

Sir Daniel Bethlehem KCMG KC

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Overview

Daniel Bethlehem is a barrister and arbitrator practising in the field of public international law from *Twenty Essex* chambers in London. From May 2006 to May 2011, he was the principal Legal Adviser of the U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office, now the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). Prior to this, he was in practice at the Bar and, in parallel, Director of the Lauterpacht Centre of International Law at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. In addition to his legal practice, Daniel is the director of *Legal Policy International Ltd*, a strategic consultancy advising on high legal content international policy and political issues. He was knighted in June 2010.

As arbitrator, Daniel has been appointed in both investor-State and non-investment cases, with notable experience in both PCA and ICSID-administered arbitrations. Daniel is a member of the ICSID Panel of Arbitrators and a panellist on the WTO Indicative List of Panellists maintained by the WTO Secretariat, in both cases designated by the United Kingdom. He is also designated by the European Commission on the list of candidates suitable for appointment as Chairpersons for Arbitrations and is a member of the Chairpersons Arbitration Panel designated jointly by the United Kingdom and the European Union pursuant to Article 171 of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement. Given the extent of his investor-State arbitral practice as arbitrator, Daniel does not as a general matter accept instructions as counsel in investor-State cases.

As counsel, Daniel has appeared in every major international forum, including the ICJ, ITLOS, UNCLOS VII tribunals and the so far sole UNCLOS Annex V conciliation commission, WTO panels, the Iran –

Professional memberships

- American Society of International Law: Counsellor, Executive Committee
- British Branch of the International Law Association: Former Council Member
- British Institute of International and Comparative Law: Advisory Council
- Institute of Advanced Legal Studies: Former Advisory Council Member
- Lauterpacht Centre for International Law: Advisory Committee

Education

- Cambridge University, Queens' College: LLM (1990)
- Bristol University: LLB (1985)
- University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg: BA in Political Science and International Relations (1981)

U.S. Claims Tribunal, the European Court of Human Rights, and others. He has also appeared at every level of English courts and tribunals, from the Employment Tribunal to the United Kingdom Supreme Court, in cases involving questions of international law. He is frequently asked to put together and lead specialist strategic advisory and litigation teams dealing with complex and multi-faceted disputes. He is experienced in both behind-the-scenes advisory and upfront litigation roles. On high legal content policy matters, he has been consulted on issues ranging from peace negotiations to third-party conciliation processes and engagement in multilateral and regional diplomatic fora. He has extensive experience of engagement with and at the United Nations, various of its Specialised Agencies, and other inter-governmental and supra-national organisations.

In parallel with his legal and advisory practice, Daniel is Visiting Professor in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. His previous academic appointments include the London School of Economics and Cambridge University, at which he taught graduate courses in United Nations law, GATT/WTO and international trade law, and advanced general courses in public international law, including the use of force, the law of armed conflict / international humanitarian law, the law on State responsibility, immunities, and more. He has also been a Visiting Professor in the Department of Law at Columbia University in New York and a Senior Fellow at the Human Rights Institute of Columbia Law School

Amongst other appointments and affiliations, Daniel is Chair of the Advisory Board of the Lauterpacht Centre of International Law at the University of Cambridge, and a Member of the Advisory Committee on International Law of the U.S. Department of State.

[Read a full version of Daniel's CV.](#)

Recommendations

Daniel Bethlehem KC is in a class of his own. He's peerless when it comes to his insights on public international law. He's the full package. [Chambers UK Bar 2025](#)

Nobody combines heavyweight legal skill with political and diplomatic insight like Daniel. He is an extraordinary lawyer and blessed with remarkable gifts of advocacy, intellect and charm. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2025](#)

Daniel is the Erling Haaland of his field - ahead of the pack and with a dazzling array of skills. He is quite simply at the top of his game and having him on your team confers an immediate advantage - Grand Master level. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2024](#)

Sir Daniel is undoubtedly one of the stars of the Bar for complex international public law disputes. He brings real in-depth knowledge and gravitas. [Chambers UK Bar 2024](#)

He is completely phenomenal - he has a gift for rendering incredibly complex concepts into simple and easy to understand language. [Chambers UK Bar 2024](#)

He is a very deep thinker, analytical but strategic. [Chambers UK Bar 2024](#)

Incredible strategic vision combined with a forensic approach make Daniel a Grand Master in his field. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2023](#)

He's an intellectual giant in the field. [Chambers UK Bar 2023](#)

His mastery of international law and strategy is commendable and is unmatched [Chambers UK Bar 2022](#)

Truly impressive, with an encyclopedic knowledge of international law and a refined sense of litigation strategy [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2022](#)

Vast experience of both counsel work and arbitral appointments [Chambers UK Bar 2022](#)

A benchmark to which others aspire [Chambers UK Bar 2022](#)

He is indefatigable, user friendly, and honest [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2022](#)

An exceptional advocate who is incredible in front of the tribunal and conveys a real gravitas. [Chambers UK Bar 2021](#)

The ultimate academic authority. [Chambers Global 2020](#)

Pre-eminent in this area. [The Legal 500 UK Bar 2020](#)

Formidable counsel. [Chambers UK Bar 2020](#)

He has an extraordinary work ethic and ability to keep a holistic perspective on a case. [Chambers UK Bar 2019](#)