

CHRISTOPHER HAMEL-SMITH
HAMEL-SMITH CARIBBEAN

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Career: 2010 – Present: Partner, Hamel-Smith Caribbean, Barbados
2010 – Present: Partner Emeritus, M. Hamel-Smith & Co., Trinidad
1986-2010: Partner, M. Hamel-Smith & Co., Trinidad and Head of its
Dispute & Risk Management Practice Group
2002: Temporary Judge of the Supreme Court of Trinidad & Tobago

Education: 1981: Barrister, The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, London, England
1980: LLB (Hons) University of Bristol, England

Bar Admissions: 2014: St. Vincent & the Grenadines
2010: Barbados
2007: Belize
2004: Dominica
2003: Trinidad & Tobago (Silk)
2003: St Kitts & Nevis
1982: Trinidad & Tobago
1981: England & Wales

Practice Focus: Christopher's practice is focused on helping his clients to strategically manage significant commercial disputes and risks in Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. He is also frequently involved in resolving important Constitutional issues in Trinidad & Tobago and the

Eastern Caribbean. Appointed Senior Counsel (“Silk”) in 2003, Christopher acts as lead Counsel in a wide range of complex disputes before the courts and arbitral tribunals. He also acts as an Arbitrator and, more frequently, as a Mediator.

Sample Representations:

Finance: Assisting several Banks to manage and mitigate their legal risks arising from sovereign debt default in the Caribbean

Representing a Bank in connection with litigation commenced by an Eastern Caribbean Government challenging the validity of its debt obligations

Representing an Investment Bank in connection with litigation commenced by the Issuer of Bonds which it had arranged

Representing an Investment Bank in connection with litigation commenced by investors who purchased participatory interests in Bonds which it had arranged

Representing the acquirer of a debt, and the associated security, in litigation challenging the transaction in the context of the Barbados Insolvency Legislation

Representing a bank in connection with a participatory interest it had acquired in the sovereign debt of an Eastern Caribbean nation

Energy: Representing the acquirer of a Petrochemical Company in litigation arising out of the transaction

Representing the minority shareholder of a Petrochemical Company in a Commission of Enquiry into the collapse of the majority shareholder

Representing Petrochemical Companies in Arbitrations arising out of failures to supply them with the contracted quantities of natural gas for processing in their plants and the claims of force majeure asserted by the supplier

Construction: Representing the Contractor in the Arbitration of a dispute arising out of its termination on a major commercial development

Representing the Project Management Company in a Commission of Enquiry into the construction of the International Airport Terminal in Trinidad

Insurance: Representing the Claimants in test litigation against the Insurers arising out of the destruction of large parts of Port of Spain following the attempted coup in 1990

Representing a downstream Energy Company in litigation under its policy to recover losses suffered as a result of damage to its plant

Representing the Insurer in defending material damage and business interruption claims arising from a fire at commercial premises in Barbados on the basis of material non-disclosure and breach of policy conditions

Telecoms: Advising the first new mobile operator on all aspects of its entry into the liberalised telecommunications market in Trinidad & Tobago

Representing the entrant mobile operator in three Arbitrations with the incumbent operator over various aspects of interconnection

Sports: Representing the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) in litigation concerning allegations of restraint of trade in connection with West Indian cricketers' participation in the IPL and other overseas domestic T20 tournaments

Representing WICB in litigation about its Memorandum of Understanding and Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Players' Association

Public Law: Representing the President of Trinidad & Tobago in connection with litigation concerning the exercise of his power to appoint Senators under the Constitution

Representing the Chief Justice of Trinidad & Tobago in Judicial Review proceedings commenced against him by the Registrar of the Supreme Court

Representing the Integrity Commission of Trinidad & Tobago in Judicial Review proceedings commenced by a former senior Government official in relation to its investigation into allegations of corruption against him

Representing Applicants in proceedings challenging the constitutionality of the death penalty in Trinidad & Tobago

Representing the Applicant in proceedings challenging the constitutionality of legislation in Belize that criminalised homosexual activity between consenting adults in private

Representing the then Opposition Coalition in St. Kitts & Nevis in proceedings for an emergency injunction (and the appeals therefrom) to stop the purported introduction of changes to the constituency boundaries shortly before the General Election

Other Professional Activities:

Arbitration: Acting as Arbitrator on an ICC Arbitration over the sale and purchase of an Oil Company

Acting as Arbitrator in an ad hoc Arbitration between the Employer and the Contractor on a commercial construction project

Mediation: Certified Mediator under the Trinidad & Tobago Mediation Act

Member of the Panel of Mediators maintained by the Dispute Resolution Centre of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Acting as Mediator in a dispute between the Financiers and Investors in relation to tourism-related projects across multiple Caribbean jurisdictions

Acting as Mediator in a dispute between the Project Management Company and the Employer on a significant commercial construction project

Seconded by the Judiciary to act as a Judicial Settlement Officer in the ADR Pilot Project conducted by the Trinidad & Tobago Supreme Court