

**MICHAEL GEOFFREY COLLINS Q.C.**

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CURRICULUM VITAE

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**BORN:** 4<sup>th</sup> March 1948, Howwood, Renfrewshire, Scotland

**EDUCATION:** 1956 – 1960: Eagle School, Umtali, Southern Rhodesia  
1961 – 1966: Peterhouse, Marandellas, Southern Rhodesia  
1967 – 1970: University of Exeter, Devon, England

**DEGREE:** LLB. (Hons) 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Council of Legal Education (Bar Finals): 1970-1971

**CALLED TO THE BAR  
OF ENGLAND & WALES:** Gray's Inn, November 1971

**QUEEN'S COUNSEL:** April 1988

**RECORDER:** 1994 – 2001

**BENCHER:** Gray's Inn: 1999

**NATIONALITY:** British

**MARRIED TO:** Bonnie Gayle Bird (US Citizen)

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER:**

*May 2006 – PRESENT* International Arbitrator and Mediator, practising from Washington, DC, London, England and Rockland, Maine

*April 2002 – April 2006* Special Legal Consultant, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P., Washington, DC

*October 1972 – March 2002* Barrister, practising in commercial law from Essex Court Chambers, London, England

Michael Collins was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1971. Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1988, he practised commercial law from Essex Court Chambers in London, England, for 30 years, until moving to the United States of America in 2002. He served as a Recorder of the Crown Court between 1994 – 2001. From 2002 – 2006 he spent 4 years as a Special Legal Consultant with the international arbitration practice of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, based in Washington DC. Since 2006 he has been associated with Hanscom & Collins PA, in Rockland, Maine, from where he practises as an international arbitrator and mediator, primarily based out of his homes in Florida and Maine, while also retaining his association with his Chambers in London, England.

Mr. Collins' principal areas of specialisation at the English Bar included international and domestic arbitration, shipping (including shipbuilding disputes, ship sale and purchase, bill of lading and charterparty disputes, cargo claims, and limitation actions), insurance (marine & non-marine) and reinsurance, oil & gas, banking, construction, information technology, aviation and a wide variety of other contractual and tortious disputes of a technical or commercial nature.

In addition to his frequent appearances in the English trial and appellate courts, Mr. Collins has appeared as an advocate in the appellate courts of Hong Kong, Singapore and Bermuda, and in the trial courts in Singapore, arguing insurance, shipping, arbitration and other matters. Cases in those courts include: *Insurance Co. of the State of Pennsylvania v. Grand Union Insurance Co. & Lowndes Lambert Construction Ltd.* [1990] 1 LLR 208 (Hong Kong Court of Appeal – insurance/reinsurance); *Lombard Insurance Co. Ltd. v. Kin Yuen Co. Pte. Ltd. (the "Pab")* (1995) (Singapore Court of Appeal – marine insurance); *Associated Electric and Gas Insurance Services Ltd. v. European Reinsurance Co. of Zurich* (2001) (Bermuda Court of Appeal – privacy/confidentiality in commercial arbitration).

Mr. Collins has 40 years' experience of acting as a counsel in international and domestic arbitrations. Cases in which he acted as counsel include a major shipping arbitration concerning the long-term supply, shipment and delivery of LNG into the United States and the producibility and valuation of unextracted gas reserves; two separate LCIA arbitrations concerning (i) operation of the credit card business; and (ii) the sale and distribution of digital satellite television services to the Middle East; and a dispute concerning the transportation of crude oil through a common pipeline, and the operation of a quality bank related to such transportation.

Mr. Collins has acted as chair or as a tribunal member in numerous ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SIAC, AAA (ICDR), ARIAS, UNCITRAL, ICSID and other institutional and *ad hoc* arbitrations over the past 35 years, regularly sitting in jurisdictions such as London, Paris, Stockholm, Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai, Bermuda, Canada and the United States.

Mr. Collins is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration and a member of the American Arbitration Association ICDR International Arbitration Panel. He is also a CEDR-accredited mediator and has acted as a mediator in a variety of insurance, reinsurance and technical disputes in London, Sydney, Bermuda, New York and Washington D.C.

