



GRAHAM DUNNING KC

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Silk: 2001

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Graham Dunning KC has a full time specialist practice as an advocate and arbitrator in substantial international and commercial disputes.

Graham has appeared at all levels in the English courts from the Supreme Court down, offshore and in many international arbitrations in London and other arbitration venues around the world. Amongst other things, he has conducted long fraud trials, many appeals to the English Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Privy Council, Commercial Court trials, commercial arbitrations in London, Dubai and Singapore, a trial in the DIFC in Dubai, various anti-suit injunctions and applications for freezing relief, an appeal in the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal, major investment and oil and gas arbitrations and numerous arbitration related court applications (including issues of state immunity). His clients have included states and state entities, banks, major commercial corporations and high net-worth individuals.

An independent survey in 2015 found that Graham was the advocate who had featured the most often in the Commercial Court in the preceding 12 months. From 2013-2017 he was Co-Head of Essex Court Chambers, after which he resumed full time practice.

Graham is widely recognised as a leading expert on international arbitration, including as the Chambers Bar Awards 2014 "International Arbitration Silk of the Year". He has acted as lead counsel in major international arbitrations, including investment arbitrations in Washington, Stockholm and Paris and substantial international commercial arbitrations (e.g. ICC, UNCITRAL, LCIA, LCIA India, SIAC, SCC) in seats across the world concerning a wide range of industries, including finance, insurance, mining, oil and gas, commodities, energy, transport, construction and manufacturing.

Graham also frequently sits as arbitrator in international arbitrations of all kinds, having been appointed in more than 80 cases. He has extensive experience of disputes relating to investments in oil and gas, mining, international trade in all types of commodities, energy and infrastructure, as well as shareholder disputes.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Graham Dunning KC has been recognised consistently as a leading Silk by both Chambers & Partners and Legal 500, the two established directories of the legal profession, which are produced annually and based on independent and objective market research.

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023 – Public International Law:

"He combines being very astute, thorough and user-friendly with being a tenacious advocate who is creative in his arguments."
"He has great presence on his feet. He usually overwhelms the opposition and is a powerful cross-examiner."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023 – Shipping & Commodities:

"Graham offers excellent assistance with strategic advice."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023 – International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance:

"He is a powerful cross-examiner."
"His forensic analysis is second to none. He never misses a trick, he's almost computer-like when analysing a submission and he gets the right answer every time."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023 – International Arbitration: Arbitrators:

"He's very collegiate and well prepared. Graham also provides very good analysis and takes a sensible approach."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023 – Energy & Natural Resources:

"Graham Dunning KC is a silk with a strong reputation for shipping litigation, also advising clients on a range of commercial energy disputes."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2023 – Commercial Dispute Resolution:

"Always provides comprehensive, well-rounded advice and looks to assist. Everything he does is in the wider interest of the case, and he proves a reassuring presence to the client."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023 – Commercial Litigation:

"His advocacy is brilliant."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023 – Commodities:

"A first-class legal mind, balanced and fair in his judgments, he has superb drafting skills and is extremely efficient."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023 – Energy and Natural Resources:

"He is polite, well-prepared and has sensible and incisive questions."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023 – International Arbitration: General:

"Always brilliant."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023 – Shipping:

"One of the best in his field."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022 – Energy & Natural Resources:

"He is always extremely well prepared and knows the law backwards. He is also very strategically astute – he always seems to be one step ahead of the opposition." "His advice is always full and well rounded, and he has the wider interest of the case in his mind."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022 – Public International Law:

"A thoughtful, methodical advocate with a detail-oriented approach. He is particularly effective in setting out the key issues of the case." "He's an effective cross-examiner and advocate." "He is experienced and knowledgeable about important state issues."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022 – International Arbitration:

"He is well regarded by the market." "He is the person we call for tricky and complex matters."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022 – Shipping & Commodities:

"Graham is fantastic. He gave shape and direction to the case. He strategises and is a well-oiled machine who adds an extra layer of polish to things."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2022 – Commercial Dispute Resolution:

"Always provides comprehensive, well-rounded advice and looks to assist. Everything he does is in the wider interest of the case, and he proves a reassuring presence to the client."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2022, Commercial Litigation:

"A star barrister."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2022, Commodities:

"A formidable opponent and a particularly robust cross-examiner."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2022, International Arbitration:

"A formidable opponent and a particularly robust cross-examiner – but always excellent company outside the hearing room."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2022, Public International Law:

"One of the most experienced barristers dealing with the crossover between international law and commercial law in the English courts, with particular strength in state immunity issues."

