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Omar Jassam

Call 2025

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(Lexology (WWL), 2024)



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Omar accepts instructions across Chambers' core practice areas. He brings a unique depth of expertise to his practice, having spent 13 years working as a construction practitioner and a testifying independent expert witness specialising in quantum matters before joining Chambers.

In his previous role, Omar was instructed on numerous complex disputes, including international arbitrations and domestic adjudications on major national infrastructure projects. Reflecting his expertise, he was recognised in the Lexology Index in 2024 and 2025, including as a Future Leader in Arbitration, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Holding a Master's degree in the field, Omar is particularly suited to construction law. His practice is also developing across professional negligence, professional liability, insurance, commercial disputes, property damage, inquests, criminal regulatory, and personal injury. Through his industry background, he has experience working with both public and private sector clients on disputes arising from major projects across infrastructure, education, oil and gas, and natural resources sectors.

Omar regularly appears as sole counsel in the County Court, handling road traffic and credit hire trials, alongside various applications such as strike-outs, summary judgments, and directions hearings.

International Arbitration

Omar has a particular interest in international arbitration. His proficiency in this area is significantly enhanced by his background as a quantum expert, where he was involved in several multi-billion pound international disputes, including providing oral expert evidence before an international tribunal. Examples of such work included:

- Acting as the independent expert on quantum matters on behalf of a main contractor in a $130 million ICC arbitration following the termination of a utilities subcontractor on a major Middle Eastern railway infrastructure project. Disputed items included the value of executed works, variations, prolongation, disruption, third-party claims and costs to complete.
- Leading the quantum analysis in an ICC arbitration valued at over $200 million relating to a central processing facility at a major industrial plant in the Middle East. The dispute involved significant

delays, disruption, acceleration and unique quantum issues arising from drone and missile strikes.
- Leading the quantum analysis in a $400 million ICC arbitration (claims and counterclaims) concerning the delayed and terminated performance of a JV EPC contractor on a $1.4 billion Middle Eastern rail project. The extent of disputed issues fell into work streams that included variations, value at termination, loss of profit, prolongation, costs to complete.
- Leading the quantum analysis in a $25 million DIFC-LCIA arbitration regarding a major gas pipeline construction in Dubai. The dispute involved large variation claims related to ground conditions, disruption, prolongation, and interest costs.
- Leading the quantum analysis in an ICC arbitration arising from the $700 million construction of an LNG terminal in the Middle East which involved an offshore platform and onshore works. The dispute concerned $350 million in claims and counterclaims for disruption, prolongation, defects, and delay damages.

During pupillage, Omar gained extensive experience assisting with:

- Drafting opening submissions for defective works an international arbitration concerning a major mixed-use development in the Middle East (during pupillage).
- Advising a respondent on the tribunal statutory powers under s.41Arbitration Act 1996 following a claimant's inordinate and inexcusable delay in pursuing a multi-million arbitration claim (during pupillage).

Construction & Engineering

Having previously practised as a construction professional and quantum expert, Omar possesses a deep-rooted and highly specialised understanding of construction and engineering disputes. His legal expertise is underpinned by a commercial background, having been involved in multiple multi-billion pound live construction projects and disputes (across litigation, arbitration, and adjudication) in the UK and internationally. Examples of which included:

- Acting as the independent expert on quantum matters on behalf of a key subcontractor at adjudication in connection with a dispute regarding a circa £40 billion newbuild nuclear power station. Disputed issues included various additional works, disruption, prolongation and other loss and expense claims.
- Acting as the independent expert on quantum matters in connection with a dispute regarding the outfitting of a £65 million data centre in the Netherlands. Disputed issues included prolongation, thickening and various subcontractor cost claims passed on by the contractor.
- Acting as the independent expert on quantum matters in connection with a dispute relating to a high rise mixed-use (office, residential and retail) development in London, which involved a complex prolongation claim across multiple work sites.
- In the role of a contract administrator, working at Heathrow Airport as the sole contract administrator of several work packages undertaken by different contractors across multiple terminals within the airport.
- In the role of a quantity surveyor, leading the contract administration on a major onshore oil and gas processing facility in Georgia, focusing on the construction cost management of the civil works, early works, and main facility construction on behalf of a major oil field developer.