Recent arbitration appointments include the following:

- Chairman of the panel in a Bermuda Form insurance arbitration arising out of a major inland oil spill and consequential clean-up operations (New York law; London seat).
- Chairman in consolidated AAA/ICDR arbitrations concerning allegations of fraud, misappropriation, conspiracy, defamation, breach of trust, breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract (disputed proper law; London seat).
- Chairman in an LCIA arbitration concerning a partnership dispute relating to a private investment fund (English law; London seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in a HKIAC arbitration concerning the sale of equipment for use in the manufacture of solar cells (CISG; Hong Kong seat).
- Chairman of the panel in an ICC arbitration concerning a joint venture to manufacture and market television sets (PRC law; Hong Kong seat).
- Chairman in an LCIA arbitration concerning the premature termination of a contract for the hire of a semi-submersible oil rig (English law; London seat).
- Chairman of the panel in a Bermuda Form insurance arbitration arising out of allegations of medical malpractice; issues of aggregation, misrepresentation and non-disclosure (New York law; Bermuda seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ad hoc arbitration under a long-term gas sales contract; issues relating to a renewal option; gas availability; lost profits and lost production efficiency (Trinidad & Tobago law; Washington DC seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ad hoc Bermuda Form insurance arbitration arising out of a chemical spill (New York law; London seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning gas pricing under a price revision clause in a long-term gas supply agreement (Swedish law; Stockholm seat).
- Chairman in an LCIA arbitration in a dispute between shareholders under a shareholders' agreement and deposit arrangement (Zambian law; London seat).
- Chairman of an ad hoc tribunal in a Bermuda Form insurance dispute concerning occurrence integration of underlying claims, allocation, and allegations of bad faith in claims handling (New York law, Bermuda seat)
- Chairman of an ICC tribunal in a dispute concerning the development and certification of the propulsion system for a regional jet aircraft (New York law and seat).

- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ICC case concerning a dispute under a distribution agreement (Egyptian law, Paris seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ad hoc insurance dispute arising out of the wrongful termination of an employment contract (New York law, London seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in a SIAC arbitration governed by the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules in a claim under a credit insurance policy in respect of the non-payment of trade debts arising under underlying sales contracts (Singapore law + seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ICC case concerning the construction and development of a hotel in Ethiopia (English law, London seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in a DIFC-LCIA arbitration concerning technical disputes and disputed payments related to the drilling of oil wells under a drilling contract (Iraqi law, Dubai seat).
- Chair of an ARIAS tribunal in a dispute arising under two excess D&O policies concerning an underlying class action related to the automobile industry (Dutch law, London seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ICC case concerning gas pricing under price revision clauses in two long-term sales agreements (English law, London seat).
- Chairman of an ICC tribunal in a dispute concerning delays in the development and construction of a power plant in Argentina (English law, Paris seat).
- Party-appointed arbitrator in a AAA dispute concerning the financing of a project relating to the development of a liquefaction train at an LNG export facility (Texas law, Houston seat)
- Chair of an ICSID tribunal in a case concerning investments in renewable energy, raising questions under Chapter III, Article 10 of the Energy Charter Treaty.
- Chair of an AAA/ICDR tribunal in a dispute concerning a political risks insurance policy (New York law + seat).

For over 30 years Mr. Collins has served as a judge in National and International Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, being awarded the Pamela Young Award for outstanding volunteer service jointly with his wife, Bonnie G. Bird, in 2010. He has served as an arbitrator at the Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot and at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot.

## **AFFILIATIONS:**

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators  
Member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Transnational Arbitration  
London Court of International Arbitration  
American Arbitration Association: ICDR international arbitration panelist  
London Maritime Arbitrators Association (supporting member)  
Singapore International Arbitration Centre: Panel Member; Emergency Arbitrator  
ARIAS (UK)  
Lloyds Arbitration Scheme  
British Insurance Law Association  
British Maritime Law Association  
American Bar Association (associate member)  
International Bar Association  
Commercial Bar Association  
CEDR Accredited Mediator

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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