Legal 500 UK Bar 2022, Energy and Natural Resources:

"Graham is an impeccable barrister – he is always prepared and is a dominant force in hearings."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021 – Commercial Dispute Resolution:

'A first choice for difficult conflict of laws points, he is a superb tactician and a fine trial advocate.'

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021 – Energy & Natural Resources:

'Tenacious, wonderful advocacy style, really laser-focused on the detail, and thoroughly nice to deal with.'

'A very good tactician and confident advocate.'

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021 – International Arbitration: Arbitrators:

'He writes fantastically and writes awards quickly and effectively.'

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2021 – Shipping & Commodities:

'He is absolutely superb. He is tenacious, has a wonderful advocacy style and is laser-focused on the detail.'

The Legal 500 UK Bar 2021 – International Arbitration:

'Absolutely brilliant.'

The Legal 500 UK Bar 2021 – Energy & Natural Resources:

'He provides clear and crisp advocacy and has the depth of knowledge and experience to apply first principles.'

The Legal 500 UK Bar 2017 – Commercial Litigation:

'He really is stunning Dunning – the complete advocate.'

The Legal 500 2017 – International Arbitration: Counsel

'Probably the best international arbitration silk at the Bar.'

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2017:

Graham is "an incredible strategist and someone with a brilliant legal mind" and "an absolutely outstanding master of the courtroom, extraordinarily user-friendly and very good with clients. The type of silk you want in a very difficult case."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2017 – International Arbitration:

"Dunning is a fantastic trial advocate. He is incredibly well prepared, has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law and is very good at jurisdictional matters."

The Legal 500 UK Bar 2016 – Commercial Litigation:

'He retains his charm and sense of humour even in high-octane situations.'

The Legal 500 UK Bar 2016 – International Arbitration:

'A formidable and highly effective advocate and an excellent strategist.'

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2014:

Graham was recognised in the Chambers Bar Awards 2014 as "International Arbitration Silk of the Year".

Chambers UK Bar 2014 describes him as "quite a fearless advocate if you want somebody who will fight your case".

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2013 – Civil: Fraud:

Graham Dunning KC is an "incredibly professional" performer. Impressed sources reflect: "I think all silks are bright but he consistently comes up with more quality points than anyone I've instructed before."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2013 – International Arbitration:

Graham Dunning KC stands out as a "very effective" advocate and "the first barrister to seek advice from if there are difficult conflicts of law or jurisdictional issues. He is adept at both commercial and investment treaty arbitrations."

Chambers & Partners UK Bar 2013 – Shipping & Commodities:

Graham Dunning KC is "one of the first names on the team sheet if the case involves a need for really penetrating cross-examination," according to sources. Dunning is a formidable advocate, who is "a very good man to have on your side because he's absolutely relentless" and "very good at crushing the opposition."

EXAMPLES OF RECENT CASES

[BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES](#)

[CIVIL FRAUD & ASSET RECOVERY](#)

[COMMERCIAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION](#)

[CONFLICT OF LAWS & PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW](#)

[ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES](#)

[INSURANCE & REINSURANCE](#)

[INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION](#)

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Banking & financial services
- Civil fraud & asset recovery
- Commercial dispute resolution
- Conflict of laws & private international law
- Energy & natural resources
- Insurance & reinsurance
- International commercial arbitration
- Offshore litigation
- Professional negligence
- Public international law & investment arbitrations
- Shipping

NEWS

8 December 2022
Essex Court Chambers tops Who's Who Legal Arbitration Leaderboard 2023

6 October 2022
Validity of Arbitration Agreement in Consumer Dispute

10 January 2022
The Lawyer Reveals its 'Top 20 Cases' of 2022

20 December 2021
Kazakhstan Succession to Soviet Bilateral Investment Treaty

"He is a powerful cross-examiner."

International Arbitration: General Commercial & Insurance

PODCASTS

14 September 2020
10 in 10: Episode 1: Taurus v SOMO

PUBLICATIONS

26 April 2022
Climate Change in Law: Current Perspectives. Week 1

27 February 2019
The "presumption" of English law: Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company v Dean Investment Holdings S.A. et al

4 September 2018
The Bangladesh Accord – a Model for Environmental Dispute Resolution?



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