



Tony Francis

Partner

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Tony is ranked among the top construction solicitors in both the *Chambers UK* guide and *The Legal 500*. They describe Tony as a construction lawyer who “really knows his stuff”; “an extremely commercially minded lawyer with a talent for strategy”; “immediately instils a sense of confidence” and “He leads from the front and is tactically and strategically strong. Tony grasps the key points of a case very quickly, assesses the merits and gives sound, practical advice.” Tony is listed as a leader in his field in *The Who’s Who Legal: Construction 2016*.

Contract experience

Tony has extensive experience of all the principal contracts, both domestic and international, including JCT, ICE, New Engineering Contract, GC/Works 1, IChemE, FIDIC, FCEC, PFI documentation, and numerous bespoke forms of international and domestic construction and energy contracts including bespoke EPC and EPCM contracts.

General experience

Tony specialises exclusively in construction and energy law and related matters, and advises in relation to dispute avoidance (including strategic contract advice during the course of a project), dispute resolution and procurement for a broad range of both domestic and international clients. Recent procurement advice has concerned a high-profile Olympic venue, a Premier League football club stadium and amendments to PFI documentation.

In relation to dispute avoidance and dispute resolution, Tony deals with all aspects of complex multimillion-pound claims handling and management, and gives advice as to claims resolution strategies including, where necessary, negotiation, mediation, expert determination, other forms of alternative dispute resolution, adjudication, arbitration and High Court proceedings. Recent disputes have concerned multimillion-pound issues involving a major international airport, a high-profile oil pipeline, several high-profile millennium and lottery funded projects, the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Crossrail, windfarms, and a major port development. Tony regularly advises on PFI disputes and large-scale civil and process engineering projects including rail, road, water, waste to energy and wind farms.

Tony is a trained adjudicator, is on several industry panels and regularly advises on all aspects of adjudication. He is also a Centre for Dispute Resolution trained mediator and has used mediation to resolve many disputes, including multi-party, multimillion-pound cases.

Career

Tony has an honours law degree from Sheffield University. Trained at Beale and Company, he qualified in 1987. He joined Fenwick Elliott in October 1990, becoming a partner in 1992.

Other activities

Tony has been instrumental in developing Fenwick Elliott's domestic practice, particularly amongst main contractors, and expanding Fenwick Elliott's international practice, establishing links and contacts in the construction industry in Asia, Northern and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the United States. Tony has edited the *Construction Industry Law Letter*. He also contributes articles to the *Building* magazine website and various trade periodicals. Tony regularly lectures on various subjects to both clients and conferences.

Tony's memberships/positions include:

- member of the Technology and Construction Solicitors' Association;
- member of the Society of Construction Law;
- member of the Adjudication Society;
- member of the London Court of International Arbitration;
- member of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation.