

Roberta Downey

Partner

London

Biography

Roberta Downey heads the firm's global Construction and Engineering practice and has almost 30 years' experience in commercial dispute resolution, including large trials and highly technical disputes arising out of power plants, LNG facilities, engineering support services, rail infrastructure, telecommunications, waste water treatment and recycling facilities, and automated equipment and control systems.

Her practice is diverse: she acts for developers, owners, contractors and manufacturers across the full spectrum of energy, power, major infrastructure, process plant and urban redevelopment projects. She is a recognized market leader in offshore wind farms, on which she published a prize winning paper for the Society of Construction Law.

Roberta focuses on practical and commercial solutions to complex issues that arise throughout the lifecycle of major projects. She is a firm believer in proactive project management to avoid disputes or to protect her clients' positions should that not be possible, but is a seasoned fighter and formidable opponent where necessary. She is as comfortable managing large trials on highly technical disputes in litigation and arbitration as she is in conducting mediations, adjudications and other forms of alternative dispute resolution, whatever the jurisdiction or location of the project.



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Languages

English
Russian

Practices

International Arbitration
Litigation Services
Infrastructure, Energy, Resources,
and Projects

Industries

Diversified Industrials

Areas of focus

Roberta also leads the firms' pro bono advocacy work for the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign.

Representative experience

Advising on disputes relating to delay in commissioning a 1200 MW gas fired power plant with CHP facilities in South Africa.

Advising owner of a UK solar farm regarding its rights in respect of ongoing defects in the transformers.

Alstom Power Ltd v Ineos Chlor. Acting for contractor in High Court Proceedings relating to completion of a boiler plant project.

Barking Power Ltd v Balfour Beatty Projects and Engineering Ltd (1) and GEC ALSTHOM Power Plants Ltd (2). Acting for the consortium in High Court proceedings in respect of alleged defects to generators.

Advising a multinational contractor on various issues arising out of the onshore and offshore work on the control and instrumentation packages for two power plants in Africa.

Advising an international contractor in respect of valuation of a subcontractor's work, termination of the subcontract and financial claims arising out of a Middle Eastern power plant.

Henry Boot Construction Ltd v ALSTOM Combined Cycles. This case concerned a series of arbitrations and two Appeals to the Court of Appeal.

Advising the main contractor in respect of costs and delay issues arising out of the design, construction, operation and maintenance of an offshore wind farm.

Advising main contractor in respect of a defective meteorological mast for an offshore windfarm.

Advising an international contractor of its rights under offshore contracts for supply & installation of equipment/services in respect of the conventional

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Construction and Engineering

Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Supply Chain

Mining and Resources: Mining

Oil and Gas: Exploration and Production

Oil and Gas: Refinery and Petrochemical Projects

Operation and Maintenance, Facilities Management, Services and Commercial

Power: Nuclear Power

Power: Thermal Power

Power: Transmission, Storage, Sales, and Trading

PPPs (including P3 and PFI) and Government Contracts

Education and admissions

Education

CPE and LSF, College of Law, London

M.A., University of Oxford

M.Sc., King's College London, Construction Law & Arbitration

island of a nuclear plant project in Mexico.

Advising on the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant in Eastern Europe.

Advising owner of a UK solar farm regarding its rights in respect of ongoing defects in the transformers.

Acting for U.S. project management company in respect of the recovery of unpaid invoices for consultancy services on two process plants in U.A.E.

Advising European supplier in respect of design and fabrication issues in a superheater for a fertiliser plant in Canada.

London Underground Ltd v CityLink Telecommunications Ltd. Acting for the EPC contractor under a PFI contract in respect of a series of disputes, arbitrations and Appeal to the High Court.

ALSTOM Automation Ltd v British Airways plc. This case concerned BA's multimillion pound air cargo handling headquarters at Heathrow and involved disputes about automated equipment and control systems.

Advising an EPC contractor how it might protect its position mid-project, regarding delay claims against the Chinese Government.

Advising the main contractor on a Malaysian power station project, including potential claims under Bilateral Investment Treaties.

Advising the EPC contractor on delay claims regarding a sewerage and waste water treatment scheme.

Mostcash Plc & Ors v Fluor Ltd & Anor. Acting for an EPC contractor defending High Court proceedings regarding alleged defective design, ingress of water and corrosion of a paper recycling facility.

Advising English clients on joint venture disputes giving rise to litigation and arbitration in various jurisdictions, including the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, British

Memberships

Society of Construction Law

Law Society

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Accolades

"A highly skilled and pragmatic legal mind, and gives detailed thought to the business practicalities associated with a claim and manages to navigate difficult technical matters with ease."

Chambers 2020

"A wealth of experience in complex trials and technical disputes related to infrastructure."

Legal 500 2019

"An acknowledged expert on all manner of construction disputes."

Chambers 2020

Clients praise the fact that she is a "very responsive lawyer" (Chambers 2020) who "knows the industry, understands our needs and is responsive and reliable, including in moments of crisis" (Chambers 2019)

Chambers

Virgin Islands & Stockholm.

"very bright, extremely able and a great strategic thinker"

Legal 500 2019

Awards and rankings

- Ranked as a Tier 1 Leading Individual, *Legal 500 UK*, 2020
- Ranked as a Tier 2 Leading Individual, *Chambers UK*, 2020
- Named in the International Arbitration Power List, *Legal 500*, 2019
- Acritas Star, *Acritas Stars Independently Rated Lawyers*, 2018-2019
- Highly commended entries in the Hudson Prize Competition 2002 and 2012 ("Offshore Wind Projects: Managing the Interface Risks") (both published on Society of Construction Law website)

Latest thinking and events

- Webinar
 - Global Construction and Engineering Industry Forum: An open exchange on how we deal with COVID-19
- Events
 - Annual Middle East Construction Forum 2019
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells announces leadership changes to its global disputes practice
- Events
 - Middle East Construction Forum
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - How to draft for concurrent delay wherever your projects are
- Events
 - Hogan Lovells Annual Middle East Construction Seminar