



The Law
Society

England and Wales

Global legal
centre



The legal sector of England and Wales is one of the UK's greatest exports

We are home to some of the best law firms in the world, globally renowned courts and a wealth of legal talent.

Our law is the most commonly used law in international business because it is flexible, predictable and stable.

We have a world-renowned legal system, with judges of the highest calibre and first-class courts.

London is a leading global centre for arbitration and our legal profession is highly skilled and bound by the highest professional standards.

These benefits have developed over hundreds of years and will continue for years to come – regardless of our departure from the European Union.





Legal certainty, highly competent judges, world class lawyers and other legal professionals, a business-friendly approach...These are just some of the many reasons why English law and English courts enjoy a very high degree of trust and respect in the international business community. Therefore, choosing English law and courts in international business transactions means, for me, one less point to negotiate with my counterparts.

Beste Aygün
Nestlé Legal (Turkish qualified)



The historical ties that exist between England and the rest of the common law world forge a link that will be difficult to break. This history gives a familiarity and comfort with the methodology of English law to lawyers from the common law world and their clients. This, combined with the excellent reputation the English judicial system has developed over the years, makes England a destination of choice for dispute resolution.

Dr Babatunde Ajibade
SJA Ajibade & Co (Nigerian qualified)

English law is flexible, predictable and stable

- **English law is flexible:** based on the principle of freedom of contract, English law allows businesses and individuals to tailor bespoke agreements to fit their specific needs, offering commercial flexibility.
- **English law is predictable:** based on the doctrine of precedent, English law helps commercial parties predict an outcome of a legal dispute with a greater level of certainty.
- **English law is stable:** stretching back hundreds of years and based on well-established principles, the benefits of English law will continue for years to come.



I find English law valuable because it provides a very flexible environment in which to transact the large cross border deals which I frequently work on. It's very pragmatic, it's flexible, it lacks rigidity unlike some other jurisdictions – and it's very user friendly.

Graeme Sloane
Morrison Foerster (dual qualified
England & Wales, Scotland)





English law has been developing over hundreds of years and continues to be developed by judges...it is not possible for other systems of law to suddenly create 250 years of jurisprudence. So the reasons for choosing English law to govern your contract won't change over the next 10 or 15 years.

Scott Hopkins
Skadden (dual qualified Canada & Japan)



English law is one of the default choices as the governing law for contracts in Asia and worldwide because it is rightly seen to provide a reliable and commercially sensible framework, and English courts are seen to be a genuinely neutral forum for resolution of disputes.

Julian Copeman
Herbert Smith Freehills (dual qualified England & Wales, Hong Kong)

English and Welsh justice is state of the art

- **The judges of England and Wales are of the highest calibre:** our judges are drawn from the highly experienced ranks of the senior legal profession, and are effective, uncorruptible and independent.
- **English and Welsh judges are experienced in resolving commercial disputes:** this is particularly the case for those with an international focus – our judges are known and respected for their understanding of the complexities of the modern commercial world.
- **English and Welsh courts are thorough and reliable:** our courts are chosen for their neutrality and their thorough and proportionate procedures.





The judiciary are renowned for their absolute integrity and independence, and that's extremely important.

Philip Wood CBE QC
Formerly of Allen and Overy (English & Welsh qualified)



The judges in court understand commercial law, they are impartial, you have a body of lawyers that are ready to support... and from an Indian context in particular, judgments passed by superior courts in England and Wales are recognised in India and are therefore enforceable.

Sakate Khaitan
Khaitan Legal Associates (Indian qualified)

We have an expert legal profession

Our solicitors and barristers are world class – they play a vital part in upholding the rule of law and the proper administration of justice. Benefits of our solicitor profession include:

- **Solicitors of England and Wales are highly skilled:** not only do they study for six years but they also have a strict period of training with practical experience under supervision of more experienced lawyers.
- **Solicitors of England and Wales are bound by the highest professional standards:** they are officers of the court, filter unmeritorious claims and are bound by standards of integrity, competence and conduct.
- **Solicitors of England and Wales work as part of a global community of professionals:** working together with overseas colleagues and firms on complex commercial transactions, our solicitors help ensure investments are structured to be secure, establish value and underpin economic prosperity and growth.



The legal quality that I get in London... I find it difficult for any other country to match.

Abhijit Mukhopadhyay
Hinduja Group (Indian qualified)



The English legal profession seems to have consistently drawn more than its fair share of the best and the brightest – and that no doubt contributes to a legal tradition that is uniquely rich.




**Jeff Golden, Honorary Master of the Bench
Middle Temple (American qualified)**



London is a leading centre for arbitration

- **We have a clear legislative framework for arbitration:** this provides a clear set of rules which guide parties through the arbitral process and provides effective enforcement of arbitration awards.
- **We have world class arbitrators, legal advisors and arbitration organisations:** London is home to a large body of world class, international law firms that offer multi-disciplinary and often multi-jurisdictional legal advice to international businesses.





England and Wales is the jurisdiction of choice for dispute resolution, and we are home to some of the greatest law firms in the world – over 200 foreign law firms have offices in the UK

(TheCityUK 2018)


200+



The number of commercial and civil disputes resolved through arbitration, mediation and adjudication in the UK totalled more than 22,000 in 2015

(TheCityUK 2016)

22,000+



In 2018, 76% of cases in the commercial court were international in nature

(TheCityUK 2018)

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