

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

Professional liability

"He is a hugely hard-working barrister and is easy to work with. He is very good at finding the right option in a common-sense way." – *Chambers & Partners, 2022*

"He is brilliantly smart and second to none in terms of tactics and strategy. Working with Tim spoils you for working with other barristers." – *Legal 500, 2021*



“A really solid performer who is consistently busy in really sizeable and exciting cases, and has loads of experience in professional negligence work.” “His advice is excellent and he just gets on with things.” – Chambers & Partners, 2021

Tim is a recommended junior in the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners for professional liability claims.

Tim has extensive experience in the full range of claims brought against professionals and regularly acts for both claimants and defendants. He has acted both for and against solicitors, surveyors, architects, accountants, insurance brokers and financial services professionals.

With a degree in chemistry and professional experience working as a software developer, Tim has a very strong scientific and technical background and hence he is often involved in cases that raise complex scientific and technical issues. These claims include claims against construction professionals, information technology professionals and patent agents.

Lawyers

Tim has been involved in a substantial number of claims against solicitors and barristers where the underlying subject matter relates to both civil and criminal matters. He has particular experience of claims that relate to the misconduct of litigation and also claims involving residential and commercial conveyancing transactions. He has also been involved in a number of wasted cost claims involving both solicitors and barristers.

As a result of his experience with issues relating to legal costs (Tim is also a recommended junior in the field of legal costs), Tim is also often involved in claims where there are allegations of overcharging and negligence.

Cases

- **Claim involved allegations of misconduct of Lands Tribunal proceedings**
Acting for the claimant in a claim against both solicitors and counsel (along with other professionals) involving allegations of negligence in the course of proceedings before the Lands Tribunal for compensation following the compulsory acquisition of commercial premises in Bristol (with David Halpern QC).
- **Claim relating to the mishandling of financial proceedings arising out of a divorce**
Acting for the claimant in a claim against his former solicitors and accountants involving allegations of misconduct in divorce proceedings that led to an agreed financial settlement being set aside (with Roger Stewart QC).
- **Claim against a solicitor**
Acting for a solicitor accused of mismanagement and under-settlement of litigation by an IFA against his former umbrella organisation. The amount of the under settlement is said to be in excess of £6 million.
- **Brown & Ors v Innovatorone Plc & Ors**
Acting for a senior partner of a London law firm accused of conspiring to defraud investors in the *Innovator* litigation (led by Sue Carr QC). Following a 16 week trial, all claims were dismissed.
- **Claim against a barrister**
Acting for a barrister accused of misconduct in the course of a trial of a construction dispute.

Construction Professionals

Tim is regularly instructed in construction and engineering disputes that involve allegations of professional liability, particularly involving architects, quantity surveyors and structural engineers. He has particular experience of construction and engineering disputes in the Middle East. With his technical background, he particularly enjoys claims which raise complex scientific and technical issues.

Tim is a TECBAR accredited adjudicator and has considerable experience of adjudication in professional liability matters. He has dealt with a number of adjudications and also proceedings to enforce adjudication awards that raised issues of jurisdiction and



procedural unfairness.

Tim is an editor of the Construction Professionals chapter of the 8th edition of Jackson & Powell on Professional Liability.

Cases

- **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 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.
- **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 claim involved an issue regarding the extent privilege can be asserted by an expert in respect of advice given regarding required remedial works.
- **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.

Surveyors & Valuers

Tim also has experience in claims against valuers involving both residential and commercial property. He has been instructed both by banks seeking to recover losses caused by negligent valuations and also by valuers defending such claims. He also has been involved in a number of mortgage fraud cases. Tim also has experience of contribution claims brought by solicitors against valuers.

Cases

- **Claim relating to a failed tax scheme**
Acting for a firm of valuers who provided a valuation of a technology business for the purposes of a tax scheme (with Jamie Smith QC).
- **Claim against a surveyor**
Acting in a number of cases involving allegations of negligent valuations provided by surveyors to lenders (including claims where it is said that the underlying transaction was fraudulent).

Accountants, Auditors & Actuaries

Tim's experience of claims against accountants ranges from group litigation by a number of investors in a film finance scheme to claims against accountants by individuals in respect of negligent tax advice. His recent cases include a claim for damages following the admitted failure by an accountant to file accounts and a claim against finance director for mismanagement of corporate accounts.

Cases

- **Claim against an accountant**
Acting for a Claimant in a claim where a company was struck off as a consequence of the (admitted) breach of duty by the company's accountant.

- **Standard Life v Corr and others**

Acting for a company director accused of misconduct in the course of preparation of company accounts in a claim worth in excess of £20 million (with Graeme McPherson QC).

Financial Services Professionals

Having worked for Goldman Sachs prior to coming to the Bar, Tim is regularly involved in claims involving financial services professionals, ranging from group litigation against accountants accused of giving negligent tax advice to smaller claims against IFAs.

Cases

- **Keydata litigation**

Acting for a number of IFAs in proceedings brought by the FSCS in the Commercial Court relating to the collapse of Keydata.

- **Claim against IFAs**

Acting for a number of IFAs in a substantial commercial Court action involving allegations of pension transfer mis-selling.

- **Claim against fund managers**

Acting for an individual in a claim against a fund managers accused of mismanaging investments.

Insurance Brokers & Agents

Tim is involved in claims both where the primary claim is against the insurance broker and also disputes between policy holders and insurers where the broker has been added as an additional party. He has experience of claims involving material non-disclosure, negligent advice by brokers and also claims where the broker failed to renew insurance policies.

Cases

- **RR Securities Ltd & Ors v Towergate Underwriting Group**

Acting as sole counsel for the successful Claimant in a trial in the Mercantile Court in a claim involving allegations of failure to advise on minimum security standards.

- **Claim against Insurance Brokers**

Acting for a producer of industrial chemicals in a claim against its insurance broker following a fire in the course of the construction of a new chemical plant.

- **Claim against insurance broker**

Acting for a commercial laundry in a claim against its broker involving allegations of under-insurance.

- **Claim against insurance brokers**

Acting for the claimant in a substantial claim against an insurance broker resulting from the avoidance of a buildings insurance policy following a fire by underwriters.

Patent agents

Tim has experience of claims against patent agents involving allegations of negligent advice in respect of the validity and registration of patents. With his scientific background, Tim is often instructed in litigation that involves complicated technical issues.

Qualifications & Memberships



NEW SQUARE

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