



Jess Connors

Year of call: 2000

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"She brings great attention to detail and a very user-friendly and commercial approach." The Legal 500

Jess specialises in substantial and complex commercial and construction disputes. She regularly appears before the English Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court (TCC), and in international arbitrations (including LCIA, UNCITRAL and ICC), both as sole counsel and as part of a larger counsel team. Jess is a highly skilled, persuasive and experienced advocate, known for her effective and robust cross-examination.

She has particular experience and expertise in:

- Construction and infrastructure disputes, including offshore, on JCT, NEC, FIDIC and bespoke contracts, and related professional negligence disputes
- Private finance initiative (PFI) contract disputes
- Energy disputes, including nuclear, renewables, waste, bulk electricity supply, rig hire and pipeline construction. Oil and gas disputes, including joint operating agreements (JOAs), production sharing contracts (PSCs), back-in disputes and equity determinations
- Insurance, bonds and guarantees

Jess speaks good Japanese and fluent French.

Areas of expertise

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

Energy

Property Damage

International Arbitration

Construction and Engineering

Insurance

Commercial

Financial Services

Energy

Jess's extensive energy experience covers oil and gas exploration, energy from waste, biomass, renewables, nuclear, gas pipeline construction, JOA and PSC issues including back-in and equity determination disputes, rig hire, exploration decisions, long term gas, oil and electricity supply contracts, and property damage to a power station and associated loss of income claims.

- Representing an international oil company in an international arbitration arising out of disputed cash calls under a JOA.
- Representing an international oil company in two arbitrations arising out of an expert equity determination pursuant to an oilfield unitisation agreement.
- Advising a party to a JOA and PSC in relation to a dispute regarding back-in rights.
- Representing the operator of offshore assets in Commercial Court litigation about the termination of a long-term rig hire contract for force majeure/frustration.
- Representing a party to an oil exploration joint venture in relation to a dispute arising out of a decision not to drill further wells.
- Representing the claimant in a claim arising out of a long-term gas supply contract.
- Representing the claimant in a claim arising out of a bulk electricity supply contract.
- Representing the claimant in a dispute arising out of offshore horizontal directional drilling (HDD) works to build a gas pipeline (ICC arbitration).
- Representing a nuclear engineering company in a multi-million pound warranty and indemnity claim in the TCC arising out of the sale of a nuclear processing business.
- Representing a company manufacturing fuel oil from waste products.
- Representing HM Revenue & Customs in a £200m case on the taxation and interpretation of long-term oil and gas sale contracts in the North Sea.
- Advising and appearing in a £40m professional negligence claim arising out of an explosion at a South African power plant.
- Advising in relation to a professional negligence claim arising out of the construction of a micro hydro-electric plant.

Cases

Reported Cases

- Shell UK v Revenue & Customs Commissioners (Sp Comm) 2 August 2007 Lawtel 28 August 2007.
- RWE Nukem Ltd v AEA Technology Plc (CA) 20 October 2005 [2005] EWCA Civ 1192.
- Seymour and Seymour v Caroline Ockwell & Co and Zurich IFA Limited 13 May 2005 [2005] EWHC 1137 (QB).
- Oxford City Council v First Secretary of State and J A Pye (Oxford) Ltd (QBD) 12 January 2010 [2004] EWHC 2447 (Admin); [2005] JPL 847.
- Legal Services Commission v Mohammed Rasool (CA) 5 March 2008 [2008] EWCA Civ 154; [2008] 3 All ER 381.
- Solvent Resource Management Ltd v Environment Agency; OSS Group Ltd v Environment Agency (QBD) 30 November 2006 [2006] EWHC 3023 (Admin).
- The Maersk Co Ltd v Wilson (CA) [2004] EWCA Civ 313.

Recommendations

Jess is recommended in Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500.

"Her in-depth knowledge of the subject matter is phenomenal." "Very good at detail and financially complex claims." Chambers and Partners 2020

"An exceptional barrister, very clever and commercially orientated." The Legal 500 2020

"Great clarity of thought and the ability to absorb huge amounts of information and apply legal principles to awkward facts." The Legal 500 2020

"Always on my radar as a possible person to instruct." The Legal 500 2020

"Extremely hard-working, bright and thorough. She likes to really delve into the facts of a matter." Chambers and Partners 2018

"Meticulous." Chambers and Partners 2018

"She works ferociously hard and has an excellent grasp of quantum and figures." The Legal 500 2017

"Incredibly hardworking, responsive and thoroughly knowledgeable." The Legal 500 2017

"A tenacious barrister." The Legal 500 2017

"An exceptional junior with a terrific ability to immerse herself in the minutiae of a case." The Legal 500 2016

"You won't meet a human being who works harder; she leaves no stone unturned." Chambers and Partners 2016

"She brings great attention to detail and a very user-friendly and commercial approach." The Legal 500 2015

"Covers every angle and is very client-friendly." The Legal 500 2015

"One of the most hard-working barristers you could come across, she is incredibly thorough." Chambers and Partners 2015

"Possibly the most thorough barrister I know." Chambers and Partners 2014

"She rolls up her sleeves and gets stuck in." Chambers and Partners 2014

"Tenacious." The Legal 500

"Obvious legal ability and highly pragmatic approach." Chambers and Partners 2012

"Thorough and user-friendly manner." Chambers and Partners 2012

"'realistic and clear advice' goes down well." Chambers and Partners 2010

"A source of clear, practical advice' who is widely bruited as having a bright future ahead of her." Chambers

Appointments

- 2006 – 2012: HM Attorney General's panel counsel.

Memberships

- TECBAR
- The Commercial Bar Association
- The Society of Construction Lawyers
- The Professional Negligence Bar Association
- The Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers
- The London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association

Qualifications

- BA (Hons), Oxford University: 1995
- Securities & Futures Authority Registered Representative: 1996
- Securities Institute, Diploma (Interpretation of Financial Statements): 1997
- Postgraduate Diploma in Law, City University: 1999
- Wolfson and Hardwicke scholarships, Lincoln's Inn: 1999 – 2000

Additional Information

Publications

Jess contributed to Energy Arbitration, OUP pending, writing, jointly with Peter Rees QC, a chapter on Disputes Relating to Energy Construction and Infrastructure Projects. Construction Contracts: Law and Practice. Richard Wilmot-Smith QC, 2nd Edition (Contributor) OUP 2010 and Nabarro Nathanson Local Authority Procurement (Butterworths, 2002).

Jess has a finance background. Before coming to the Bar, she was an equity analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston and Citigroup in Paris and London.

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