



ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE
SHIPBUILDING
GENERAL COMMERCIAL
TECHNOLOGY
TRANSPORT

Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC

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PRACTICE

Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC is the Head of Atkin Chambers and was the 2016 Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales. She has a wide-ranging practice in domestic and international commercial dispute resolution, with particular emphasis on energy and natural resources, construction, engineering and infrastructure projects, joint ventures, professional negligence, shipbuilding, and IT and telecommunications.

As well as being instructed on a number of significant domestic project and energy disputes, she has a busy international practice. Cases have included disputes arising in Asia (China, Indonesia, Philippines, India and Singapore), Europe (Germany, Lithuania, Norway and Switzerland), the Middle East (Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Oman and Qatar), South America (Costa Rica and Peru), CIS (Russia and Azerbaijan), and Ukraine. She is bilingual in German and English.

She has been identified by leading legal directories for many years as a leading practitioner in energy and natural resources, construction, professional negligence, and international arbitration. She is also identified as a leading practitioner under international arbitration and construction (Asia-Pacific region) and construction (The Middle East). She is co-editor in chief of the International Construction Law Review.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chantal-Aimée has extensive experience in these sectors, including in connection with disputes relating to FPSOs, FPU, MOPUs, drilling platforms, jacking up systems, gas pipelines, a mono ethylene glycol recovery unit, biorefinery offshore and onshore, desalination projects, power stations (including nuclear, combined cycle gas turbine, coal fired thermal and diesel engine), wind farms

(offshore and onshore, turbines, substations, pricing), geothermal wells, aluminium smelter, power purchase agreements and contracts for electricity, water and sewerage supply.

Her clients come from a range of players in these sectors and include operators, suppliers, contractors, public bodies, insurers and designers, with a range of disputes concerning construction, design, commissioning and performance, as well as operation and maintenance, tariffs (fuel and operation and maintenance), termination, LDs, warranty claims, insurance claims, bond claims and contractual indemnities and provisions concerning pollution, fines and penalties.

A “formidable” opponent and a “charming and very effective advocate.”

A “class act.”

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers and Partners

“She’s great - as well as being good on the law she is very user-friendly, has a quick turnaround and is a pleasure to work with. Her drafting is elegant and concise, and she reads a tribunal really well.”

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers and Partners

CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Her cases span a wide range of technically and legally complex projects (including schools, hospitals, sports facilities, power plants, PFI, EPC/turnkey, contaminated ground, laboratories, a fire station, transport, factories, office blocks, prestigious museums, listed buildings, roads, retail, sewage and water treatment) and various works (including earthworks, demolition, piling, drainage, concrete, structural works, steelworks, cladding, M&E). Clients come from across the industry including government, contractors/subcontractors, employers, professionals, and insurers.

“A top-flight barrister with an incisive legal mind who is capable of instinctive strategic thinking.”

Construction, Chambers and Partners

“Measured, calm and authoritative.”

Construction, The Legal 500

“She is absolutely excellent and really commercial. She got to grips with the paperwork very quickly and was very good at flagging up the risks.” Construction, Chambers and Partners

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Chantal-Aimée has considerable experience advising/representing parties in international arbitration. Recent examples include arbitrations concerning commercial transactions and projects in Norway, Singapore, Philippines, Africa, the Gulf, CIS, South America, Korea and China under various different rules including ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SIAC, SCMA, UNCITRAL and Swiss Rules, as well as ad hoc arbitrations. She is an experienced arbitrator, with appointments as Chair and as Co-Arbitrator. In addition to being ranked in the UK directories for international arbitration and international arbitration/construction, she is ranked as a notable practitioner by Chambers and Partners for Arbitration (International) – The English Bar – Asia-Pacific Region.

“Absolutely fantastic.”

“Very approachable and commercially savvy.”

“She is a very modern barrister, who is very commercial and obviously very smart, and knows how to deal with clients.”

International Arbitration, Chambers and Partners

PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE

Chantal-Aimée is frequently involved in professional negligence cases concerning construction and engineering professionals, although her practice goes beyond this industry. She acted for the engineers in the Wembley litigation, reputedly the largest professional negligence claim issued out of the Technology and Construction Court in London.