During pupillage, Omar gained extensive experience assisting with:

- Drafting an adjudication decision concerning a final account dispute involving claims for variations, dayworks and extensions of time (during pupillage).
- Drafting the Response and Rejoinder in an adjudication concerning an alleged breach of a JCT Design and Build contract for a school refurbishment project involving complex asbestos works, with losses valued at ~£900,000 (during pupillage).

Commercial

Omar accepts instructions across a broad spectrum of commercial disputes, with particular experience in contractual interpretation, interlocutory applications, and overlapping statutory claims. He is highly adept at navigating civil procedure to secure early claim disposals, drafting statements of case, and advising corporate clients on their prospects.

Examples of his work in this area include:

- Preparing a defence and advice for the operator of a major UK market regarding a breach of contract and Section 27 Equality Act 2010 victimisation claim brought by a stall trader seeking substantial financial losses and damages.
- Successfully securing a strike out order for a defendant in a data protection claim on the basis that the Claimant lacked legal standing.
- Representing a hotel operator at trial (subsequently adjourned), which included preparing the skeleton argument, in a dispute arising from the alleged theft of a guest's property.
- Drafting particulars of claim for a breach of a hire agreement causing a seven-figure loss and damage to plant in a storage facility (during pupillage).
- Drafting a skeleton argument for a retail defendant seeking summary judgment against an Equality Act 2010 claim spanning disability discrimination, reasonable adjustments and harassment (Sections 15, 20 and 26) (during pupillage).
- *NOx Emissions Group Litigation*, shadowed Carlo Taczalski (acting for Mercedes Benz) in an application for disclosure of third-party funding information, arising from complex financing and funding issues within the largest proceedings ever brought before the English courts.

Insurance & Reinsurance

Omar has experience across a wide range of insurance disputes. Having published on contractual interpretation, he is highly proficient in advising on policy construction.

Examples of his work in this area include:

- Successfully bringing a defamation claim to an end on behalf of the insurer by defeating the claimant's application to amend the claim.
- Advising a potential claimant on coverage for a six-figure building and contents insurance claim following a fire (during pupillage).
- Drafting a defence for an insurer on matters of coverage and insurance fraud in respect of a serious illness policy (during pupillage).

Professional Liability

Omar is keen to develop a practice in professional liability and welcomes instructions in this area. His background provides him with a strong understanding of the duties and standard of care expected of a range of professionals, particularly within the construction and built-environment sector.

During pupillage, he gained experience preparing a defence on behalf of a firm of solicitors in a near-£1m professional negligence and breach of contract claim, arising from an alleged failure to advise on environmental survey results during a conveyancing transaction.

Criminal Regulatory & Environmental

Omar is developing a broad practice in disputes involving criminal regulatory and environmental matters, with particular focus on enforcement actions arising from construction site incidents. His proficiency in this area is significantly enhanced by his background as a construction professional, providing him with a practical understanding of site operations and safety protocols.

His experience in this area includes:

