

# Akin Akinbode

## Partner



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## Overview

Akin specialises in the resolution of engineering and construction disputes, as well as facilities management and PFI-related disputes. His expertise includes all forms of dispute resolution from dispute avoidance and alternative dispute resolution (conciliation, mediation and adjudication) to arbitration (domestic and international) and litigation on issues relating to defective design/workmanship, build quality issues, delay and disruption claims, loss and expense claims, professional negligence, final accounts, service level performance obligations and interpretation of contractual terms.

Akin is also experienced in acting as a "project counsel" on live construction and engineering projects in relation to delay or cost overruns, assisting clients or contractors in managing claims, negotiating settlement and avoiding disputes.

## Experience

- **Persimmon Homes Ltd, BDW Trading Limited and Taylor Wimpey UK Limited:** Advising and representing the consortium regarding various negligence claims and court proceedings against its consultants in relation to a development in Barry Quays Cardiff (reported at Persimmon Homes Ltd & Ors - Ove Arup & Partners Ltd & Anor [2015] EWHC 3573 (TCC)).
- **Confidential client:** Acting for a consortium of lenders in relation to various construction, engineering and operational disputes that have arisen between Amey Birmingham Highways Limited and Birmingham City Council with regard to the Highways Maintenance PFI Contract in Birmingham.
- **Network Rail Limited:** Acting for it in relation to a multi -million pound claim against a developer in respect of damages caused to its assets by the developer's demolition and enabling works contractors.
- **Confidential client:** Acting for a dredging contractor in an ICC arbitration relating to disputes arising out of dredging works carried out on a landmark port development in the Middle East.
- **Goodman Logistics Developments (UK) Limited:** Advising it in relation to a £170 million claim brought by the tenant of one of its developments in relation to defective works and consequential losses.
- **Taylor Wimpey UK Limited:** Advising and representing it on various claims brought by it or against it in

relation to defects in properties developed by it across the UK.

- **Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited:** Advising and representing it on various multi-million pound claims against contractors relating to defective design and deficient workmanship issues.
- **Confidential client:** Advising and representing the developer of a US\$1.5 billion mixed use development in the CIS region on a US\$350 million ICC arbitration in London.
- **Enterprise Managed Services Limited:** Representing it in various adjudications and court proceedings (reported at Peterborough City Council - Enterprise Managed Services Ltd [2014] EWHC 3193 (TCC)) relating to the design, procurement and installation of a 1.5 megawatt solar power installation at the TESAM building in Peterborough.
- **Herbosch-Kiere Marine Contractors Limited:** Representing it in connection with a final account adjudication arising from a bespoke marine works contract and related enforcement proceedings subsequently reported at Herbosch-Kiere Marine Contractors Limited v. Dover Harbour Board [2012] EWHC 84 (TCC).
- **Enterprise Managed Services Limited:** Representing it in an adjudication brought by Tony McFadden Utilities Limited and the related Part 8 proceedings successfully brought to halt the adjudication (reported at Enterprise Managed Services Limited v. Tony McFadden Utilities Limited [2009] EWHC 3222 (TCC)).
- **Confidential clients:** Advising and representing several project companies (special purpose vehicles set up to deliver various PFI projects in the health and social housing sectors) on various disputes with authorities and facility management services providers.
- **Confidential client:** Representing a major wind turbine manufacturer in various adjudications, litigation and arbitration proceedings relating to wind farms in Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.
- **Confidential client:** Representing the JV contractor responsible for the construction of metro line in the Middle East in a circa £400 million ICC arbitration between the JV contractor and its lead designer.

## Recognition

- "Akin Akinbode (Leading Individual) has an extensive track record in engineering and construction disputes'." *Legal UK 500, 2018*
- "'Strategically astute, with an excellent following in technically complex international construction and infrastructure disputes'." *Legal 500 UK, 2018*
- "Akin Akinbode (Band 2) focuses on disputes arising out of large civil engineering matters, including in relation to the road and rail industries. Sources say: 'He leads by example, is calm under pressure and fights his client's corner'." *Chambers UK, 2018*
- "'Very capable technically with a commercial outlook'." *Legal 500 UK, 2016*
- "Akin Akinbode is a specialist in contentious construction and engineering. Clients say he is 'great to work with. Very practical, and a high-quality operator. He is a lovely bloke and he will fight your corner - you are comfortable when he is on your side'." *Chambers UK, 2015*
- "Up-and-coming partner Akin Akinbode is a specialist construction litigator. One source describes him as, 'technically very sound, experienced and committed, with a good ability to read a dispute'." *Chambers UK, 2016*

## Insights

- Legal blog: Is adjudication worth the cost? *Building*, 18 January 2018

- Can you keep sensitive details private in procurement disputes? - *Construction News*, August 3, 2017
- UK Adjudication focus: taking the rough with the smooth - *Construction News*, July 4, 2017
- How much can a judge intervene in cross-examination before a trial becomes unfair?, May 23, 2017
- Get your ducks in a row if you want to challenge an adjudicator's decision, June 22, 2017
- Safeguarding mental health: essential for your construction workers, good for your business, March 15, 2017

## Activities and Affiliations

### Presentations

- Akin regularly presents at bespoke in-house client workshops and at client seminars on construction law and dispute resolution.

### Memberships

- Member, Society of Construction Law

### Prior and Present Employment

- Partner – Dentons (2015 to date)
- Senior Associate – Dentons (2011-2015)
- Associate – Gateley [formerly HBJ Gateley Wareing] (2007-2011)
- Lawyer – Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (2001-2006)
- Project Supervisor – Oyez Legal Technologies (1999-2000)
- Barrister and Solicitor – Tobi Fayemiwo & Ladiipo, Lagos(1995-1996)
- Trainee Lawyer – Asuquo & Asuquo, Lagos (1994-1995).

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Arbitration
- Energy
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution

### Industry sectors

- Construction
- Energy
- Infrastructure and PPP
- Real Estate
- Transportation

## Region

- United Kingdom

## Education

- College of Law, 2004, Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test
- Queen Mary University of London, 1998, LL.M.
- Nigerian Law school, 1995, B.L, (Bar Finals)
- Usmanu Danfodiyo University, 1994, LLB (Hons)

## Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, Senior Courts of England and Wales
- Solicitor Advocate, Higher Court Rights of Audience
- Solicitor and Barrister, Supreme Court of Nigeria