Alexander Burrell

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Alexander specialises in construction, commercial and property disputes, in both UK litigation and in international litigation and arbitration. Alexander is a registered DIFC Court practitioner.

Recommended as a leading junior in The Legal 500 and The Legal 500 EMEA for construction, whilst often led, Alexander is frequently instructed as sole counsel in cases of high value and complexity. Alexander frequently appears in the English High Court (including the TCC, Chancery Division, Commercial Court and Administrative Court), the DIFC Court of First Instance and Court of Appeal, and in arbitration (including ICC, ADCCAC, DIAC, DIFC-LCIA and ad hoc). Alexander often appears against significantly more senior opponents, including silks.

Alexander's construction cases cover a wide range of technically complex construction disputes, including energy projects, infrastructure projects and residential and commercial building projects (including shopping centres, luxury hotels and large mixed-use developments).

Alexander also has considerable expertise in building safety cases, acting in significant recent cases such as *Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities v Grey GR Limited (Chocolate Box)* and *R (Rydon Holdings Limited) v Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities* [2025] EWHC 2182 (Admin). Alexander is a contributing author on Dovar and Sawtell on the Building Safety Act (forthcoming).

Alexander's commercial cases cover the full spectrum of disputes, including commercial contracts, civil fraud, banking and finance, and insolvency.

Alexander's property cases include commercial landlord and tenant, real property, and cases which cross over with commercial and construction issues, including building safety.

Alexander is also instructed in energy matters, including cases related to construction, energy supply and energy regulation. Alexander is a contributing author on the Law of Net Zero and Nature Positive (2025).

Alexander is also on the Attorney General's B Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown, representing Government departments and HMRC.

Expertise

Construction & Engineering

Alexander is regularly instructed in construction disputes, both led and as sole counsel, in proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court (TCC), in international arbitration (ICC, DIFC-LCIA, ADCCAC, DIAC, ad-hoc) and in adjudication.

These cases include a wide range of technically complex construction disputes, including energy projects, infrastructure projects and residential and commercial building projects (including shopping centres, luxury hotels and large mixed-use developments). Alexander has extensive experience cross-examining experts in both court and arbitration proceedings concerned with these disputes.

Cases

Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government – **RCO Cases Ongoing** – Alexander is currently instructed (as junior counsel) in three different application proceedings, brought by the SoS against various different parties, for Remediation Contribution Orders ("**RCO**") under section 124 of the Building Safety Act 2022, these are the first (and currently only) applications for RCOs brought by the central Government, seeking a total of £72m across these cases.

GS Woodland Court GP 1 Limited (& Ors) v RGCM Limited (& Ors) – **HT-2023-000202 (TCC Ongoing)** – The case concerns a significant claim (£33.5m) arising from alleged fire safety defects in a large student accommodation block, with claims in both contract and negligence. Alexander is one of the only juniors instructed as sole counsel in the case, representing one of the contactor defendants. The case is listed to go to trial for six weeks.

R (on application of Rydon Group Holding Limited) v Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities [2025] EWHC 2182 (Admin) **and [2024] EWHC 3234 (Admin)** – Led by Sir James Eadie KC, Alexander represented the respondent in a judicial review challenge of a decision made by Michael Gove under the 'Self-Remediation Contract' (SRC) to prohibit Rydon (parent company of Grenfell main contractor) from remedying unsafe buildings itself, and force it to pay others' remediation costs. The claim was dismissed. This is one of the first cases to consider the SRC, and sets/reaffirms precedent on the scope to which Government contractual decisions can be subject to JR.

Various Leasehold Owners v London and Quadrant Housing Trust – **HT-2023-000147 (2025)** – Led by David Sawtell, Alexander was instructed in TCC proceedings brought by the occupiers of 21 residential flats, for damages for loss and inconvenience arising from defective cladding works, and various other defects in particular regarding heating/hot water. Proceedings settled.

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities v Grey GR Limited Partnership – Chocolate Box (FTT, 14 May

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2024) – Led by Kerry Bretherton KC, Alexander represented the applicant in its claim for a Remediation Order ("**RO**") under section 123 of the Building Safety Act 2022, successfully obtaining a RO, in heavily contested proceedings. In its judgment, the FTT set out important detailed guidance relevant to the making of ROs, in this new jurisdiction. Alexander was also instructed (led by Kerry Bretherton KC) in various other applications for ROs between the same parties, which resulted in the respondent conceding to a RO, following the result in Chocolate Box, including concerning the buildings Bracken House and Fearn Island Mills.

Subcontractor v Main Contractor **(2024)** – Acted as sole counsel for a multi-national steel contractor in a DIAC arbitration against a multi-national main contractor, arising out of a large shopping centre development in Dubai, which included a retail area for a well-known furniture seller, with a combined dispute value around $30m. Alexander successfully obtained an award for AED 29m (77% of claim), dismissal of 96.5% of contested counterclaims, and full costs.

