



Ravi Aswani
Call: England & Wales (2000)

Arbitrator Profile

LLB (First Class), University College London
MCI Arb; CEDR Accredited Mediator
Languages: Gujarati (fluent)
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Practice Profile

Both as counsel and increasingly as an arbitrator, a very considerable part of Ravi Aswani's practice has been in the field of International Commercial Arbitration.

His experience extends across a wide range of industry sectors and rules, including ICC, LCIA, SIAC, DIFC-LCIA, UNCITRAL, LMAA and SCMA. He has experience in both institutional and ad hoc arbitration.

Ravi has acted in disputes arising out of all areas of shipping and international trade, banking and finance, commodities, construction, energy, insurance and re-insurance, and various international consortia and joint venture agreements.

Ravi also has considerable experience of dispute resolution in a judicial capacity, having since 2013 sat as a Deputy District Judge in the County Court of England and Wales. Ravi sits primarily in the civil jurisdiction (and occasionally in the family jurisdiction). In 2020 he was authorised to hear specialist Chancery and Insolvency & Bankruptcy matters. He has presided over numerous trials involving consideration of factual and expert evidence.

He frequently speaks on arbitration topics all over the world to law firms and at conferences. He has a very international practice, with a particular interest in Asia in general where he is a frequent visitor and has a growing workload.

Ravi has been a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCI Arb) since 2012. In 2019 he joined the ICC Global Commission on Arbitration and ADR, representing the UK.

Ravi has a longstanding passion for matters of equality, diversity, inclusion, belonging and social mobility. Over the past two decades he has attended numerous cross-sector and cross-discipline advanced training events on these topics, observing considerable changes in thinking and practice over that time. Ravi also has a keen interest in mentoring and assisting the next generation of practitioners. He has participated in mentoring programmes run by Young ICCA and by UCL, and is a Chambers' pupil supervisor. He is also often sought out as an informal mentor by junior practitioners.

Arbitrator work in last three years

In the last three years Ravi has worked on the following arbitrations as arbitrator:

- ICC Arbitration (Swiss seat, English law) - Co-arbitrator - Award issued September 2018.
- LMAA Arbitration (English seat, English law) - Co-arbitrator – settled between hearing and Award.

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- LCIA Arbitration (Indian seat, Indian law) - Sole arbitrator – (Expedited) award issued March 2019.
- LMAA Arbitration (English seat, English law) - Co-arbitrator - pre-hearing stages.
- LMAA Arbitration (English seat, English law) – Sole arbitrator - Award issued 01/21.

Directory testimonials (as Counsel) in last two years

Ravi has for many years been consistently ranked in all the major legal directories. The past two year's testimonials are included below:

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021 and Global 2021- "He's an effective advocate and works very hard." (International Arbitration (General Commercial and Insurance))

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021 and Global 2021 – "A solid, knowledgeable and effective advocate." (Shipping and Commodities)

Legal 500 UK Bar 2021 - "His strengths are his strong ability to understand matters from the client's perspective and his in-depth knowledge of Arbitration and other Commercial laws." (International Arbitration (Counsel))

Legal 500 UK Bar 2021 - "You can't ask for more when Ravi is at hand - he is bright, precise, meticulous, and provides clear and honest advice." (Commodities)

Legal 500 UK Bar 2021 - "He gets very quickly to the heart of the issue and has a forensic eye to details that impact on that." (Shipping)

Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021 – "He is pragmatic, learned, erudite, and to the point; you could not ask for more." (Commercial)

Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021 – "He is pragmatic, learned, erudite, and to the point." (Shipping and Commodities)

Who's Who Legal 2021 - Arbitration Future Leader

Who's Who Legal UK Bar 2021 - Recommended for International Trade & Commodities

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020 - "He knows every single rule in arbitration." "Bright and user-friendly." (International Arbitration (General Commercial and Insurance))

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2020 and Global 2020 – "He's tremendously proactive, always available and quick to respond." "He's a really good person to have on a complicated factual dispute, he will read every document and know exactly where everything is. He presents very well because he clearly knows what he's talking about." (Shipping and Commodities)

Legal 500 UK Bar 2020 - "A rising star in international arbitration." (International Arbitration (Counsel))

Legal 500 UK Bar 2020 - "A rising star who is both intelligent and user-friendly." (Commodities)

Legal 500 UK Bar 2020 - "A tough and tenacious advocate who gives clear and lucid presentations in arbitration and before the court." (Shipping)

Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2020 - "Quick, reliable and to the point." (Commercial)

Who's Who Legal 2020 - Arbitration Future Leader

Who's Who Legal UK Bar 2020 - Recommended for International Trade & Commodities

Representative arbitration related Cases of Interest (as Counsel)

- UNCITRAL arbitration (Kosovo seat, English law) arising out of mining operation.
- ICC arbitration (English seat, Ghanaian law) arising out of contract for construction of hospitals.
- ICC arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of breach of restrictive covenants and infringement of intellectual property rights by former employee
- *A v B* [2019] 1 Lloyd's Rep 385 – s67 and s68 challenges relate to complex damages calculations in the context of an admitted irregularity.

