

JULIE SHEILA FORSYTH

julie.forsyth@gunnercooke.com

Telephone: +44 (0)7464 952 151

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 am also a mediator and strong promoter of conflict avoidance provisions and actions to minimise or resolve disputes in the construction industry.

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

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

My focus now is on putting my extensive experience to good use as a consultant to companies in the construction industry and the law firms that represent them.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

March 2022 to Nov 2023 **Ocado Group PLC**
Consultant

Working as a consultant in the in-house legal team to provide construction law advice to colleagues and clients. My role included drafting and advising on construction contracts for a variety of projects in England and Europe. I also advised on the position of the parties and action required in case of conflict and disputes on projects. My initial 6-month consultancy contract was renewed twice.

September 2016 to date **Gunnercooke LLP**
Partner: Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure Team

At Gunnercooke I advise on, draft and negotiate building contracts and related construction documentation for a variety of clients including developers, contractors and funders. Gunnercooke is operates as an Alternative Business Structure (ABS) with a fee share structure.

September 2016 to date **Leboulanger et Associés, Paris**
Of Counsel

I work on an ad hoc basis with this Parisian boutique arbitration practice. I 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 construction arbitrations.

January 2016 – August 2016 **Stephenson Harwood LLP, London, UK**
International Arbitration Team

I joined Stephenson Harwood, on a fixed-term contract, to run the team in an ongoing LCIA arbitration. The claim, an oil and gas dispute on a Nigerian oilfield, was for around USD750 million. In this role, I advised on strategy and controlled and monitored the day to day running of the case.

November 2014 – November 2015 Birketts LLP, Chelmsford, UK
Legal Director

I was appointed 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.

September 2005 - July 2014 Conseil et Formation, Pau, France
Business owner

Advising international companies in the oil and gas, aerospace, chemical and manufacturing industries. I worked closely with many senior professionals to guide and assist in their business practice, disputes and legal proceedings, and to advise on legal and technical drafting and interpretation.

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.

February 1993 – July 1999 Berrymans Lace Mawer Solicitors, London, UK
Partner

As a partner in the construction and engineering team, I ran construction cases, most of which were arbitrations on FIDIC contracts. My role included team and budget management, business development and implementing changes for the improvement and expansion of our services. I was also responsible for risk management for clients, applying the principles to claims and providing training on claim avoidance and limitation.

September 1989 – April 1992 Freedmans Solicitors, London, UK – Trainee & Solicitor

Established specialist construction law firm with high profile construction clients. I was a trainee then a solicitor in construction litigation.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Appointments and Memberships

- Member – Conflict Avoidance Coalition Steering Group
- Panel Adjudicator – Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution
- Panel member – London Court of International Arbitration
- Fellow - Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Member – Arbitration Club, Law Courts branch
- Past President- Society of Construction Arbitrators (to May 2025)
- Past UK Country Representative – Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF)

Qualifications

- 2024 RICS Accredited Mediator
- 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).