



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.

In recent years, Ravi has been shortlisted for / awarded a number of prestigious awards in recognition both of the excellence of his legal practice and of his longstanding commitments to equality and diversity and mentoring:

Shortlisted: 2022 Legal 500 Bar Awards - International Arbitration Junior of the Year.
Winner: 2021 Society of Asian Lawyers Awards - Company / Commercial Lawyer of the Year.
Shortlisted: 2021 Chambers & Partners UK Bar Awards - Shipping Junior of the Year.
Shortlisted: 2020 UCL Alumni Awards - Alumni Volunteer of the Year.

His experience extends across a wide range of industry sectors and rules, including ICC, LCIA, UNCITRAL, SIAC, 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 interest in matters of equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging, and has over the years attended numerous cross-sector and cross-discipline advanced training events and seminars on these topics. 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, UCL and the University of Greenwich, sat in many moots, and is a Chambers' pupil supervisor. He is also often sought out informally as a mentor by young practitioners. He sits on the E&D and CSR Committees in Chambers.

Arbitrator work in last five years

Ravi has a growing practice as arbitrator and in the past five years has worked on the following arbitrations as arbitrator, in addition to a number of LMAA arbitrations:

- ICC Arbitration (Swiss seat, English law) - Co-arbitrator - Award issued September 2018.
- LCIA Arbitration (Indian seat, Indian law) - Sole arbitrator - (Expedited) Award issued March 2019.
- LCIA Arbitration (English seat, English law) - Co-arbitrator pre-hearing stages.
- Ad hoc Arbitration (Singapore seat, English law) - Sole arbitrator (appointed by President of SIAC) - pre-hearing stages.
- Ad hoc Arbitration (Mauritius seat, English law) - Co-arbitrator (appointed by President of LCCI) - pre-hearing stages.

Current directory testimonials (as Counsel)

Recommended in the Chambers and Partners UK Bar and Global directories for International Arbitration (since 2017) and Shipping and Commodities (since 2011). Current recommendations:

International Arbitration (General Commercial and Insurance) – Tier 2

- "Hard-working and totally sound, Ravi inspires confidence with his calm and controlled style – he is rapidly making a name for himself as a formidable senior junior."
- "He lives and breathes arbitration."
- "He is a gentleman and a very effective advocate."

Shipping and Commodities – Tier 2

- "Ravi is calm and collected, and hides a fierce intelligence under an easy exterior."
- "He is extremely knowledgeable, with a great ability to absorb a large volume of files. He has a sharp mind, which brings with it an invaluable service to clients."
- "He has excellent attention to detail and provides clear, objective advice."

Recommended in the Legal 500 (UK for International Arbitration (since 2015), Commodities (since 2012) and Shipping (since 2009); Asia Pacific for Commercial (since 2019) and Shipping and Commodities (since 2021)). Current recommendations:

Commodities - Tier 2

- 'Thoughtful, very thorough and user friendly, he has a very good grasp of the details and provides clear advocacy.'

International Arbitration (Counsel) – Tier 2

- "An excellent counsel and his advice is clear and precise. Extremely knowledgeable on arbitration practice and procedure."

Shipping – Tier 1

- "Ravi is a sharp barrister, fights every corner as if it was his own and always goes the extra mile."

Commercial – Tier 2

- "Ravi Aswani is skilled in Indian law, Malaysian law and Singaporean law."
- "Ravi's advice is not just legally correct but also always commercially relevant, which is what the client is looking for."

Shipping and Commodities – Tier 2

- "Ravi Aswani has a busy shipping practice spanning both wet and dry disputes, including areas such as ship building and ship repair."
- "Ravi takes responsibility for matters and provides clear, concise and commercially astute advice."

Recommended by Who's Who Legal for Arbitration (since 2020). Current recommendation:

Arbitration Global Leader

- "He is a top name in the field."
- "He is a careful and diligent practitioner."
- "He is fantastic, sensible and pragmatic."
- "He is a knowledgeable international arbitration practitioner."
- "He is a real star and hugely generous of his knowledge and wisdom in the area."

Recommended in the Who's Who Legal UK Bar Directory for International Trade & Commodities (since 2015).

Representative arbitration related Cases of Interest (as Counsel)

- GAFTA arbitrations (English seat, English law) arising out of multiple contracts for the sale of India wheat affected by Indian government measures prohibiting the export of wheat to preserve domestic food security.
- LOF arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of the immobilisation of a large containership in the vicinity of a sensitive area of the Mexican coast, acted unled against a QC.
- LCIA arbitration (English seat, English law) arising out of resignation of the former CEO of a multinational business.
- 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, acted unled against a senior QC.
- 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

- November 2022 - "IBA Arb40 Award Writing Workshop" - Moderator of breakout session hosted by White & Case (London)
- May 2021 – “Emerging Trends in Arbitration: Looking at Decarbonisation and Diversity” – CEPANI40 / Osborne Clarke seminar
- November 2020 – “How Junior International Arbitration Practitioners can advance their careers in the age of Covid” – Arbitration Ireland's Dublin International Arbitration Day
- 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
- June 2017 - QMUL School of International Arbitration's Third Conference
- 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 QMUL

Professional Memberships

- Advocate
- Association Internationale des Jeunes Avocats
- Arbitration Ireland
- Bentham Association
- British Maritime Law Association
- Bar Standards Board Religion and Belief Task Force
- 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

Contact the clerks

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