

JULIE SHEILA FORSYTH

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PROFILE

My practice focuses on the construction, engineering and energy sectors. I give contract advice and negotiate and draft contract documentation on a wide range of construction projects. I have experience on a variety of standard form contracts including FIDIC, NEC and JCT as well as bespoke contracts and framework, fit out and services agreements. I act for several banks on funded development projects, advising on and negotiating construction documentation required for the bank's security. I also represent and advise clients on conflict avoidance and dispute resolution on national and international construction projects.

I have specialised in the construction and engineering sector since qualifying as a solicitor in September 1991. At Berryman's Luce Mawer, I became a partner at the age of 28 and represented and advised clients on a broad spectrum of infrastructure projects worldwide including railways, airports, bridges, roads and dams.

My client base included engineers and their insurers, as well as funders, developers, main contractors, energy and aerospace companies, specialist sub-contractors and suppliers.

I am fluent in French and ran my own consultancy business in France for several years, providing legal and business advice to international companies in the oil and energy, aeronautic and engineering sectors.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

September 2016 to date

Gunnercooke LLP

Partner - Construction and Engineering Team

Based in the London office, I act for an array of clients including developers, contractors, banks and receivers. My practice at Gunnercooke comprises, for the most part, advice and negotiation of building contracts and related construction, due diligence for funders and developers and representation of clients in construction-related disputes. I have various appointments (listed below) in associations promoting dispute avoidance and resolution in major projects.

Projects include advice and representation in adjudication proceedings and contract advice and negotiation on:

Large scale developments, high value residential renovations and fit-outs for UK and foreign nationals; graphic design fit out for a museum in Qatar; straw biomass supply contract for a renewable energy plant; part-conversion of church in Knightsbridge to provide facilities for a private school; battery replacement and maintenance works for data

centres of a major investment bank.

September 2016 to date

**Leboulanger et Associés, Paris
Of Counsel**

I joined this Parisian boutique arbitration practice to develop further the firm's ability to handle construction and engineering arbitrations. I have worked closely with the partners and the team to broaden the offering of the practice and to liaise with technical experts and other support services to build a full support team for each arbitration.

February 2016 – August 2016

**Stephenson Harwood LLP, London, UK
International Arbitration Team**

I joined Stephenson Harwood to run the team for the partner in an ongoing LCIA arbitration. The claim of around USD750million related to an oil and gas dispute on a Nigerian oilfield. In this role, I relied on my experience in international arbitration proceedings to advise on strategy and to control and monitor the day to day running of the case through to trial.

November 2014 – November 2015

**Birketts LLP, Chelmsford, UK
Legal Director**

A top 100 firm with 60 partners and 4 UK offices. I was Legal Director in the construction and engineering team of 10 lawyers. I worked on a fixed one-year contract to broaden and develop the construction team's client base and raise the team's profile in the London and international market. I also advised clients on project documentation and disputes.

Projects included: major hospital biomass project acting for main contractor (and funder); fit-out of retail premises in the UK, France and Brussels for an iconic audio system manufacturer; marine engineering company involved in major offshore projects as well as design and construction for the armed forces and fitting-out of ships and ferries; multi-million-pound development in Cyprus for a UK contractor; negotiation of JCT main and sub-contracts on a specialist £3.5m project across three UK sites for one of the world's top three banks.

September 2005 - July 2014

**Conseil et Formation, Pau, France
Founder and Director**

Advising international companies in the oil and gas, aerospace, chemical and manufacturing industries. I worked closely with management and senior professionals to guide and assist in their commercial practice, disputes and legal proceedings, and also to advise on legal drafting and interpretation. I was retained as a consultant and adviser by Safran/Turbomeca, Total, Spie, TIGF, Saipem/Sofresid, Petrochem, Lindt and various related suppliers and sub-contractors.

Projects included: advising on documentation and presentations for committees and symposiums on airworthiness, environmental concerns and sustainability in aircraft design and production; commercial advice to chief engineer and counsel on a pioneering carbon capture, transport and storage project costing €60m and partial decommissioning of the Lacq gas plant; advising on international disputes, including several helicopter crashes and alleged engineering faults; mentoring and training young recruits in risk and legal awareness prior to their transfer to management roles on oil and gas platforms.

January 2001 - December 2004

**Speechly Bircham Solicitors, London, UK
Senior Associate**

Acting, principally, for commercial clients across a wide range of business sectors, but with an emphasis on real estate developers, property investment companies and contractors. Also advising high net-worth individuals undertaking high value residential construction projects.

Projects included: advising on contracts for Heathrow Terminal 5 construction; various eco-build projects for rammed earth contractor; implementation of new regulations (asbestos, CDM etc.) throughout client projects; private client claim for several million pounds regarding renovations to property in Jersey; representing clients in High Court TCC cases.

February 1993 – July 1999

**Berrymans Lace Mawer Solicitors, London, UK
Partner**

As a partner in the construction and engineering team, I ran national and international cases. My work included team and budget management, business development and implementing changes for the improvement and expansion of our services. I was also responsible for legal risk management for clients, applying the principles to current claims and providing training on claim avoidance and limitation. I acted principally for engineers and their insurers.

Projects included:

- Africa: 3 months spent in Malawi in a multi-million-pound arbitration relating to a storage and transport depot in Blantyre. I represented the engineer and their US based insurer and was responsible for all aspects of the case, including advocacy
- international disputes on: Mohale Dam, Istanbul Water and Wastewater Plant, Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Abu Dhabi Dry Docks and many others of that size and nature
- in the UK - Second Severn Crossing, Limehouse Link Tunnel, Jubilee Line Extension
- Involvement in the FIDIC drafting committee and in giving seminars and conferences included World Bank conference in Park Lane London, where I spoke on proposed corruption regulations in FIDIC guidelines,

September 1989 – April 1992

**Freedmans Solicitors, London, UK
Trainee and Solicitor**

Established specialist construction law firm with high profile construction clients. I was a trainee then a solicitor in construction litigation. Representing and advising major contractors on multi-million-pound claims.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Appointments and Memberships

- UK Country Representative of the Dispute Review Board Foundation (DRBF)
- Honorary Secretary - Society of Construction Arbitrators
- Panel Adjudicator - Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR)
- Member - Conflict Avoidance Coalition Steering Group
- Panel member - London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA)
- Fellow - Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member - Arbitration Club, Law Courts branch

Qualifications

- 1997 Arbitration pupillage with Eric Mouzer (Chartered Arbitrator)
- 1995 - 1996 Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration, (Chartered Institute of Arbitrators), London.
- 1988 - 1989 Solicitors' Finals, College of Law, Guildford.
- 1984 - 1988 Law degree: 2:1 LLB (Hons), University of London (External).