- *Dera Commercial Estate v Derya Inc* [2019] 1 Lloyd's Rep 57 – a leading authority in English law about the proper approach to the dismissal of claims in arbitration for inordinate and inexcusable delay. After being instructed in this case, Ravi has been instructed in several similar cases involving an attempt to apply to have a claim dismissed for inordinate and inexcusable delay, both to advance and to resist such applications.
- SIAC arbitration (Singapore seat, Malaysian law) arising out of a complex operation to relocate a large jack up drilling platform.
- ICC arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of contract for the supply of military grade industrial components.
- LOF arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of a severe fire on a large containership. Ravi was led though did some interim work without his leader against QCs.
- ICC arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of contract for the supply of agency, logistics and customs clearances services ancillary to the construction of a large factory in West Africa.
- SIAC arbitration (Singapore seat, English law) arising out of an industrial disaster.
- LOF arbitration (English seat, English law) instructed unled against a QC in a dispute arising out of a prolonged wreck removal operation.
- LCIA arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of alleged breach of loan facility agreement and ancillary guarantee.
- ICC arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of contract for the supply and commissioning of industrial heat exchangers.
- LOF arbitration (English seat, English law) instructed unled against a QC in a dispute arising out of grounding of a vessel in a sensitive area of natural beauty in Greek waters.
- LMAA arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of alleged repudiation of high value shipbuilding contracts.
- LMAA arbitration (English seat, English law) instructed unled against a QC in a multiphase dispute arising out a high value ship sale and purchase in which jurisdiction, liability and quantum were in issue.
- SIAC arbitration (Singapore seat, Malaysian law) arising out of a commodity sale and purchase.
- ICC arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of a heavy machinery and plant sales and marketing joint venture.
- LMAA arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of a number of related contracts for the construction and purchase of jack up oil drilling rigs.
- LCIA arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of a high value ship repair contract.
- LCIA arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of alleged consultancy agreement.
- GAFTA arbitrations (English seat, English law) arising out of multiple contracts for the sale of soyabean meal and corn, and related challenge to s66 enforcement action on the basis that appeals to the GAFTA appeal board were pending such that the first tier awards could not be enforced.
- *Exmek Pharmaceuticals SAC v Alkem Laboratories Limited* [2016] 1 Lloyd's Rep 239 - Ravi was instructed alone against a QC in a complex challenge to an arbitrator's substantive jurisdiction in an ad hoc English seated arbitration arising out of a pharmaceuticals distribution joint venture agreement. The judgment considers the effect of prior litigation in Peru on the arbitrator's substantive jurisdiction by reference to s32 and s33 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, in the context of dispute resolution provisions providing for both litigation and arbitration, in the "UK" under "UK law".

- *Konkola Copper Mines PLC v U&M Mining Zambia Ltd* - Ravi was instructed as junior counsel (led by Derrick Dale QC) in four consolidated LCIA arbitrations arising out of four related mining joint venture agreements, which led to multiple hearings in the Commercial Court on points that attracted considerable interest in the arbitration community: [2014] EWHC 2210 (Comm) – amending arbitration claim form out of time; [2014] 2 Lloyd's Rep 507 - the exercise of the Court's power to order securing of the sums due under an award being challenged; and [2014] 2 Lloyd's Rep 652 - s67 and s68 challenges in the context of an "unless" award.

International Arbitration Speaking Engagements

- May 2021 – "Emerging Trends in Arbitration: Looking at Decarbonisation and Diversity" – CEPANI40 / Osborne Clarke webinar
- November 2020 – "How Junior International Arbitration Practitioners can advance their careers in the age of Covid" – Arbitration Ireland's Dublin International Arbitration Day
- November 2020 – "Arbitration in Asia" – ICC United Kingdom Annual Arbitration & ADR Conference
- January 2019 – "Emergency Arbitration" – Third CARDS Tour de Arbitration
- March 2018 – "Careers in International Arbitration" – ICC YAF event preceding Cambridge International Arbitration Day 2018
- November 2017 – "Third Party Funding in Arbitration" – Arbitration Ireland Young Practitioners' Seminar preceding the Dublin International Arbitration Day
- April 2017 – "Emergency Arbitration" – Inter-Pacific Bar Association's Annual Conference, Auckland
- April 2016 – "Admissibility in Arbitration of Illegally obtained Evidence" – Inter-Pacific Bar Association's Annual Conference, Kuala Lumpur
- March 2016 – "Emergency Arbitration" – ICC YAF event preceding Cambridge International Arbitration Day 2016
- February 2016 – "Interim Awards" – London Shipping Law Centre Conference celebrating 20 years of the English Arbitration Act 1996
- Various – guest lecturing to LLM students at both UCL and QMW

Professional Memberships

- Advocate
- Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats
- Arbitration Ireland
- Bentham Association
- British Maritime Law Association
- CEDR Exchange Network
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators - MCI Arb
- Commercial Bar Association
- FDI International Moot Competition - College of Arbitrators
- ICC Global Commission on Arbitration and ADR
- Indian Maritime Association (UK)
- International Bar Association
- International Council for Commercial Arbitration
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association
- London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association
- London Court of International Arbitration - European Users' Council
- London Maritime Arbitrators' Association - Supporting Member
- Scottish Arbitration Centre
- Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration - Individual Member
- UK India Business Council - Next Generation Network Member
- Worshipful Company of Arbitrators - Freeman