Contractor v Employer **(2024)** – Instructed, led by Adam Robb KC, and together with a team of 39 Essex Chambers counsel, for the claimants in an ADCCAC arbitration claim worth over USD 1.4 billion arising out of a large infrastructure project.

Panther Real Estate Development LLC v Modern Executive Systems Contracting LLC CA-016-2022 12 May 2023– Represented as sole counsel the appellant, in a two-day appeal before the DIFC's Court of Appeal, the case involved 10 grounds of appeal (5 for each party) on various complex legal issues, in particular relating to EOT notification conditions precedent and the prevention principle, setting DIFC law precedent with wide implications for DIFC construction and contract law.

Panther Real Estate Development LLC v Modern Executive Systems Contracting LLC TCD 003/2019 26 September 2022 – Represented as sole counsel the defendant, in what was the first ever construction trial in the DIFC Court's TCD, with DIFC governing law. The case involved a significant number of complex factual disputes and it sets DIFC law precedent on numerous construction law points, including the legal impact of the contents of termination notices, the ability to pursue both general damages and liquidated damages for delay, and EOT notification conditions precedent.

Subcontractor v Employer **(2021)** – Acted as sole counsel for a major regional contractor, in respect of a multi-million-dollar dispute concerning fit-out works for a luxury hotel on the Palm Jumeirah, obtaining a declaration of unlawful termination, and succeeding in respect of three separate expert disciplines (delay, quantum and technical) (ICC).

Subcontractor v Contractor **(2020)** – Acted as sole counsel for a multi-national contractor in a Geneva-seated arbitration valued at over $32.4m, in respect of a dispute over substructure works for a project which had been planned to be one of the 10 highest buildings in the world (ICC).

Contractor v Employer **(2020)** – Acted as sole counsel for a major real estate developer in emergency arbitration proceedings, securing the dismissal of an application brought by the main contractor, requesting a variety of injunctive

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relief relating to the encashment of bonds in the value of $12.25m after the contract had been terminated (DIFC-LCIA).

Employer v Contractor (2020) – Acted as sole counsel for a well-known international developer in interim proceedings in an effort to secure the removal of a contractor from the site following its termination, following the successful dismissal of the contractor's jurisdictional challenge (DIAC).

Commercial

Alexander's practice primarily covers commercial contract disputes and civil fraud. However, Alexander also has experience in banking and finance and insolvency disputes.

Cases

Special Metals Wiggin Ltd v Corrotherm International Ltd [2025] EWHC 2769 (TCC) **(and ongoing)** – Acting as sole counsel in TCC proceedings for a major steel product manufacturer, concerning a dispute regarding the supply of steel alloys, with a contested value of around £4.2m. Summary judgment given on various issues, including finding of a valid bare trust.

Select Properties (London) Limited v (1) Bluebell Associates Limited (2) Vincent Lebeouf **BL-2024-000455 (2024 and ongoing) (ChD)** – Acting as sole counsel for the claimant in ongoing civil fraud proceedings, successfully obtaining judgment on admission for around £1m, after previously having obtained freezing orders for a sum of £1m against both defendants.

Confidential Arbitration **(2024)** – Acted as sole counsel in contested DIAC arbitration proceedings concerning a claim for termination due to material breach of contract in a commercial contract dispute concerning the storage of petroleum products, with a contested value of $3.4m.

Bangs v FM Conway Limited and Westminster City Council [2024] EWHC 494 (Comm) – Alexander acted as sole counsel for second defendant in a claim for damage allegedly caused to property by resurfacing works, successfully securing the strike out of the claim as against the second defendant.

Confidential Arbitration (2023) – Instructed as sole counsel to provide advice and draft arbitration pleadings in an India-seated ad hoc arbitration concerned with the termination of two contracts for supply of goods and services for an energy project, with a sum of over $250m in dispute, the matter settled shortly after these pleadings were finalised.

Dr. Othman Abdullah O Alswayeh v GII Islamic REIT (CEIC) Limited CFI 025/2022 31 August 2022 **(also 07 November 2022)** – Successfully acted as sole counsel for the claimant in respect of its $12m claim concerning a failure to list on the

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stock market in relation to a sale agreement concerning property and shares, securing dismissal of the defendant's jurisdictional challenge and subsequent application to set aside default judgment.

Rada Trading LLC FZC v (1) Wealth Bridge Trading Crude Oil And Refined Products Abroad LLC (2) Cohenrich Energy FZE CA 007/2021 07 September 2021 – Successfully acted as sole counsel for the second defendant, before the DIFC Court of Appeal, successfully overturning the Court of First Instance's judgment striking out of the company's $938k counterclaim.

