



Stuart Isaacs QC

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Clerks' Details

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Qualifications and Appointments

- Deputy High Court Judge: 2004
- Bencher, Lincoln's Inn: 1999
- MA (Hons) Law Double First Class, Downing College, Cambridge
- Masters' degree in European Law, Grande Distinction, Free University of Brussels

“...possess[ing] a fine legal mind and is articulate, persuasive and extraordinarily efficient.”

Legal 500

Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Chancery Bar Association
- New York Bar
- Admitted to the Bar in several Caribbean jurisdictions
- Former member of the Bar Council International Relations Committee
- Former member of the British Council Law Advisory Committee
- Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA)
- Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators
- A Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

Practice Overview

Recognised as a leader at the Bar in all of his areas of practice, Stuart Isaacs QC is conspicuous for his exceptional legal and technical knowledge and abilities. Noted in legal directories as having a practice of international standing, he is also commended for his 'tactical head' and as being a 'strong litigator' and 'superb tactician' who 'gets results that others only dream of'. He is 'highly rated' by Legal 500.

Stuart has an established reputation as a barrister specialising in international commercial arbitration and litigation, with a particular focus on London and Asia. He was the first London QC to be authorised to practise as a foreign lawyer in Singapore. Stuart advises and represents clients in court and arbitration proceedings worldwide. He sits regularly as an arbitrator and is a Deputy Judge of the High Court of England and Wales.

With an almost exclusively international focus, his practice covers the range of heavy commercial disputes. Stuart is highly experienced in international commercial arbitration and investment treaty arbitration, both as counsel acting for the parties and as a much in-demand arbitrator.

Stuart has also given expert evidence on English commercial law issues in courts and arbitration tribunals in a number of overseas jurisdictions. These have included courts and tribunals in New York, Singapore, Italy and Israel, in the form of both written opinions and oral evidence.

International Arbitration

In addition to his counsel role, Stuart is much in demand as an arbitrator in international commercial disputes and investment treaty disputes. He has conducted hundreds of arbitrations and is regularly appointed as presiding, sole or co-arbitrator by parties and by the leading arbitral institutions.

He features in The Legal 500's International Arbitration Powerlist UK and is ranked in both Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Singapore as a 'most in demand arbitrator'.

He conducts commercial arbitrations under the arbitration rules of the ICC, LCIA, SIAC, HKIAC, CIETAC and KCAB and under UNCITRAL Rules amongst others, as well as in ad hoc arbitrations. He has also been involved in several ICSID disputes under bilateral investment treaties and many ad hoc arbitrations in a variety of fields.



International Arbitration continued

He has determined disputes under a variety of systems of law, including not only English law but also the laws of Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, New York, Nigeria, Singapore, South Africa and Switzerland.

Swift resolution of disputes is his forte. He strives to deal with pre-hearing matters, hearings and the production of awards speedily and efficiently, making himself constantly available to the parties. Often, he is willing to travel at short notice in order to reduce the parties' own costs. He has been described as a '*most efficient manager*' of proceedings who '*exercises considerable judgment*'.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACICA) and of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. He is also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, one of the City of London's Modern Livery Companies.

Stuart has acted as counsel or as arbitrator in the following cases which are illustrative of the depth of experience and range of arbitration matters in which he has been involved:

Commercial arbitration

- ICC arbitration involving a dispute under English law between a US agro-chemical company and Swiss and Eastern European companies engaged in the production of high oleic sunflower oil (2019).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute concerning a settlement agreement under English law relating to the proceeds from the sale of data-warehouse business operations (2018).
- ICC arbitration involving a dispute under English law between the vendor and the purchaser of a business engaged in the manufacture and sale of branded merchandise associated with televisual media (2016).
- LCIA arbitration involving a US\$1.5 billion dispute under Delaware law between the investors in an Indian real estate fund and the fund and its manager (2020).
- LCIA arbitration involving a USD97m dispute under English law concerning the supply and distribution of pharmaceutical products in the PRC (2019).
- HKIAC arbitration involving a dispute relating to the proper construction of a promissory note (2019).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute under English law between member firms of an international accountancy network (2018).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute between Mauritian and U.S. parties relating to the alleged breach of a hotel management agreement concerning hotels in Mauritius (2012).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute between a venture capital firm and an SPV for extensions of time and additional costs arising from various force majeure events in the course of the performance of a petroleum production sharing contract (2019).
- HKIAC arbitration involving a dispute between a firm of solicitors and a former partner relating to the enforceability of restrictive covenants (2010).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute relating to alleged breaches of licensing and distribution agreements in the brewing industry (2019).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute between BVI and Singaporean parties relating to fees due under a MOU relating to the purchase of a business in Singapore (2017).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute between Luxembourg and Burmese parties concerned with real estate development in Myanmar relating to liability under certain convertible bonds and guarantees (2016).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute between Singaporean and U.S. parties in the hospitality sector relating to alleged breaches of a hotel management agreement (2013).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute between the Sri Lankan purchaser of companies in Sri Lanka and the Malaysian vendor relating to alleged misrepresentations and breaches of warranties in a share purchase agreement governed by Sri Lankan law (2012).



