

Theo Hall

Special Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Theo Hall is a special counsel in the firm's International Arbitration practice group. Theo advises owners, developers, contractors, traders and investors in high value multi-jurisdictional disputes in the energy and construction sectors. He is particularly experienced in both offshore construction and gas and LNG disputes. His broader experience includes disputes relating to offshore drilling, FPSO operations, oilfield services, offshore wind and onshore constructions projects, as well as insurance issues arising from these activities. Theo's commercial understanding of risk associated with operations in the energy and construction sectors is bolstered by his previous career at an insurance and reinsurance market.

Theo has acted in around ten arbitrations for buyers of offshore assets against some of the world's biggest shipyards. The disputes concerned projects for the construction of drillships, semi-submersible drilling units, pipelaying vessels and floating production units. These disputes frequently involved sums in dispute of over US$500 million. He has also advised on shipbuilding disputes involving commercial vessels and superyachts.

Theo focusses strongly on disputes arising from gas, LNG and emerging fuel markets. He advises market participants on issues arising from supply disruption, geopolitical instability, sanctions, force majeure events and price volatility. His recent experience includes acting for a European gas buyer in a dispute arising from the war in Ukraine involving sums in dispute exceeding EUR$7 billion, advising LNG buyers on force majeure issues connected with conflict in the Persian Gulf and advising on a dispute arising out of a greenfield SPA for alternative fuels.

Theo is a solicitor-advocate. He has acted on behalf of clients in arbitrations both ad hoc and under LCIA, ICC, UNCITRAL, LMAA and GAFTA rules. In addition to his experience in English law disputes, Theo has acted as advocate in civil law disputes in numerous jurisdictions, including Austria, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kazakhstan. He has extensive experience working alongside foreign counsel and navigating the procedural and substantive differences between common law and civil law systems.

He is listed as a Recommended Lawyer by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom*.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Theo holds degree in History and Philosophy from the University of York and an LLM with Distinction in International Law from University College London.

Prior to becoming a solicitor, Theo worked for five years in the Marine and Energy Division of a large international insurance company. He placed complex international marine and offshore energy risks–and associated political and credit risks–into the London and international insurance markets. Whilst working in at the insurance company, Theo obtained the Advanced Diploma in Insurance (ACII)–the leading qualification in the insurance industry. This experience provided him with first-hand insight into project risk allocation, insurance coverage structures and the commercial drivers of major energy and infrastructure projects.

Before joining K&L Gates, Theo trained and practised at a leading international shipping law firm. He advised shipowners, offshore contractors, charterers and insurers on a broad spectrum of shipping and offshore disputes, developing a practical understanding of how maritime assets, logistics chains and offshore projects operate in practice. This experience is particularly valuable in disputes at the intersection of shipping, offshore construction, LNG and the wider energy sector.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 United Kingdom* as a Recommended Lawyer in London,
  - Insurance Litigation: For Policyholders, 2027
  - International Arbitration, 2024-2026
- ACII (Advanced Diploma in Insurance)

EDUCATION

- Graduate Diploma in Law, Kaplan Law School
- Legal Practice Course, Kaplan Law School
- B.A., University of York
- LL.M., University College London

ADMISSIONS

- Admitted to Practice in United Kingdom

LANGUAGES

- French

- Italian

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 11 November 2025, European Union Adopts 19th Package of Sanctions Against Russia

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Investor-State Arbitration and the Energy Transition," *Pratt's Energy Law Report*, November-December 2024

NEWS & EVENTS

- 15-16 June 2026, Senior Associate Forum: Europe & Middle East | 2026 Cohort

AREAS OF FOCUS

- International Arbitration
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Energy Disputes
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- Investor-State Arbitration
- Maritime Disputes

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Hydrogen
- Maritime
- Offshore Construction
- Offshore Wind Energy
- Oil and Gas
- Transportation and Logistics

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Acting for a European gas company in an arbitration against a Russian state-owned energy corporation relating to the “ruble-ization” of a gas sales contract (ICC arbitration).
- Acting for a drilling contractor in relation to termination of two contracts for construction of eco semi-submersible rigs due to delay and technical non-compliances (ad hoc arbitration under the English Arbitration Act).
- Acting for a drilling contractor in relation to the rescission of a shipbuilding contract for a deepwater drillship due to late delivery (ad hoc arbitration under the English Arbitration Act).
- Acting for an offshore services company in relation to the rescission of a shipbuilding contract due to lack of progress in relation to the construction of a pipelaying vessel (LCIA arbitration).
- Acting for a drilling contractor in a dispute involving the termination of a drilling contract (LCIA arbitration).
- Acting for a major offshore services subcontractor in relation to claims arising out of construction of an oil platform (ICC arbitration).
- Acting for a subcontractor in relation to claims arising out of the construction of Terminal 3 at Dubai International Airport (DIAC arbitration).
- Assisting in forum non conveniens application arising out of a collision in UAE waters; establishment of limitation fund in UAE.
- Advising on claim in rem and application for judicial sale on behalf of mortgagee against owner in default.
- Acting for owners in relation to a claim brought by charterers for contamination of cargo (LMAA arbitration).
- Acting for owners in pursuing a claim under General Average bonds and guarantees against cargo interests.
- Acting for owners in an LOF salvage case involving settlement with salvors and defence of unseaworthiness claim from cargo interests.
- Advising underwriters for a multinational clothing company in relation to a Constructive Total Loss and coverage issues under ITC Hulls 1.10.83 and division of liability with P&I Club arising therefrom.
- Advising a Chinese bank on shipowners’ liability arising out of the 1992 Civil Liability Convention.
- Advising two separate LNG operators in relation to (i) a contract for a newbuilding and (ii) a contract for a ship conversion.
- Advising a large cruise operator on a contract for provision of several large cruise ships for use as floating hotels at a major sporting event.
- Advising a major international shipping and energy conglomerate in relation to insurance coverage and claims arising out of an oil spill in the Bahamas.

- Advising a major yacht owner in relation to insurance coverage issues and contractual claims arising from a shipyard fire resulting in the loss of two yachts and one super-yacht.