

Name: Vasanti Selvaratnam QC

Nationality: British

Country of Residence: England

Language(s): Spoken: English

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Profession: Barrister (QC) and International Arbitrator

Academic & Professional Qualification(s) :

LLB (King's College London); LLM (King's College London); Called to the Bar (Hon Soc of Middle Temple) 1983; Queen's Counsel: 2001; Recorder of the Crown Court: 2000-2018; Bencher of Middle Temple; Joint Head of Chambers of The 36 Group.

Professional Membership(s):

- Individual Member of SCMA
- Supporting member of LMAA
- Member of ICC (including the Banking and Finance Committee) Member of LCIA
- Member of LOF Panel of Arbitrators
- Member of ICCA
- London Shipping Law Centre (Head of Education sub-committee) Member of Admiralty Bar Group
- Member of BMLA
- Member of IBA
- Member of COMBAR
- Member of the Chancery Bar Association

Career & Professional Experience:

Following successful completion of pupillage in 1984, I have been in full time practice at the Admiralty and Commercial Bar specialising in all aspects of maritime law, including collisions, salvage, wreck removal, shipbuilding and ship sale and purchase, commodity transactions, disputes under charterparties, bills of lading and contracts of affreightment; international trade and related financial instruments, including guarantee disputes, marine and non-marine insurance and a wide variety of general cross border disputes.

I have appeared in some of the most important reported cases in the shipping field, including *The Nagasaki Spirit* (House of Lords); *The Starsin* (House of Lords); *The Choko Star* (Court of Appeal); *The Alexandra 1* (Court of Appeal) and numerous other appellate and first instance decisions, including the important Emirates Trading Agency case which was the first case in English law to establish the enforceability of a friendly discussions clause as a condition precedent to the right to commence arbitration (drawing upon jurisprudence from Singapore).

I was one of the youngest females from an Asian background to take Silk (2001).

I regularly appear as Counsel in international commercial arbitrations and am increasingly appointed as arbitrator in a wide variety of disputes under the auspices of the ICC, LCIA and LMAA. I am one of only four 1st instance arbitrators appointed by Lloyds to conduct arbitrations under LOF.

I also have extensive experience of decision making in a judicial capacity, having sat as a Recorder of the Crown Court for over 18 years.

Legal Knowledge relating to Shipping, Arbitration Practice and Procedure:

Please see above. In my LLM degree I specialised in maritime law and international business transactions and obtained a 1st. My pupillage was in a specialist shipping chambers in London and I have thereafter been in practice at specialist shipping chambers in London all my professional life. I was in full time practice at the chambers of Richard Stone QC and Geoffrey Brice QC from 1984 onwards and later became head of those chambers (then called Stone Chambers). Stone Chambers has now become 36Stone and is a specialist division of The 36 Group of which I am Joint Head. Over 80% of my practice concerns shipping, arbitration practice and procedure either as Counsel or arbitrator. I have been consistently recommended in the legal directories and was named shipping barrister of the year in 2019 by Global Law Experts.

Publications:

I regularly deliver lectures and seminars on shipping and arbitration topics and am due to deliver the prestigious Donald O'May industry lecture this year on the subject of Good Faith. That lecture will form an article which will be published in due course.