



## Hannah McCarthy

Year of call: 2010

Email: hannah.mccarthy@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

*"Hannah is brilliant at establishing rapport with both instructing solicitors and with clients. She is unflappable, pragmatic and works tirelessly to achieve the best results." Chambers UK Bar Guide, 2023*

Hannah specialises in construction and engineering, energy, and professional negligence, as well as general commercial work. She is regularly instructed by domestic and international clients in Technology and Construction Court (TCC) proceedings as well as arbitration and adjudication. Hannah has substantial experience as junior counsel as well as sole counsel of a wide range of construction, engineering and infrastructure disputes, with particular experience of nuclear and energy matters. She works with FIDIC, NEC3 and JCT standard forms and bespoke contracts, and advises employers, construction professionals, local authorities, as well as private individuals.

Hannah speaks fluent French, in addition to German and Italian, which has helped in developing her international practice. In 2019, she was called to the Bar of Ireland (currently non-practising).

## Areas of expertise

Construction and Engineering

Adjudication

International Arbitration

Commercial

## Construction and Engineering

Hannah has experience of disputes involving payment issues, defective workmanship as well as delay and disruption claims, and is familiar with standard form contracts used in the construction industry, in particular JCT and NEC contracts. She has additional experience of nuclear-related projects involving design, safety case issues and environmental issues. She also has a growing practice in energy matters, in particular oil and gas-related disputes. Notable cases include working as a junior in multi-million pound complex claims as well as contractual disputes (including arbitration and adjudication), professional negligence issues and statutory claims involving contractors and project designers.

**Examples of recent work include:**

- Advisory work for local authorities and construction professionals on cladding issues and fire safety management
- Acting for a management firm in a dispute arising from a private finance initiative (PFI) contract, including such issues as fire compartmentation, fire safety management and unavailability provisions
- Acting for a contractor in a claim brought by the developers of a disused power station
- Acting for a main contractor in delay and disruption claim arising in the course of a multi-million pound infrastructure dispute in East Africa
- Advisory work for a local authority in respect of a waste treatment disposal plant
- Acting for a contractor in a multi-million pound gas distribution dispute
- Acting for the owner in a dispute in respect of glazed window units on a high-rise hotel
- Advising on complex design and payment issues arising on construction of a residential construction project
- Advising and acting for homeowners as well as contractors on a range of residential construction matters

## Cases of note

- ***Keadby Generation Ltd v Promanex (Total FM and Environmental Services) Ltd & Ors* [2020] EWHC 2444 (TCC)** - Instructed by the second defendant in a damages claim arising from a fire at a coal-fuelled power plant.  
[Judgment](#)
- ***Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust v Three Valleys Healthcare Ltd* [2018] EWHC 1659 (TCC)** - Instructed by an NHS trust in a contractual dispute in respect of a funders direct agreement.  
[Judgment](#)

## Memberships

---

- Middle Temple
- Society of Construction Law
- TECBAR

## Qualifications

---

### Education

- MA (Hons) Law – Cambridge University (2006-2008)
- MA (Hons) Modernism – Warwick University (2003-2004)
- BA (Hons) English & Philosophy – University College Cork (1999 – 2003)

### Scholarships and Prizes

- Benefactors Scholarship, Middle Temple (2008)
- Deans List Scholar, University of Massachusetts (2002)
- William L Markey Scholarship, University College Cork (2001)

## Additional Information

---

## Publications

- Contributor, *Wilmot-Smith on Construction Contracts*– Fourth Edition (2021)
- Contributor, *Guide to Construction Arbitration* – Third Edition (2019)
- Contributor, *Projects and Construction Review*(2016 – 2018 editions)
- Hannah is a frequent contributor to Practical Law and Lexis PSL

## Languages

---

- French (fluent)
- German (conversational)
- Italian (conversational)

## Recommendations

---

- *"Hannah is brilliant at establishing rapport with both instructing solicitors and with clients. She is unflappable, pragmatic and works tirelessly to achieve the best results."* Chambers UK Bar Guide, 2023
- *"She is a real team player with an excellent grasp of the detail and is fantastic in a crisis."* Chambers UK Bar Guide, 2022

---

### London

81 Chancery Lane,  
London  
WC2A 1DD  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111  
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

### MANCHESTER

82 King Street,  
Manchester  
M2 4WQ  
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

### SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,  
28 Maxwell Road,  
WC2A 1DD  
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber  
Suites  
Singapore 069120  
Tel: +65 6320 9272

### KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman  
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,  
50000 Kuala Lumpur,  
Malaysia  
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

BARRISTERS • ARBITRATORS • MEDIATORS

clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com