



Karen Gidwani

Partner

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Karen specialises in dispute resolution and avoidance for a wide range of domestic and international clients, advising on managing risk effectively in the course of complex construction and engineering projects. Karen regularly advises and represents clients in litigation, arbitration, mediation and adjudication.

Karen's experience covers a broad spectrum including contract formation and interpretation, amendments to existing contracts, claims for additional cost, loss and expense and extensions of time, liquidated damages liability, determination and repudiation, and the nature of and rights arising out of bonds and guarantees.

Karen is well versed in the principal standard forms of construction and engineering contract, including JCT, NEC and FIDIC. Karen has also advised on disputes arising from PFI contracts for schools, custody facilities, healthcare and roads, and has dealt with a variety of bespoke construction, engineering and energy contracts.

Karen is described as "an exceptional and dedicated lawyer" and "has a wealth of experience within the offshore energy industry" in the 2017 edition of *The Legal 500 United Kingdom*.

Specialist expertise

Karen has a particular interest in civil engineering and energy, and has significant specialist experience in offshore wind farm projects.

Examples of Karen's expertise include:

- advising on claims concerning time, cost, termination and defects arising from a number of UK offshore wind farm projects, including High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court litigation and international arbitration;
- advising offshore transmission owners on issues arising from the operation of offshore transmission assets on a number of UK offshore wind farms;
- acting for a contractor in relation to a complex multi-party dispute concerning an office building in Scotland;
- advising on disputes arising from the Crossrail project;
- project advice during the course of construction of a waste-to-energy facility in South East England;

- providing dispute avoidance advice to a contractor in respect of a number of UK offshore wind farm projects;
- representing parties in various disputes arising from PFI agreements, including in relation to the negotiation and agreement of the exit of a project company from a PFI project.

Other activities

Karen is the editor of the *Construction Industry Law Letter (CILL)* and contributes to Practical Law Company (PLC). She has spoken at various industry-related conferences and events including at Fenwick Elliott seminars.

Karen's memberships/positions include:

- fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb);
- member of the Adjudication Society;
- member of the King's College Construction Law Association (KCCLA);
- member of the Society of Construction Law (SCL);
- member of the Technology and Construction Solicitors' Association (TeCSA).