

Alex Taylor

Call 2019



Alex Taylor joined Chambers in October 2021 following completion of his pupillage and is now developing a busy practice across the full range of Chambers' practice areas.

Alex has experience in a broad range of commercial disputes including both litigation and arbitration, and he accepts instructions in all areas of Chambers' work.

Alex has been instructed, both led and as sole counsel, in a wide variety of commercial matters. Since August 2022, Alex has been instructed as junior counsel for the claimant in *IBM UK v LzLabs & Ors* – a complex and highly technical TCC claim, featured in *The Lawyer's* top 20 cases of 2024, relating to (amongst other matters) the alleged reverse engineering of mainframe software in breach of contract. In addition to appearing throughout the ten-week trial, Alex assisted with bringing and defending numerous contested interim applications, including in relation to disclosure, confidentiality and expert evidence.

Alex has a particular interest in cases with a technical or technological flavour, including those relating to information technology, construction, engineering, professional negligence, and insurance. Outside of work, Alex likes to spend his time restoring and modernising vintage engineering machinery, building furniture (which he would like to describe as 'fine'), and developing his understanding of electronics. In these hobbies, as with his work, he does not shy away from jumping into unfamiliar topics and teaching himself new technical skills.

Alex's recent experience includes:

- Technology & Telecommunications
- Construction
- Professional Negligence
- Insurance
- Shipping

Technology & Telecoms

Featured Technology & Telecoms cases

IBM UK v LzLabs GmbH & Ors (awaiting judgment). Instructed by Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP (UK). Alex acts for the claimant, led by Nicholas Saunders KC, Matthew Lavy KC and Fred Hobson KC, in a substantial claim based on (amongst other things) the reverse engineering of mainframe software in breach of contract. Prior to the ten-week trial, Alex appeared as junior counsel in numerous interim hearings, including those reported at [2023] EWHC 2072 (TCC) and [2023] EWHC 2142 (TCC).

Advised in relation to the contested installation of telecommunications apparatus pursuant to the Electronic Communications Code (Schedule 3A to the Communications Act 2003).

Drafted the defence to a claim alleging various breaches of contract in relation to the development of a website.

Instructed (as junior counsel) to research issues relating to the status of cryptoassets in private international law.

Assisted (as a pupil) in drafting particulars of claim in a case involving defective gambling software.

Assisted (as a pupil) with a multi-million-pound retail software dispute in the TCC.

Construction & Engineering

Featured Construction & Engineering cases

Advised on, and later successfully resisted, an application for pre-action disclosure in relation to alleged construction defects in a block of residential flats. A substantial costs order was made in favour of the Claimant.

Assisted in the preparation of evidence in relation to a multi-million delay claim arising out of the construction of a high-end London hotel.

Acted for the successful Claimant in a County Court claim for unpaid fees, which was defended on the basis of a set-off alleging defective workmanship and improper construction over public sewers. Despite the only expert evidence having been adduced by the Defendant, the Court ruled in favour of the Claimant on the facts and upheld the claim with only a modest deduction. The Claimant beat its Part 36 offer, and the Defendant was ordered to pay uplifted costs accordingly.

Instructed (as junior counsel) to advise on evidential issues relating to witness attendance in a substantial TCC construction claim.

Drafted particulars in a claim against glazing manufacturer, alleging numerous defects in the goods supplied and their installation.

Drafted particulars in a claim against a well-known building supply company in relation to the supply of allegedly defective construction materials for a prestigious university development.

Assisted (as a pupil) in drafting rejoinder submissions in a Middle Eastern construction arbitration worth approximately

£16 million.

Assisted (as a pupil) drafting particulars in a complex negligence claim against a statutory sewerage undertaker.

Assisted (as a pupil) in the preparation of an adjudication brought in relation to the redevelopment of mixed-use premises in central London, including advising on the availability of liquidated damages.

Assisted (as a pupil) in advising as to whether a structural engineering consultant was entitled to limit its liability for alleged professional negligence following the partial collapse of the relevant building.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

Featured Commercial Dispute Resolution cases

Instructed (as sole counsel) in a High Court (QBD) claim arising out of the sale of a multi-million dollar private jet.

