



2020 Annual Conference Series

Biographies of speakers

Session 3

Mr James Leabeater QC a silk practising from 4 Pump Court barristers chambers. He specialises in construction and engineering, energy, shipping, shipbuilding and offshore construction, professional negligence and insurance/reinsurance disputes. He has worked on numerous large construction and other arbitrations around the world, including in Hong Kong, Singapore, Doha, Dubai and, of course, London. He also practises in the Technology and Construction and Commercial Courts in London. He is particularly well known for engineering, energy and offshore oil/gas work



Mr Stuart Catchpole QC is an English barrister, arbitrator and mediator practising internationally from Jersey in the Channel Islands with a particular focus on work in Asia (mainly Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea), Australia and the Middle East. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Notre Dame University, Sydney, Australia.

Stuart is recognised as one of the leading advocates / dispute resolution lawyers at the modern Bar in a number of different fields, including construction & engineering, infrastructure, energy & natural resources, international commercial arbitration, insurance, and professional negligence. He has also acted in a wide range of public law, public procurement, regulatory, and public international law cases, and various public inquiries in the UK (including into the Hillsborough disaster, BSE, Foot & Mouth, civilian deaths in Northern Ireland and the Grenfell Tower fire). Quotes from legal directories include: "One of the top three construction silks in the World and an outstanding advocate"; "A pre-eminent silk who is renowned for his expertise in international arbitration"; "Masterful silk extolled for his courtroom presence and intellectual prowess"; "A brilliant advocate and cross-examiner with an amazing command of the law"; "Very bright, analytical, a great strategist and a formidable presence in court. He combines a superb understanding of the law with a very commercial approach"; "Fearsomely intelligent and incisive. Most impressive."

Until 2012 (when he moved to Jersey to focus on his international practice), he sat as a Deputy High Court Judge, a Crown Court Recorder and on the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission. He is currently one of the two Deputy Chairmen of the Jersey Complaints Panel, a Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, and a Governing Bencher of the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple.



Mr David Bateson is a leading international arbitrator who has been involved in over 150 arbitrations as arbitrator in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America. He has acted as Chairman, party-appointed arbitrator, or sole arbitrator in arbitrations under the rules of the AAA, CIETAC, HKIAC, DIAC, ICC, KLRCA, LCIA, PCA, SIAC and VIAC, or in ad hoc arbitrations.

He has extensive experience in disputes in a variety of industry sectors including, construction, resources, commodities, insurance, joint ventures, shareholder agreements, shipping and telecommunications.

Chambers Asia 2016 described him as "pre-eminent and widely experienced", "one of



the top arbitrators in the region” who is “excellent at pretty much everything he is doing” and “an accomplished arbitrator, who is getting more and more cases in Asia, and worldwide”. Chambers Asia 2017 describe him as “a very good arbitrator” “writing a very good award” “well able to control an arbitration” and “culturally sensitive“.

Before joining 39 Essex Chambers in Singapore in 2015, David was a partner of Mallesons Stephen Jaques and King & Wood Mallesons, based in Hong Kong. He has over 40 years of legal experience and is a specialist in all forms of dispute resolution including arbitration, litigation and alternative dispute resolution. He has been resident in Asia since 1980 and before that he lived in Africa, Fiji and New Zealand. He is now based in Singapore.

*(non-barrister).

Mr Eugenio Zoppis is a civil engineer with a law degree as well as a master degree in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution awarded by the King’s College in London where he is currently a PhD researcher in construction law. Moreover, he has published articles on dams, tunnelling, as well as ground risk and disputes management.

As a project manager for the contractor, he has over 30 years of on-site experience in construction of large international projects. He has built large dams (totalling 15 million m³ of concrete or rock fill), tunnels and shafts (over 45 km), roads (over 1,200 km), bridges and buildings. Among them, he has built the tallest RCC dam in the world (246m high) and one of the longest, deep tunnels without intermediate adits (26 km long). He is currently managing the construction of a large hydropower project in Ethiopia (2,160 MW) with a 170m high RCC dam.

He has also significant experience of claims management as well as arbitration proceedings and dispute boards (DRB, DAB).