International Arbitration continued

- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute relating to an asset purchase agreement governed by English law between Canadian and Singaporean companies in the biosciences sector.
- SIAC arbitration involving a S\$100m dispute between Mauritian and Singapore parties under a shareholders' agreement governed by Singapore law (2010).
- AAA arbitration involving a US\$1.5 billion dispute under Delaware law between the investors in an Indian real estate fund and the fund and its manager (2019).
- ICSID arbitration under the relevant Turkey–Pakistan BIT in a dispute between Turkish investors and Pakistan, *Karkey Karadeniz Elektrik Uretim A.S. v. Islamic Republic of Pakistan* (2014).

Software arbitration

- ICC arbitration involving a US\$100m software licensing dispute under Singapore law between Chinese and Korean parties relating to mobile games (2020).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute under Singapore law between Singaporean and Korean parties relating to a software dispute between an online game developer and a licensee (2020).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute under English law between Scandinavian and Singaporean parties relating to software and hardware issues in a South East Asian country's mobile telephone network.

Construction arbitration

- ICC arbitration involving a dispute under Indian law between an Indian contractor and a Slovenian sub-contractor relating to the mechanical and electrical contracts for the construction of a hydroelectric power station in India (2019).
- ICC arbitration involving a dispute between an Israeli company and a Trinidadian company concerning an agreement for long-term collaboration in the development and implementation of water infrastructure projects (2013).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute between a consortium engaged to design and construct a power plant in Panama and its design consultant relating to allegedly defective design (2015).
- SIAC arbitration involving a dispute under Singapore law between Indian parties in the road construction industry relating to a share purchase agreement (2019).
- SIAC arbitration involving a €35m dispute under a project development costs agreement governed by English law in relation to a solar power project in Pakistan (2018).
- *Ad hoc* arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules involving a dispute between Asian parties relating to the termination of an EPC sub-contract for substantial works for a mining project in Australia (2018).

Energy arbitration

- ICC arbitration involving a dispute under Indian law between an Indian contractor and a Slovenian sub-contractor relating to the mechanical and electrical contracts for the construction of a hydroelectric power station in India (2019).
- ICC arbitration involving a US\$200m dispute under English law between oil majors and an African state oil company in relating to alleged breaches of operating agreements (2019).
- ICC arbitration involving a dispute between Gulf state and Eastern European companies concerning whether strike action amounted to force majeure, insurrection or a material adverse change in circumstances under a power and water management agreement (2018).
- ICC arbitration involving a shareholders' dispute in relation to a Trinidadian company engaged in the energy sector (2014).
- ICC arbitration involving a dispute between an Israeli company and a Trinidadian company concerning an agreement for long-term collaboration in the development and implementation of water infrastructure projects (2013).



International Arbitration continued

- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute between a venture capital firm and an SPV for extensions of time and additional costs arising from various force majeure events in the course of the performance of a petroleum production sharing contract (2019).
- LCIA arbitration involving a leasing dispute under Singapore law between the Australian owners of an onshore oil and gas drilling rig and the Libyan lessees of the rig (2018).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute between a consortium engaged to design and construct a power plant in Panama and its design consultant relating to allegedly defective design (2015).
- SIAC arbitration involving a US\$50m dispute under Turkish law between Turkish and Chinese parties engaged in the electricity industry relating to a share purchase agreement (2020).
- SIAC arbitration involving a €35m dispute under a project development costs agreement governed by English law in relation to a solar power project in Pakistan (2018).
- SIAC arbitration involving a \$150m dispute under Mauritius law between a Singaporean shipowner and a Mauritius state entity relating to a long-term contract of affreightment for the importation of petroleum products into Mauritius (2018) (*Betamax v State Trading Corporation*).
- Several SIAC arbitrations involving disputes concerning the sale and purchase of Indonesian and Australian coal.
- *Ad hoc* arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules involving a dispute under South African law relating to a sub-contract for the supply of equipment for a power station (2018).
- *Ad hoc* arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules involving a dispute between Asian parties relating to the termination of an EPC sub-contract for substantial works for a mining project in Australia (2018).
- *Ad hoc* arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules involving a dispute between Asian parties relating to a petroleum production sharing contract (2017).

Insurance arbitration

- LCIA arbitration between the parties to a professional liability insurance policy relating to alleged material non-disclosure and misrepresentation and notice provisions in the policy (2015).
- SIAC arbitration involving an insurance policy coverage dispute between Singaporean insureds in the leisure industry and the insurer (2014).
- Bermuda Form arbitration concerning the proper construction of the profit sharing provisions in a reinsurance treaty.
- *Ad hoc* arbitration under UNCITRAL Rules between the parties to an employment practices liability insurance policy governed by Bermuda law raising coverage issues (2014).

Shipping arbitration

- ICC arbitration involving a US\$130m dispute under Nigerian law relating to the development of terminal facilities in a Nigerian port (2020).
- LCIA arbitration involving a dispute under English law between Singaporean shipbuilders and an English consultancy relating to the allegedly defective design and manufacture of a floating production, storage and offloading vessel (2019).
- SIAC arbitration involving a \$150m dispute under Mauritius law between a Singaporean shipowner and a Mauritius state entity relating to a long-term contract of affreightment for the importation of petroleum products into Mauritius (2018) (*Betamax v State Trading Corporation*).
- Several LMAA and SCMA arbitrations involving charterparty disputes and ship sales.