- Acting for both an individual and corporate defendant in a HSE prosecution proceeding, appearing at a preliminary hearing in the Magistrates' Court.
- Drafting mitigation and sentencing submissions concerning an employee who was injured whilst erecting an orangery at a domestic property (during pupillage).
- Drafting mitigation and sentencing submissions for a corporate defendant in a health and safety prosecution concerning a spectator injured by falling components from a modular structure at a motor racing event and subsequently shadowing Harry Van at the sentencing hearing (during pupillage).
- Drafting written plea advice for a principal contractor facing a health and safety prosecution following a fatal accident involving the offloading of large steel crane components at a construction site (during pupillage).
- *R (HSE) v Foster + Partners & Others* (2026, Inner London Crown Court), shadowing Simon Antrobus KC and Nicola Atkins during the closing submissions of a widely publicised five-week trial involving the fatality of an innocent passer-by caused by a penthouse window detachment from a luxury high rise development in London. Simon Antrobus KC and Nicola Atkins represented the façade engineering consultants, who were unanimously acquitted by the jury (during pupillage).
- *R v Higgins Homes Plc & Others* (2025, Central Criminal Court), shadowing Dominic Kay KC during a case management hearing in a widely publicised corporate manslaughter case involving a pedestrian fatality caused by falling materials at a building site. Dominik Kay KC represented the crane operator (during pupillage).
- *R v KE Hotels Ltd* (2025, Luton Magistrates' Court), shadowing Harry Van during a sentencing hearing after a restaurant served food to a customer which resulted in an allergic reaction. Harry Van represented the restaurant operators (during pupillage)

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Omar welcomes instructions across the full spectrum of inquests and public inquiries work. During pupillage, he gained experience across highly diverse inquiries, ranging from complex workplace and machinery fatalities to clinical care management and private care home settings.

Examples of this experience include:

- *Re RO* (2025, Worcester Coroner's Court), shadowing Harry Van during a week-long jury inquest concerning the death of a lift engineer during planned servicing of a retail store scissor lift (during pupillage).
- *Re MJ* (2025, East London Coroner's Court), shadowing Katie Sage in an inquest involving the clinical and palliative care management of a terminally ill resident prior to his death (during pupillage).
- *Re PS* (2025, Reading Coroner's Court), shadowing Lucy Wright in an inquest involving the death of an elderly resident receiving private care at home (during pupillage).

Personal Injury

Omar regularly conducts personal injury litigation, and is frequently instructed on RTAs, stage 3, infant approval hearings and a variety of interlocutory applications within personal injury matters.

Aside from such regular instructions, his recent experience includes:

- Representing a main contractor at a CMC in respect of a personal injury action involving a site worker who slipped while handling a 50kg ground fitting bracket.
- Successfully obtaining relief from sanctions in respect of a road traffic personal injury claim, ensuring the client's legal representatives could fully participate in the trial.
- Drafting Part 35 questions for multiple medical experts regarding whiplash and associated psychological injuries in a road traffic personal injury case involving dishonest exaggeration of the circumstances of the accident and the symptoms (during pupillage).
- Advising a leading housing association in a £120,000 personal injury claim brought by a resident following a slipping accident, addressing complex issues of reasonable foreseeability, causation, and fundamental dishonesty (during pupillage).

Product Liability and Property Damage

Omar welcomes instructions in product liability and property damage matters.

Examples of his work in this area include:

- Representing a local authority at trial, including preparing the skeleton argument, and securing the dismissal of a property damage claim arising from highway defects.
- Drafting a position statement for a multi-million pound dispute arising from a major commercial fire, allegedly caused by defective ducting design, installation, and maintenance, and subsequently shadowing Patrick Maxwell during a complex, multi-party mediation that successfully resolved all

claims (during pupillage).
- Advising on the construction of express and implied contractual terms within a freight rolling stock lease agreement, following a major rail derailment causing significant environmental damage (during pupillage).

Qualifications

- Bar Course, Inns of Court College of Advocacy
- Graduate Diploma in Law, BPP (Distinction)
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb)
- MSc in Construction Law & Dispute Resolution, King's College London (Distinction, best overall graduate)
- BSc (Hons) in Quantity Surveying & Construction Commercial Management (First Class)

Memberships

- Society of Construction Law (SCL)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)

Publications

- "To what extent can the contract control its own interpretative method?", Society of Construction Law, 2019, D218. Link to paper

Recommendations

"Omar is a very impressive person to work with" and "a real team player who works well with both lawyers and clients."
Lexology Index 2025: Arbitration Future Leaders

Omar has an "unparalleled attention to detail."
Who's Who Legal (now Lexology): Construction, 2024