

Arbitrators

AT 24 LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS



John Lockey KC

With more than 30 years' experience of advising and representing policyholders, brokers, insurers and reinsurers in some of the most complicated insurance and reinsurance disputes in the London and international insurance markets, John is now a popular choice as arbitrator. He has received more than 60 appointments (LCIA, ICC, ARIAS UK and ad hoc) as sole arbitrator, party appointed arbitrator and increasingly as third arbitrator/chair, in arbitrations seated in London, Bermuda, Cayman and elsewhere (including most recently Romania and Germany). He has written or co-written dozens of awards.

Recent experience as arbitrator includes a number of Bermuda Form disputes, COVID business interruption claims, allocation/attachment disputes including disputes between underwriting years, disputes between coverholders and insurers, disputes involving alternative risk transfer transactions, aggregation disputes, and marine and non-marine reinsurance/retrocession recovery actions. He has also been appointed in a number of expert determinations involving issues of insurance or reinsurance law and has provided neutral written opinions (binding and non-binding) in coverage disputes between policyholders and insurers.

John has served as Chair of the British Insurance Law Association (2006-2008) and as a Committee Member of ARIAS (UK) and is co-editor (with Professor Merkin) of the Lloyd's Insurance and Reinsurance Law Reports. John was Chambers & Partners' Insurance Silk of the year in 2011 and again in 2021.

John has recently produced an Award (as sole arbitrator) in a dispute between a large group of policyholders and a leading insurer concerning UK COVID BI losses, chaired an arbitration concerning reinsurance claims following the insolvency of a leading European insurance company, is chair of a series of arbitrations under

reinsurances in respect of significant offshore energy losses, and is chair or party appointed arbitrator in a number of Bermuda Form arbitration disputes (US pharmaceutical product liability and US medical liability claims).

What Others Say

Chambers & Partners 2026

"He is a reinsurance and coverage expert, who is calm and unflustered."

"John is rightly seen as one of the preeminent silks in insurance. He gets results. He is both effective and fun to work with."

"John is the best of the best when it comes to insurance disputes. He combines an easy, client-friendly manner with technical expertise and a laser focus on the points that actually matter."

"John Lockey is a completely seasoned professional."

Chambers & Partners 2025

"John is an excellent silk who is very helpful in giving advice."

"John is formidable in any role he fulfils, from insurance to commercial court work, and arbitration matters."

Chambers & Partners 2024

"John Lockey is excellent. He has a distinctive advocate style and his written submissions are succinct."

"He is a user-friendly silk. John Lockey is always helpful and is super bright."

"John is a well-liked insurance advocate and arbitrator. He is both experienced and a safe pair of hands."

Chambers & Partners 2023

"He has deep knowledge and experience of insurance and reinsurance. He is personable and easy to work with."

"John is very thorough, clear and concise in providing an opinion on very technical insurance law issues."

"John is a creative thinker who sees round corners and thinks outside of the box."

"John is a charming advocate, very bright and popular with clients and solicitors."

The Legal 500 2023

"An excellent advocate with a calm and convincing style. Responsive and direct regarding advice."

Chambers & Partners 2022

"John has the ability to communicate very difficult submissions in a succinct way. His brevity is impressive."

The Legal 500 2022

"Highly intelligent, understated in style of advocacy, courteous and witty."

"Very intelligent, he has a very good sense of humour and is very balanced."

The Legal 500 2021

"A brilliant silk who always strives to achieve the best for clients."

The Legal 500 2020

"He gives clear, commercially sensitive advice and always exceeds expectations."

Chambers & Partners 2019

"He has an encyclopaedic knowledge and he just has that knack of choosing the right phrase which enables him to persuade a judge. Responsive and user-friendly, he's more than prepared to engage in open discussions with solicitors. Great at navigating a path through cloudy skies, he sees things clearly and has got such an easy manner. A recognised leader in the insurance field."

Career

2006 Silk

1988 Essex Court Chambers

1987 Call: Middle Temple. Queen Mother's Fund Scholar.

Education

1987 Inns of Court School of Law. Scarman Scholar.

1986 LLM, Harvard Law School. Frank Knox Fellowship.

1985 BA (Law), Downing College, Cambridge (starred First Class). Slaughter & May Prize for best performance.