



“She brings great attention to detail and a very user-friendly and commercial approach.”

Legal 500

Jess Connors specialises in substantial and complex commercial and construction disputes. She regularly appears before the English Commercial Court, the 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 off-shore, on JCT, NEC, FIDIC and bespoke contracts, and related professional negligence disputes
- PFI contract disputes
- Energy disputes, including nuclear, renewables, waste, bulk electricity supply, rig hire and pipeline construction. Oil and gas disputes, including JOAs, PSCs, back-in disputes and equity determinations
- Insurance, bonds and guarantees

Jess speaks good Japanese and fluent French.

PRACTICE AREAS

- PFI
- Energy
- Commercial
- Construction & Engineering

PRACTICE AREAS

PFI

- Advising a PFI Co in relation to deductions made under a PFI contract, and the termination of that contract.
- Advising a local authority in relation to a PFI contract, in the context of acceptance testing of a waste facility, termination for cause and related valuation exercise.
- Advising a subcontractor providing multi-site facilities management services to a government department, under a PFI contract umbrella.

ENERGY

- 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.

COMMERCIAL

- Advising in relation to bonus entitlements arising out of the sale of a telecoms business.

- Representing the claimant in a dispute between partners in an international manufacturing joint venture based in India, and subject to Indian law contracts (LCIA arbitration).
- ICC arbitration, representing the defendant in a dispute arising out of a long-term international supply contract (aviation sector).
- Representing the claimant in relation to the claims and cross-claims arising out of the termination of a long-term service agreement.
- Representing numerous claimants in claims arising out of the Buncefield oil depot explosion.
- Acting for the defendant in an arbitration arising out of warranties given on the sale of land and housing.
- Acting for the claimant in a substantial claim arising out of an international broadcasting licensing agreement.
- Acting for the issuers of an on demand performance bond.
- Advising in relation to distributorship agreements in a variety of sectors (e.g. dairy, military supplies and hosiery).
- Advising in relation to disputes arising out of abortive negotiations for the sale of a company by its shareholders.
- Acting for the claimant in a claim for sums due under an asset sale agreement.
- Advising in relation to a dividend dispute between shareholders and directors of a private limited company.
- Advising in relation to a claim arising out of a fire at a DVD replication facility.
- Acting in relation to agency disputes, e.g. auctioneers, insurance brokers, yacht brokers and estate agents.
- Advising in relation to a dispute arising in connection with stolen Iraqi art.
- Advising a local authority in a matter concerning the issue of shares.
- Acting for Lloyd's underwriters in a £50m claim for the recovery of illegal referral fees following the collapse of the TAG AIL scheme.
- Acting for an insurer in a dispute as to existence of third party rights in an insurance contract.
- Acting for insurers in relation to various forms of credit insurance and factoring contracts.
- Advising an insurer as to the existence of an insurable interest.
- Advising in a solicitors' negligence claim in relation to a will.
- Representing an independent financial adviser in an important case on the scope of duties of care owed by IFAs to their clients, and by larger IFAs/product provider marketing consultants to smaller IFAs.
- Advising a large financial institution in relation to the investigation and enforcement procedures of the Financial Services Authority.
- Advising the Financial Services Authority in relation to the rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

- Advising the FSA in relation to its investigation into the activities of certain fund managers and brokers in the split capital investment trust sector between September 2000 and February 2002.
- Advising authorised persons regarding the FSA rules.
- Advising in relation to rules of the General Insurance Standards Council, the Banking Standards Code and OFT codes of practice, as well as of the Personal Investment Authority and Lloyd's tribunals.
- Representing an independent financial adviser in an important case on the scope of duties of care owed by IFAs to their clients, and by larger IFAs/product provider marketing consultants to smaller IFAs.
- Advising a large financial institution in relation to the investigation and enforcement procedures of the Financial Services Authority.
- Advising the Financial Services Authority in relation to the rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.
- Advising the FSA in relation to its investigation into the activities of certain fund managers and brokers in the split capital investment trust sector between September 2000 and February 2002.
- Advising authorised persons regarding the FSA rules.
- Advising in relation to rules of the General Insurance Standards Council, the Banking Standards Code and OFT codes of practice, as well as of the Personal Investment Authority and Lloyd's tribunals.

CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING

- Advising in relation to a dispute about aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding, the Building Regulations 2000 and 2010 and various versions of the guidance in Approved Document B.
- Acting for the claimant in a substantial damages claim for breach of a development agreement and deed of collateral warranty, arising out of defective workmanship/design.
- Acting for the UK-based claimant in an architect's fees claim against two German companies for work done on a hospital in Ghana, including dealing with questions of forum and applicable law.
- Acting for the defendant employer in a TCC claim concerning the inter-relationship of various interim applications for payment and interim certificates.
- Acting in relation to a dispute under a JCT 98 With Contractor's Design contract, in relation to a block of affordable housing units.
- Advising the employer in relation to a FIDIC contract for the construction of a hospital in Tobago.
- Advising in relation to the proper construction of an NEC contract, in the context of a dispute arising out of a substantial infrastructure project.
- Advising in relation to a dispute in connection with heads of terms for a contract for the design and construction of a power plant in South Africa.
- Acting for mechanical and electrical subcontractors in a dispute concerning the non-payment of contractual sums.
- Acting for the Department for Transport in relation to a claim for damages arising out of a bridge strike which disrupted a highway maintenance contract.

- Representing employers and contractors in various multi-track domestic building disputes concerning allegations of defective design and workmanship.
- Representing a local authority in relation to a dispute arising out of the construction of a leisure complex.
- Representing the defendant to a claim for professional negligence in the provision of geotechnical consulting services.
- Advising an NHS trust in relation to a claim for rescission of a sale of land, and a claim for breach of fiduciary duty.
- Representing a developer in proceedings arising out of the dismissal of a planning application.

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 & Partners and the Legal 500.

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

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

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

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

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

"Meticulous." Chambers & Partners 2018

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

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

"A tenacious barrister." Legal 500 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Tenacious" Legal 500

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

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

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

"a source of clear, practical advice' who is widely bruited as having a bright future ahead of her" Chambers & Partners 2009

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.

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,
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