



Tony Francis

Partner

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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 and Managing Partner in 2004.

Tony is ranked among the top construction solicitors in both the *Chambers and Partners UK 2026* guide and *Legal 500 2026*. *Legal 500* describes Tony as a construction lawyer who is “an extremely commercially minded lawyer with a talent for strategy” and “a good strategic thinker and understands the commercial subtleties of what the client is seeking to achieve”; “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”; and “Tony Francis knows just the right level of detail and keeps personally involved. He is so experienced he is instinctive in his advice”.

Chambers and Partners who describes Tony as “hugely experienced, concise and astute in terms of commercial pressures”; and “Tony provides a high level of service and is very sharp”.

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.

Specialist expertise

Tony specialises exclusively in construction and energy law and related matters and advises in relation to dispute avoidance (including strategic contract advice during a project), dispute resolution and procurement for a broad range of both domestic and international clients.

Recent disputes have concerned multi-million-pound issues involving a major international airport, a high-profile oil pipeline, several high-profile millennium and lottery funded projects, various high profile rail projects, tram projects, windfarms, a nuclear power station, and a major port development. Tony regularly advises on PFI disputes and large-scale civil and process engineering projects including rail, road, water, tunneling, waste to energy and wind farms.

Tony led the team in a high-profile wind farm dispute with two Court of Appeal hearings, one of which culminated in proceedings in the Supreme Court. Tony also led the team in a high value waste to energy dispute culminating in a substantial judgment following a four week TCC hearing.

In relation to dispute avoidance and dispute resolution, Tony deals with all aspects of complex multi-million-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, dispute boards, arbitration (including ICC and ICLA arbitration) and High Court proceedings.

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

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 regularly provides bespoke training for clients at the outset of a major project or on aspects of commercial management and contract administration.

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.

Further information

More detailed information as to Tony's experience and the matters he has been involved in can be provided on request.