“A brilliant lawyer, with commercial nous.”

Professional Negligence, The Legal 500

“She is proactive, pugnacious and her language skills prove extremely helpful when she’s dealing with international clients.” “She is very bright, but not overly academic in presentation, which means that the client always feels comfortable that they understand what she’s saying.”

Professional Negligence (Technology and Construction), Chambers and Partners

SHIPBUILDING

Chantal-Aimée has been instructed on a number of disputes relating to the construction, refurbishment and commissioning of vessels include cases relating to an ultra-deepwater drillship engaged in oil exploration services, a very large crude carrier motor vessel, anchor handling tug supply vessels, FPSOs, FPU’s, a MOPU, drilling platforms and pontoons. She has advised shipyards, ports, suppliers of specialist equipment, operators, buyers and funders, and has advised on contracts for ship construction and option agreements.

“A real pleasure... she is commercial and very good with clients.”

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers and Partners

GENERAL COMMERCIAL

Chantal-Aimée is also instructed in relation to wider commercial disputes, frequently connected with the other sectors she has expertise in. This has included advising and representing clients in relation to disputes relating to joint venture agreements, share purchase agreements, bonds and guarantees, insurance cover, sale of goods, investment management agreements, fraud, jurisdiction, misfeasance and breach of fiduciary duty.

TECHNOLOGY

Chantal-Aimée has been involved in a number of disputes relating to the provision and suitability of complex technology. Examples include disputes in relation to the supply, installation and commissioning of telecommunications equipment for national networks, the fitness for purpose of a radio frequency based defence system (software and hardware), the supply and installation of fibre optic cables, the provision of internet services and network access, the provision of station surveillance equipment for a major public transport network and the provision of computerised systems for factories and storage facilities.

TRANSPORT

Chantal-Aimée has experience of a number of substantial transport disputes. These include cases concerning the operation, management and maintenance of a high-speed railway, road and railway stations construction, London Underground including in relation to surveillance equipment, signalling systems for a national public transport system, the renewal, maintenance and remedying of rail tracks, ferry terminal construction, and the supply of a tram system.

“A top-flight barrister with an incisive legal mind who is capable of instinctive strategic thinking.”
Construction, Chambers and Partners

LEGAL TEXTS

International Construction Law Review (Co-Editor in Chief)

Hudson's Building and Engineering Contracts 12th, 13th & 14th Ed. (Contributing Editor)

Building Law Reports (Joint Editor 1999-2020)

QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

2018	International Academy of Construction Lawyers Fellow
2016	Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales
2016	Debrett's 500 People of Influence in the UK (under Law)
2012	Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation
2011-2015	Chairman of the International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales
2010-2013	Chairman of the Technology and Construction Bar Association
2009	The Lawyer's Hot 100
2008	Queen's Counsel
1992	Major Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition, Middle Temple

1990	Diplock Scholarship, Middle Temple
1990	Gertrude de Gallaix Achievement Award for study of law, FAWCO
1987-1991	Cambridge University, New Hall (now Murray Edwards College)
1989	President of the Cambridge Union Society
1986-1987	University of Pennsylvania, USA

RECENT RECOMMENDATIONS

"An absolutely class act, highly intelligent with fantastic technical knowledge and excellent with clients." "She gets 100% on top of a case, making her points clearly and effectively bridging the mood of the court."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

"She mastered the details and built a good rapport with the tribunal." "Clearly on top of her game - she's fantastic."

Energy, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

"Excellent with complicated cases – she can get to the core issues and gets results." "She's very thorough and clear."

Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

"Chantal is my leading counsel of choice for construction disputes. Her responsiveness, attention to detail and excellent client facing skills make her an absolute star in my opinion."

Construction, The Legal 500 2021

"She shows clarity and creativity and her competence pervades everything that she does."

Energy, The Legal 500 2021

"Absolutely fantastic and a punchy advocate."

International Arbitration, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021

"Able and willing to get into the details of the case, rolls up her sleeves and mucks in with the team, and has an excellent rapport with the arbitrators."

International Arbitration, The Legal 500 2021

"She has a very strong reputation and a clear analytical mind."

