BRICK COURT
CHAMBERS

Brick Court Chambers
7-8 Essex Street, London WC2R 3LD
DX 302 London Chancery Lane

Sir Richard Aikens

YEAR OF CALL: 1973 **YEAR OF SILK**: 1986

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Practice Overview

Sir Richard joined what is now Brick Court Chambers in 1974 and practised in commercial law, specialising in shipping, insurance and re-insurance, banking, international trade and arbitration. He was appointed QC in 1986 and his commercial practice thereafter widened to include telecommunications, oil and gas and professional negligence. He appeared in the House of Lords, Privy Council, Court of Appeal and the High Court (particularly the Commercial Court) and in many arbitrations. He also conducted cases/arbitrations and advised in foreign jurisdictions, in particular Hong Kong, Singapore, Gibraltar, Bermuda, Australia, the USA, France and Switzerland. Before appointment to the High Court bench in 1999 he was in demand as an arbitrator in shipping and insurance disputes. He was a judge of the Commercial and Admiralty Courts from 1999-2008 (in charge of the Commercial Court in 2005-6) and a judge in the Court of Appeal from 2008-2015.

In the High Court and Court of Appeal he sat on a very wide range of cases. In the commercial sphere he gave judgments in all areas, including Republic of Ecuador v Occidental Exploration and Production Company, which was the first case in the English courts concerning Bilateral Investment Treaties and whether awards made under them were justiciable in court. He also gave judgments in many aspects of civil law, EU/competition law and public law (especially extradition). He conducted criminal trials and appeals in a wide variety of cases from murder to official secrets and fraud.

He is one of the authors of Bills of Lading, (3rd Ed. 2020) and is a Specialist Editor of *Dicey, Morris & Collins on the Conflict of Laws*. He has contributed to a number of legal text books and written many articles on legal topics, particularly on conflicts of laws. He lectured regularly (in English and French) and chaired conferences throughout his judicial career and continues to do so. Whilst at the bar he was a director and chairman of the Bar Mutual Indemnity Fund, (the Bar's professional negligence insurers) which he helped to found in 1985 and he was Chairman 1998-2000. In 2012-14

he was President of the British Insurance Law Association. Since 2016 he has taught commercial law (insurance, shipping and arbitration at Masters level) at King's College London and Queen Mary University of London, where he is a Visiting Professor.

Arbitration

Sir Richard has been appointed in many arbitrations (as party appointed arbitrator or as chairman) concerning international trade, shipping, all types of insurance and reinsurance, oil and gas and renewable energy, construction contract disputes, share sale and shareholder agreements, joint ventures, sport and investor/state disputes. He has been appointed under the rules of the ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SCC, SIAC, ICSID, PCA and Bermuda Form, as well as in many ad hoc agreements. He was actively involved in the discussions at all stages with the Law Commission concerning the Arbitration Bill, now the Arbitration Act 2025, in particular on the issue of how to reform the law on the "applicable law" of arbitration agreements.

Education

Norwich School: 1960 - 1967

St. John's College Cambridge: 1967 - 70 and 1971 – 2, MA (Studied History and Law): Hon Fellow 2006.

Visiting Professor: Queen Mary University of London and King's College, London (2016 to present).

Appointments

Appointment to the High Court: 1999 (Commercial and Admiralty Court judge; in charge of Commercial Court 2005-6).

Appointment to Court of Appeal: 2008 – 2015.

Languages

English and French.