



Robert Blackett

Associate

Robert Blackett, an associate in Howrey's London office, specialises in international arbitration, particularly in the projects, engineering, construction, infrastructure, rail, energy and utilities sectors.

He joined Howrey having qualified as a barrister with a leading London set, and has developed extensive experience of all the major institutional rules and contract forms relating to arbitration work.

Robert acts as advocate in arbitration matters and in court. He has drafted more than 50 substantial pleadings, has advised, cross-examined expert witnesses and made written and oral submissions both with respect to claims in court and before arbitrators.

In addition to his commercial experience, Robert has worked part-time as a tutor in laws/examiner at University College, London and as a lecturer on the University of London external programme.

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EDUCATION

University College London (LLB),
First Class Honours. Dean's List
 Prize for Academic Excellence,
 Assistant Editor UCL
 Jurisprudence Review, Hardwicke
 Scholarship, Thomas More
 Scholarship, Levitt Scholarship.

CLERKSHIP

Judicial Assistant (equivalent of a
 US Supreme Court Clerk) to Sir
 Anthony Clarke, the Master of the
 Rolls and England's third most
 senior Appellate Judge.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- *ICC Arbitration concerning a petrochemical plant.* Represented Japanese contractor in claim for cost of additional works, delay, prolongation and disruption. The amount in issue exceeded £20 million.
- *Dispute concerning waste water treatment plant.* £100m+ multi-party claim in English High Court arising out of defects in design and construction of a water treatment plant. Assisted in researching and drafting pleadings. Wrote a series of substantial opinions on legal issues raised by this complex case.
- *Long term contract for rail infrastructure works.* Advising world's largest rail manufacturer in connection with disputes under two 30 year contracts for upgrade and improvement work to rail infrastructure in a major European capital.
- *LCIA Arbitration concerning processing platform.* Acted for Korean contractor in claim to \$20m+ unpaid by employer on delivery of platform for oil field in the Gulf of Thailand. Gave a number of opinions and produced written submissions.
- *ICC Arbitration concerning longwall mining machinery.* Acted for Russian buyer in \$70m+ claim against UK supplier. Highly technical dispute turning on evidence of several mining engineers. Provided a number of opinions and drafted closing submissions.
- *J Jarvis & Sons Limited v Blue Circle Dartford Estates Limited.* Drafted

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pleadings and opening submissions in multi-million pound dispute. Cross examined expert witnesses and gave oral closing. Successfully defended stay application to the High Court.

- *Ad-hoc Arbitration concerning competition issue.* Advised party made jointly liable to a fine imposed by the European Commission for breach of competition law regarding a private arbitration to determine how the fine should be apportioned.
- *Disputes under NEC contracts for rail project.* Wrote a series of opinions, and assisted in taking witness statements concerning delay, extensions of time and time-at-large under contract for construction of bored and cut-and-cover tunnel. Advised with respect to a separate NEC Contract for expansion of a major rail terminal forming part of the same project, issues raised concerned interim payments, set-off and certification.
- *Dispute concerning waste to energy power plant.* Advised employer in respect of final cost dispute under I.Chem.Eng 'Red Book' contract.
- *Adjudication and arbitration under PPP contract.* Assisted in drafting defence in adjudication under a very substantial PPP contract. Dispute concerned cost of upgrading CCTV systems across an underground rail network. Drafted challenge to adjudicator's award issued under same contract concerning extra cost of removing asbestos discovered in the course of track upgrade work.

COURTS & ADJUDICATIVE BODIES

- Supreme Court of England & Wales (Barrister)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Society of Construction Law
- Member, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member, LCIA Young International Arbitration Group
- Member, London Shipping Law Centre

PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

ARTICLES

"Barristers in their Sets: A gap in the IBA Guidelines?" *Global Arbitration Review* Vol. 1(5) (2006): 36.