Professional Negligence, The Legal 500 2021

"Sources speak of her as 'an outstanding advocate with a deep understanding of technical issues' who is 'very good at telling it like it is, but will fight to the last ditch if you tell her,' one citing her 'justifiably stellar reputation' and adding: 'Everyone speaks of her with awe'."

International Arbitration - The English Bar, Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global 2020

"Offers sound legal advice which methodically addresses the key issues."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar and Chambers Global 2020

"Chantal is fantastic to work with. She exudes confidence and clarity of purpose." "She is very thorough and has good advocacy skills." "She is internationally renowned. She is ideal for tricky matters, such as those involving various jurisdictions. She is smooth, measured and unflappable."

Energy, Chambers & Partners UK Bar and Chambers Global 2020

"She is well prepared and has an attractive style in court which is quite conversational and understated, but certainly very persistent."

Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020

"Super bright and personable with an amazing work ethic." "A very punchy advocate."

International Arbitration, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020

"She is unreservedly a master of her subject."

Construction, The Legal 500 2020

"Particularly strong in energy and infrastructure arbitrations."

International Arbitration, The Legal 500 2020

"Careful and measured in her work, she gets into the details."

Energy, The Legal 500 2020

"She is outstanding for construction-related professional negligence."

Professional Negligence, The Legal 500 2020

"In the field of construction law, she is very highly sought after."

Construction, Energy & Infrastructure, The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2020

"What takes others ten pages to justify she can do in one."

Construction, The Legal 500 Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) 2020

"Impressive advocacy. She is well respected by tribunals and ensures people understand the issues."

"A leading light in the field with a good range. Her linguistic skills are helpful and she has a good manner with clients and good response times."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

"An extremely fluent advocate, who is very focused and able to deal with every fast ball bowled at her without any difficulty." "She's hands-on and provides pragmatic advice."

Energy, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

"Impressive advocacy. She is well respected by tribunals and ensures people understand the issues. She does not overstate things in court."

Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

"Commercial and user-friendly."

International Arbitration, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2019

"A leading light" on the construction and engineering arbitration scene

"An extremely fluent advocate who is very focused and able to deal with every fast ball bowled at her without any difficulty."

International Arbitration, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2019

"She is clear and direct in her advice – she tells it like it is."

Construction, The Legal 500 2019

"Incredibly easy to work with; unreservedly a master of her subject, but down to earth."

Energy, The Legal 500 2019

"Highly experienced in energy and infrastructure disputes."

International Arbitration, The Legal 500 2019

"Excellent on construction-related professional negligence cases."

Professional Negligence, The Legal 500 2019

"Instructed in construction and engineering cases across the region."

Construction, The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2019

"A popular choice for chaebols in energy disputes."

Energy, The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2019

"Chantal grasped the relevant issues and asked the right questions to get to the solution. Her legal analysis was very sound." "Very bright, strategic and a team player." "Measured and client-friendly."

Construction, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2018 and Chambers Global 2018

"Grasps the relevant issues very quickly and asks the right questions to get the preferred solution." "A very organised and very clear advocate."

Energy and Natural Resources, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2018 and Chambers Global 2018

"A good, steady, reliable performer."

International Arbitration, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2018

"She has tremendous experience in the construction sector, and is good at grasping the relevant issues and asking the right questions. Her legal analysis is very sound."

Professional Negligence, Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2018

"Very good, very careful, very thorough and persuasive advocate"

International Arbitration, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2018 and Chambers Global 2018

"Sharp and comprehensive; she can always be counted on for pragmatic and incisive advice."

Construction, The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2018

“Instructed in power construction cases.”

Energy, The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2018

“A go-to silk with strong legal and commercial skills and efficient delivery.”

Construction, The Legal 500 2017

“Highly regarded for projects work.”

Energy, The Legal 500 2017

“A strong arbitration silk.”

International Arbitration, The Legal 500 2017

“Brilliant”

Professional Negligence, The Legal 500 2017

“Sharp and comprehensive; she can always be counted on for pragmatic and incisive advice.”

Construction, The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2017

The above are a selection of recent client endorsements from the leading legal directories, both UK and internationally. For a complete list of endorsements, please contact the practice management team at Atkin Chambers.