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SARAH WILLIAMS

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Areas of practice

- Construction & Engineering
- Energy & Natural Resources
- International Arbitration
- IT & Technology
- Professional Negligence

Clerks' Details

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Practice overview

Sarah's practice has developed to encompass a diverse range of cases, including engineering and technical disputes, surveyor's professional negligence claims, standard form contract disputes (including NEC, JCT, ICE, Federation of Master Builders contracts and RIBA), onshore drilling and energy work, adjudication and adjudication enforcements, ICC international arbitrations, CIMAR arbitrations, right to light disputes, mediation, utilities disputes, shipbuilding cases, pure construction cases in the TCC, and pro bono work. Her clients have included national and international companies, local authorities, sole traders, partnerships and homeowners. She accepts instructions across the spectrum of chambers' work and is particularly interested in those cases involving a technical aspect.

Sarah appears regularly in the County Courts and the High Court as well as in front of other dispute resolution tribunals, both in the regions and in London.

Recent Cases

Construction & Engineering

- Acted for the tenant in relation to a substantial defects claim in the TCC in respect of a large wine distribution warehouse (claim circa £130m) (with Alexander Nissen QC and Calum Lamont).
- Junior instructed on behalf of the Council in TCC High Court litigation, which concerned the design and construction of a guided busway in Cambridgeshire under the NEC2 form of contract. Sarah's involvement extended to drafting proceedings, appearing at interim hearings and advisory work (with Stephen Furst QC and Piers Stansfield QC).
- Drafting and advisory work at all stages of adjudication enforcement, including successful enforcement in *De Haan v 89 Drayton Gardens Limited TCC* (unreported) which considered jurisdictional challenges in respect of variations and multiple contracts.
- Instructed to act in various claims involving NHBC Buildmark insurance, including successfully representing the NHBC at trial against two guarantors under the Buildmark scheme.
- Acting on behalf of the main contractor of a waste management facility in the North in defects claim against its specialist sub-contractor (with Adam Constable QC).
- Defending a national paint manufacturer at all stages to trial in relation to tortious and statutory claims in the TCC.
- Instructed by a thoroughbred stud farm in a claim against its consultant engineers pertaining to the design of a failed culvert project. Work including drafting proceedings, representation in the TCC and advisory work.
- Acting for a fire and security specialist sub-contractor in relation to a debt and variations claim for works to various police stations in the north of England.
- Instructed in the Wembley Stadium litigation as part of the counsel team for Brookfield (formerly Multiplex) in a professional negligence claim against the consultant engineers (with Finola O'Farrell QC, Vincent Moran QC and Paul Buckingham).
- Instructed by the Ministry of Defence to draft proceedings, advise and participate in arbitral hearings as part of the counsel team in a multi-million pound arbitration relating to marine and terrestrial construction disputes (with Sarah Hannaford QC and Piers Stansfield QC).

Energy & Natural Resources

- Repeat instructions from a large Italian oil and gas company in respect of its international drilling projects. In particular, Sarah's work has included drafting ICC arbitration proceedings and advising in respect of an onshore drilling services dispute in Kazakhstan (with Veronique Buehrlen QC).

International Arbitration

- Instructed by an Indian energy and infrastructure company to draft proceedings and advise in relation to an ICC arbitration dispute arising out of a major transport construction project in Qatar.
- Acting for an international JV in a claim in respect of a major municipal facility in Doha (as part of the counsel team led by Richard Harding QC).
- Instructed by the shipbuilder in a variations claim against the purchaser of a megayacht (with David Bailey QC and Jessica Stephens).

IT & Technology

- Repeat instructions from British Telecommunications Plc at all stages to trial in respect of claims of varying scale and nature, including negligence claims for damages to telecommunications apparatus, wayleave disputes, debt claims, and defective product claims. Appeared for BT in respect of a dispute in negligence and trespass against a community insulation provider in the North (with Simon Hughes QC).

Professional Negligence

- Acting for the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland in a claim against its project monitoring surveyor in respect of residential development in the North (with Veronique Buehrle QC).
- Various claims for and against surveyors of residential property.

Education & Professional Career

Public Access Training	2015
Barrister, Keating Chambers	2009
Pupillage, Keating Chambers	2008-2009
Called to the Bar (Gray's Inn)	2008
Nottingham Law School – BVC (Very Competent) L. LB (1st Class Hons)	2007-2008
Nottingham Law School – Graduate Diploma in Law (Distinction)	2006-2007
Cambridge University, Jesus College – Natural Sciences M.A. (1st Class Hons)	2001-2004
Keswick School, Cumbria	1994-2001

Awards

Bedingfield Scholar, Gray's Inn	2007 - 2008
Scholar, Jesus College, Cambridge	2003 - 2004
Exhibitioner, Jesus College, Cambridge	2001 - 2002

Memberships

London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association (LCLCBA)
Technology and Construction Bar (TECBAR)
Commercial Bar Association (COMBAR)
Society of Construction Law (SCL)

Seminars, Publications & Papers

Sarah has been invited to speak at numerous events for the regional branches of the SCL, other construction and dispute resolution societies and at in-house solicitor training events, whether in small group seminars or in larger presentations. A selection of her past talks include the following:

- Issues arising from *ISG v Seevic College*: an in-house presentation at Keating Chambers.
- Dispute Resolution Case Law Update presented to regional branch of the CI Arb.
- Adjudication Update presented at in-house solicitor training events and to the regional SCL.
- An introduction to Good Faith presented to the regional SCL.
- An Introduction to Rights to Light presented at an in house solicitor training event.
- Construction Law Reports - Editor.
- Bullen & Leake & Jacob's Precedents of Pleadings 18th Edition (with Paul Darling QC, Elizabeth Repper, Thomas Lazur).
- Keating on Construction Contracts 9th Edition (2012) – Researcher.
- Author of the SCL Paper 'An Introduction to Good Faith'.
- Keating on JCT - Contributor.