Advised a software company in relation to the enforceability and effect of certain restrictive covenants in an employment contract.

Instructed (as sole counsel) in multiple cases in the gas and energy sector involving claims of secret commissions and procurement of breach of fiduciary duty.

Advised (as junior counsel) in relation to a potential claim by multiple leaseholders against a new home warranty provider.

Acted for the successful defendant (a local authority) in a County Court claim brought by the owner of an HMO, alleging various economic torts. The claim was struck out, and a very substantial costs order was made in the Claimant's favour.

Instructed (in each case by the bank) in multiple County Court cases relating to the alleged wrongful closure of accounts.

Instructed in successful applications for final charging and third party debt orders.

Professional Negligence

Featured Professional Negligence cases

Drafted a defence to a £30,000 counterclaim in which it was alleged that a firm of estate agents had negligently undervalued a residential property.

Assisted (as a pupil) in advising property owners in relation to a £4m professional negligence claim against a firm of architects.

Assisted (as a pupil) with a £1.5m professional negligence claim against a construction company in connection with the extension of a residential property, including drafting case management directions.

Assisted (as a pupil) with a £1.1m professional negligence claim against a firm of civil engineers.

Insurance

Featured Insurance cases

Instructed on multiple occasions (as sole counsel) to advise insurers on the merits of refusing insurance coverage for potential fraud.

Advised insurers (as junior counsel) on coverage in relation to the provision by a Social Housing provider of 'waking watch' and other interim fire safety measures.

Drafted advice as to the interpretation of a COVID-19 clause in a travel insurance coverage dispute.

Assisted (as a pupil) in the preparation of an arbitration arising out of an insurer's refusal to indemnify a construction company in respect of claims for alleged defects.

Shipping

Featured Shipping cases

Assisted (as a pupil) in drafting defence submissions in a ship sale arbitration worth approximately \$4 million.

Assisted (as a pupil) advising and drafting claim submissions in a charterparty arbitration valued at approximately \$1.5 million.

Assisted (as a pupil) in advising in a claim for demurrage under a voyage charter where a vessel had been prevented from discharging after crewmembers tested positive for COVID-19.

Assisted (as a pupil) with an appeal, under s.69 of the Arbitration Act 1996, on questions of law arising out of a cargo insurance dispute.

Assisted (as a pupil) in the preparation of the defence to a multi-million dollar arbitration in which the assignee of two bareboat charters claimed for alleged unpaid hire, damages, and indemnities.

Other Experience

Alex has first class law degrees from the University of Southampton (where he graduated top in his year) and the University of Cambridge. He has won numerous awards and prizes, including Lord Denning and Hardwicke scholarships awarded by Lincoln's Inn. Before coming to the Bar, Alex worked as a part-time research assistant at the University of

Glasgow, where he undertook research into the law governing digital assets and co-authored a paper on the theft of cryptoassets.

Alex keeps up to date with technological trends and developments and is a contributor to the 'Artificial Intelligence' chapter of the Encyclopedia of Information Technology Law. He has also delivered well-received talks to law firms on the topics of artificial intelligence, cryptoassets, and other aspects of technology law.

Awards

- Lord Denning and Hardwicke Scholarships, Lincoln's Inn
- W.M Tapp Studentship in Law, Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge
- Ten undergraduate prizes including: Winston Churchill Memorial Prize (top undergraduate law student), Swords Prize (best dissertation), DLA Piper Prize (best performance in IT Law), and Southampton Law School Prize (top student in the second year)
- Arkwright Engineering Scholarship (2010)

Publications

- Contributor to the 'Artificial Intelligence' chapter of the Encyclopedia of Information Technology Law.
- A Taylor and M Ó Floinn, "Bitcoin burglaries and the Theft Act 1968" (2021) 3 Criminal Law Review 163-190
- M Ó Floinn and A Taylor, "An Introduction to Cryptocurrencies" (2018) [Judicial College Background Paper]

Education

- BPP University Law School, London: BPTC (Outstanding; Outstanding in 10 Modules)
- University of Cambridge, Gonville & Caius College: Master of Laws (Commercial) (First Class)
- University of Southampton: Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (First Class, Best in Year)