceedings relating to the true construction of a settlement agreement that terminated a long term supply agreement for maintenance services in respect of social housing. Also instructed in related adjudications.
- **Dispute between employer and main contractor**  
Acting for the main contractor in a dispute involving the construction of a railway bridge.
- **Adjudication**  
Acting (as adjudicator) in respect of a payment dispute regarding works connected with a railway.
- **Adjudication**  
Acting (as adjudicator) in an adjudication involving allegations of wrongful termination of a ground works contract.
- **Bank guarantee**  
Acting for a main contractor on the true construction of an agency agreement and a bank guarantee.

PFI / long term relationship contracts.

## Qualifications & Memberships

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MChem (Oxon) Dip. Law (City)

TECBAR – accredited adjudicator

Society for Construction Law

COMBAR

PNBA

## Insights

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## **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