

## MICHAEL GEOFFREY COLLINS Q.C.



**CALLED TO THE BAR:**  
Gray's Inn, November 1971  
(England & Wales)

**QUEEN'S COUNSEL:**  
April 1988

**RECORDER:**  
1994 – 2001

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

**NATIONALITY:**  
British

### **PROFESSIONAL CAREER:**

*May 2006 – PRESENT*

International Arbitrator and Mediator

*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 then spent 4 years as a Special Legal Consultant with the international arbitration practice of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, based in Washington DC. Since 2006 he became a full time arbitrator and accepts appointment across a broad range of sectors internationally.

Mr. Collins' principal areas of specialisation at the English Bar included international and domestic arbitration, insurance (marine & non-marine) and reinsurance, shipping (including shipbuilding disputes, ship sale and purchase, bill of lading and charterparty disputes, cargo claims, and limitation actions), 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, he has appeared as an advocate in the courts of Hong Kong, Singapore and Bermuda. He served as a Recorder of the Crown Court between 1994 – 2001.

Mr. Collins during his 40 years as Counsel has experience both international and domestic arbitrations. Mr. Collins has acted as chair or as a tribunal member in numerous ICC, LCIA, LMAA, SIAC, AAA (ICDR), ARIAS, UNCITRAL, and other institutional and *ad hoc* arbitrations over the past 25 years, regularly sitting in jurisdictions such as London, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Switzerland, Canada and the United States. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators; a Fellow of the Singapore 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.

Mr. Collins' recent arbitration appointments have included the following:

- Sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration concerning a dispute between the parties to a limited partnership agreement (Bermuda law; Tokyo seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ICC arbitration concerning interruptions in the supply of natural gas under long term supply agreements (New York law & seat)
- Chairman of the panel in insurance coverage disputes arising out of Hurricane Katrina (New York law; London seat) and Rita (English law; London seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ad hoc arbitration concerning a software licensing agreement (Ontario law; Toronto seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ad hoc arbitration concerning a hotel and leisure complex on the Red Sea (English law; Geneva seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an insurance dispute arising under several employment practice liability policies (New York law; London seat)
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC arbitration arising out of a livestock custodian agreement (English law; London seat)
- Sole arbitrator in six closely related UNCITRAL arbitrations concerning coverage disputes between a captive insurer and several of its reinsurers in relation to drug-related product liability losses (Bermuda law + seat)
- Member of the panel in an UNCITRAL arbitration concerning disputes arising under a settlement agreement relating to the production and development of certain oil fields (Alberta law; Calgary seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ARIAS-US reinsurance case concerning the aggregation of claims settled pursuant to an ADR award under the Wellington Agreement (Massachusetts law, Boston seat)

- Chairman of the panel in an ICC arbitration concerning the alleged breach of a joint venture and operating agreement relating to the sale and distribution of licensed telecommunications products into North, Central and South America and the Caribbean (Delaware law, New York seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ad hoc insurance dispute between a large manufacturing conglomerate and one of its excess loss insurers arising out of a class action in Alabama (New York law, London seat)
- Member of the panel in an LCIA arbitration arising out of the sale and purchase of stable gas condensate (English law + seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration arising out of an alleged agreement relating to the sale and purchase of bulk shipments of coal (Singapore law + seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ICC arbitration concerning the payment of royalties and claims to the use of certain patents under a licensing and distribution agreement between two companies in the telecommunications industry (New York law + seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration arising out of a Put Option Agreement and Deed of Warranty & Indemnity (English law + seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ICDR (AAA) dispute arising under a Master Professional Services Agreement relating to the supply of internet services (Virginia law; Richmond, VA seat)
- Member of the panel in an LCIA arbitration arising out of a consulting agreement in relation to the creation of a film finance and production company (English law + seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an arbitration concerning the expansion of telecommunications networks into China / distribution and licensing issues (New York law + seat)
- Chairman in a SIAC arbitration concerning a contract for the provision of dredging services at a port in India (Indian law; Singapore seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ad hoc claim under a quota share treaty covering North American casualty excess business (English law + seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an ICC case concerning an oil refinery expansion project (English law + seat)
- Chair of an ICC panel in a case concerning a dispute under a share purchase and other related agreements (English law; Bulgarian seat)
- Chairman of the panel in an ad hoc reinsurance arbitration under an excess liability policy covering railroad and transit operations (New York law; Bermuda seat)

- Chairman of the panel in a SIAC arbitration concerning a dispute arising out of contracts for the hire of offshore drilling rigs (English law; Singapore seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an LCIA arbitration concerning a claim under crime and civil liability insurance policies in respect of fraudulent loan applications (English law + seat)
- Party-appointed arbitrator in an LMAA arbitration concerning the cancellation of a shipbuilding contract (English law + seat)
- Sole arbitrator in an ICC case concerning claims for the payment of commission and/or damages arising out of an Aircraft Marketing Assistance and Support Agreement (Connecticut law; London seat)
- Early Neutral Evaluator in a case concerning the sale and leaseback of several thousand freehold and long-lease properties under a Master Property Agreement, and the determination of any compensation payable in the event of the early disposal of any such properties (English law + seat).

Mr. Collins has authored several articles and frequently lectures at international seminars and programmes. For over 20 years he 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 also regularly serves 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
- Fellow of the Singapore 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
- Singapore Maritime Arbitrators' Association
- ARIAS-US
- 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

## **SELECTED ARTICLES, LECTURES AND TALKS**

*What's New in Insurance Law? Agents' Duties – Where will the ripples end?* (1995 IBC Insurance Seminar)

*Privacy & Confidentiality in Arbitration Proceedings:* (1995) Texas International Law Journal, Vol. 30/1, p. 121; Arbitration International, Vol. 11/3, p. 321

*Misrepresentation and Non-disclosure in Insurance and Reinsurance Contracts* (1996 Combar Seminar)

*Repudiating Invalid Claims: Defenses – Warranties and Policy Conditions* (1997 IBC Insurance Seminar)

*The Role of the Leading Underwriter* (1999: British Insurance Law Association Annual Conference)

*The Remission of an Arbitration Award under English Law* (2000: Oslo University)

*Ascertaining the Intention of Parties to a Contract* (2000: Lecture to Norwegian Shipowners' Association)

*Do International Arbitral Tribunals have any Obligations to Encourage Settlement of the Disputes Before Them?* (2003) Arbitration International Vol 19/3, p. 333.

## **RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

*Selecting the Arbitral Tribunal: A Commentary on the ICC Rules and Practice regarding the Appointment and Removal of Arbitrators:* Charlottesville, Virginia (June 2005)

*Enforcement of Arbitral Awards under the New York Convention:* Washington College of Law, American University, DC (October 2007)

*The Legal Architecture Underpinning International Arbitration – A Common Law Perspective:* Four Round Tables in Times Square, New York (June 2011)

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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ENGLAND

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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

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