

Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC

Call: 1992 | Silk: 2008

“Chantal-Aimée Doerries is a class act.”

Chambers & Partners



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Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC is the Head of Atkin Chambers and a former 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 the 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). Chantal was named ‘*Construction Silk of the Year*’ at The Legal 500 Middle East and North Africa Awards 2025.

She is co-editor in chief of the International Construction Law Review.

Chantal-Aimée Doerries KC was elected as an Honorary Fellow of Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge in 2021.

Expertise

Energy

Atkin Chambers

Chantal-Aimée has extensive experience in these sectors, including in connection with disputes relating to FPSOs, FPU, MOPUs, drilling platforms, jacking up systems, LNG terminals, gas pipelines, energy recovery projects, mono ethylene glycol recovery, 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 and gas supply 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

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 & Partners

"Measured, calm and authoritative."

Construction, 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 & 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, South 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 & 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, 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 & Construction), Chambers & Partners

Shipbuilding & Offshore Construction

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 & Partners

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 & Telecommunications

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 & Partners

Qualifications and Awards

- Korean Commercial Arbitration Board International Arbitration Committee (2021)
- International Academy of Construction Lawyers Fellow (2018)
- Chairman of the Bar of England and Wales (2016)
- Debrett's 500 People of Influence in the UK (under Law) (2016)
- Chairman of the International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales (2011-2015)
- Chairman of the Technology and Construction Bar Association (2010-2013)
- The Lawyer's Hot 100 (2009)
- Queen's Counsel (2008)
- Major Harmsworth Entrance Exhibition, Middle Temple (1992)
- Diplock Scholarship, Middle Temple (1990)
- Gertrude de Gallaix Achievement Award for study of law, FAWCO (1990)
- Cambridge University, New Hall (now Murray Edwards College) (1987-1991)
- President of the Cambridge Union Society (1989)
- University of Pennsylvania, USA (1986-1987)

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)

Recent Recommendations

"Chantal is exceptionally intelligent, incisive, commercially and strategically savvy and an outstanding advocate."
Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers UK Bar 2025

"Chantal is a fantastic barrister. She's exceptionally smart with strong advocacy skills."

"Chantal is a global leader for high-value and complex commercial arbitrations. She is exceptionally intelligent, incisive, commercially and strategically savvy, and an outstanding advocate."

"Chantal-Aimée Doerries is intelligent, sharp-witted and pragmatic."

International Arbitration: Technology/Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2025

"Chantal-Aimée Doerries is extremely user-friendly and an excellent advocate."

"Chantal-Aimée is an excellent KC. She has a first-rate manner with clients."

"Chantal-Aimée has excellent judgement and considerable experience."

"She is fantastic – she's exceptionally smart and has strong advocacy skills."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2025

"An outstanding silk: calm and authoritative. A really top performer."

Construction, The Legal 500 2025

"She is a top-drawer construction law KC, who knows how to handle tribunals and has a fantastic manner with clients."

Energy, The Legal 500 2025

"She is an absolute star as an advocate in international arbitrations. She knows how to handle international arbitral tribunals and has a deep appreciation of how to put a client's case to them."

International Arbitration: Counsel, The Legal 500 2025

"Chantal is a pleasure to work with. Very responsive and perceptive. She delivers on promises."

Construction, The Legal 500 EMEA 2025

"Chantal brings a huge amount of gravitas and experience in international construction disputes. She is a trusted source of advice – be it in legal and technical issues or matters of strategy. She is able to distil complex problems into key issues and deal with them in a concise manner."

Construction, The Legal 500 2024

"Clear, organised and persuasive, Chantal understands the energy world and is a top-quality construction and heavy infrastructure practitioner."

Energy, The Legal 500 2024

"Clear, organised and persuasive."

International Arbitration, The Legal 500 2024

"She's an extremely good advocate, particularly in arbitrations, but she's also very good on paper. She's almost the perfect combination."

"She is very wise and very measured. She's very, very good with clients."

International Arbitration: Construction/Engineering, Chambers UK Bar 2024

"Chantal-Aimée Doerries is a class act."

"She is one of the best."

"A real intellectual titan."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2024

"Chantal is great. She's very grounded and sensible and has good judgement."

"Chantal is extremely impressive."

"She has a very authoritative yet relaxed style, which works very effectively."

"Her submissions are elegantly written. She can make the best job of a difficult case."

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers UK Bar 2024

"An excellent barrister."

Professional Negligence, Chambers UK Bar 2024

"Chantal-Aimée Doerries is really good at formulating the overall strategy, and she was good in her advocacy."

International Arbitration – The Bar, Chambers Asia Pacific 2024

"One of the first names you would turn to for a high value construction arbitration. Very thorough and well-prepared for hearings."

Construction Energy & Infrastructure, The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2023

"She's a tenacious but fair opponent who doesn't take any prisoners." "She's well known for having strong cross-examination skills, and she's very well prepared and hard-working."

"Chantal is a fantastic advocate with a lightning intellect."

"She is smart and assured in giving advice."

Construction, Chambers UK Bar 2023

"She's extremely able and great with clients. She works hard and is on top of everything we give her."

Energy & Natural Resources, Chambers UK Bar 2023

She's highly regarded with a strong reputation, and she's well known for having a strong cross-examination skill. She's very well prepared, hard-working and clearly knows her stuff."

"She's excellent to work with, extremely able and very user-friendly."

International Arbitration, Chambers UK Bar 2023

"An excellent barrister who produces very sophisticated work and is commercially aware."

Professional Negligence, Chambers UK Bar 2023

"Chantal is absolutely top-flight. She is a brilliant advocate, both in writing and on her feet. She takes a commercial approach to solving problems and identifying courses of action, manages to explain complex issues in a straightforward manner, and is blessed with a real feel for which points to make to tribunals and how they should be made in order to win."

Construction, The Legal 500 2023

"Very thorough, with no airs, she will roll up her sleeves and muck in with the team."

Energy, The Legal 500 2023

"One of the first names on the list for big ticket construction disputes. Very well respected as counsel in Asia."

International Arbitration: The Legal 500 2023

"Chantal is a delight to work with. She is intelligent, friendly, and very quick to see issues to be addressed"

Construction The Legal 500 Middle East 2023

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Construction The Legal 500 Middle East 2023