Rada Trading LLC FZC v (1) Wealth Bridge Trading Crude Oil And Refined Products Abroad LLC (2) Cohenrich Energy FZE CFI 112/2020 11 April 2021 – Successfully acted as sole counsel for both defendants in an $8.1m claim arising out of alleged misrepresentation and deceit in respect of a contract for the supply of various oil products, successfully obtaining the strike out of the claim against both defendants.

Purchaser v Developer **(2021)** – Successfully acted as sole counsel for a major real estate developer in Dubai seated arbitration proceedings regarding a sale-purchase contract dispute in the UAE, obtaining the dismissal of the $3.4m claim and award on counterclaim in the sum of circa $690k, after the matter had to be reissued by the purchaser following the earlier successful dismissal of the case on jurisdictional grounds (DIAC).

Owner v Purchaser **(2020)** – Acted as sole counsel for a commercial entity as claimant in respect of an international dispute concerning the sale of a petro-chemical plant, where the combined value in dispute exceeded $68m. The parties settled after the claimant's reply pleadings and response to joinder pleadings (ICC).

Property

Alexander has experience in a variety of property disputes, including real property and commercial landlord and tenant, as well as property disputes which cross over with commercial and construction issues.

Alexander has particular experience of cases involving fire safety and the Building Safety Act 2022. This has included representing the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities in some of its first applications for Remediation Orders ("**RO**") and Remediation Contribution Orders ("**RCO**").

Cases

George v The Corporation of the Hall of Arts and Sciences **[2025] EWHC 1979 (Ch) (and ongoing)** – Led by David Sawtell, Alexander is acting for the Claimants in an ongoing claim concerning the rights of permanent seatholders at the Royal Albert Hall, in respect of their seats.

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S ***v M BL-2021-002238 (Ongoing)*** – Alexander is currently instructed as sole counsel in ongoing TCC proceedings, representing the defendant, in a claim in nuisance concerning damage alleged to arise from subsidence caused by trees located on property owned by the defendant.

Wotton v Briggs [2025] EWHC 1297 (Ch) – Acted as sole counsel for the appellants in their appeal of a circuit judge's findings regarding relief from sanctions, the judgment contains useful commentary on the lack of need for relief in circumstances where a defence was filed late, with no extension, but before default judgment was obtained.

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities v Grey GR Limited Partnership – Chocolate Box (FTT, 14 May 2024) – Led by Kerry Bretherton KC, Alexander represented the applicant in its claim for a RO under section 123 of the Building Safety Act 2022, successfully obtaining a RO, in heavily contested proceedings. In its judgment, the FTT set out important detailed guidance relevant to the making of ROs in this new jurisdiction. Alexander was also instructed (led by Kerry Bretherton KC) in various other applications for ROs between the same parties, which resulted in the respondent conceding to a RO, following the result in Chocolate Box, including in respect of the buildings Bracken House and Fearn Island Mills.

Energy

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Confidential Arbitration (2023) – Instructed as sole counsel to provide advice and draft arbitration pleadings in an India-seated ad hoc arbitration concerned with the termination of two contracts for supply of goods and services for an energy project, with a sum of over $250m in dispute, the matter settled shortly after these pleadings were finalised.

Stein Time Management Limited v British Gas Limited (2022) – Representing a licensed premises in urgent High Court injunctive proceedings against an energy company following the disconnection of energy supply (settled during the

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injunction hearing), and in subsequent proceedings for the related damages claim.

Rada Trading LLC FZC v (1) Wealth Bridge Trading Crude Oil And Refined Products Abroad LLC (2) Cohenrich Energy FZE CA 007/2021 07 September 2021 – Successfully acted as sole counsel for the second defendant, before the DIFC Court of Appeal, successfully overturning the Court of First Instance's judgment striking out of the company's $938k counterclaim.

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Recommendations

- "Alexander's ability to distil complex areas of law into clear, accessible advice is particularly valuable for clients. His skill in navigating complex expert advice is also commendable: he engages with expert material thoughtfully and effectively, enhancing the overall case presentation." Legal 500 UK 2026
- "Alexander is a very astute and hard working advocate, with a great sense of how arbitral tribunals approach substantive or procedural issues. Having been based in Dubai for some time, he is uniquely placed to deal with matters involving UAE substantive law or the wider GCC." Legal 500 EMEA 2025
- "His legal approach and analytical skills to deal with complex issues are extremely impressive." Legal 500 EMEA 2024
- "Alex has a strong legal understanding and he is very skilful in presenting the client's case before the courts and arbitral tribunals. He is very thorough and clear in his advice, and is always well prepared. He has an analytical mind and a logical approach." Legal 500 EMEA 2023

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