

# ROBYN WALLER

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Solicitor of England & Wales, Qualified October 2012, SRA 422418

## PROFILE

Commercially astute international construction lawyer with three years' experience as a knowledge lawyer and over eight years' contentious and non-contentious experience (pre and post qualification). Most recently employed as a Knowledge Lawyer within a Band One ranked construction team (Legal 500 UAE and Chambers Global).

A curious, open minded and pragmatic thinker who is optimistic and solution driven. I enjoy complex problem solving and am comfortable working in the grey areas.

Able to provide insightful, sensitive and constructive advice and benefit from developing trusting and collaborative relationships with clients and colleagues.

Diplomatic, flexible and comfortable with ambiguity. I have a history of adapting to, and managing, situations in which individuals have complex and divergent needs and drivers.

## KEY SKILLS

International complex construction disputes and arbitration (DIAC, ADCCAC, ICC, LCIA)

FIDIC contracts (Red, White, Gold, Green Books)

Legal training design and delivery (Elucidat, Articulate 360)

Legal tech and workflow innovation

Legal project management

Coaching and mentoring trainee and apprentice lawyers

## **LEGAL DELIVERY, KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE**

### **Solicitor Coach | Damar Training, Manchester (2025–present)**

#### COACHING AND MENTORING

Responsible for supporting a caseload of Level 7 Solicitor Apprentice SQE students across diverse practice areas, including construction and public sector law.

Mentoring apprentices and their supervisors through the acquisition and application of knowledge, skills and behaviours specified under the SRA Practice Skills Standards. Includes the process of collating portfolio evidence, preparing reflective statements and completing coursework assessments.

Hold one to one coaching sessions to encourage, support and develop holistic growth of the apprentice from technical skills through to behavioural and emotional resilience.

Manage individual training plans, monitor progress, and intervene where needed to enable progress against agreed timescales.

Lead regular progress reviews and maintain strong working relationships with apprentices, supervisors, and employers to support both technical and personal development.

### **Knowledge Lawyer | Clyde & Co LLP, Abu Dhabi (2019–2023)**

#### LEGAL TRAINING DESIGN & DELIVERY

Designed and delivered specialised training program for the Middle East construction team (contentious and non-contentious), covering foundational to advanced construction law (common and civil law), legal project management, and practice management skills.

Liaised with external training providers, internal training team, counsel and colleagues to manage, support and provide delivery of online and face to face training sessions.

Designed and delivered online and face to face training using software packages such as Elucidat and Articulate 360.

#### LEGAL TECH AND PROCESS INNOVATION

Key member of the legal delivery team on a strategic project to improve the management of complex construction arbitration disputes.

Mapped standardised team workflows for complex final account claims, recording best practices from start to arbitration award. Addressed client engagement, information management, arbitral procedure, advice, client care, financial management, document production and internal training. Provided

methods and tools for improving profitability, efficiency, quality, communication and client and employee satisfaction.

Collaborated with Lexis Everyfile to develop a bespoke legal delivery interface, streamlining end-to-end matter management.

## LEGAL KNOW HOW

Managed and updated the precedent bank for both contentious and non-contentious matters.

Drafted a comprehensive suite of legal templates, checklists, and precedents for international construction arbitrations. Templates covered client engagement, matter planning, information and document gathering, strategic and legal advice to client, expert instructions and management, Terms of Reference, Statement of Claim, Statement of Defence, witness statements, document production, checklists for preparation and attending a hearing.

Maintained the Middle East construction team's internal SharePoint knowledge hub (knowledge resources, legal updates, training calendar, precedent bank) and provided monthly know-how updates at team meetings.

## **EXAMPLES OF CONTENTIOUS EXPERIENCE (2012 to 2019)**

**Senior Associate | Gowling WLP, Dubai (2016–2019)**

**Associate | Trowers & Hamlins, Dubai (2012 - 2019)**

## PROJECT COUNSEL

Provided (as lead Associate) regular contract management advice to one of the UAE's leading banks in relation to the construction of its new headquarters; an iconic building which will form a prominent gateway to the Downtown Dubai /Dubai Mall area. The contracts are subject to the Federal laws of the UAE and the laws of the Emirate of Dubai and provide for Dubai seated DIAC arbitration. Contract was a heavily amended FIDIC Red Book (1999).

Advised (as assisting Associate to Senior Partner) a power and water plant operating company in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a number of claims against the EPC contractor and the O&M contractor for the plant. The role included advising the owner on all corporate, financing, construction and O&M aspects of owning and operating the expanded power and water plant; including advising on contractual entitlements under off-take, Turnkey and O&M agreements and on settlement of construction and 'defects' disputes. Highly bespoke suite of contracts. Subject to the laws of England and Wales.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND PRE-ARBITRAL STRATEGIC ADVICE

Provided (as lead Associate) a strategic legal analysis report to an international engineering and consultancy client, facilitating the settlement of a long-standing payment dispute under a consultancy agreement in relation to a public works facility in Abu Dhabi. The consultancy agreement was based on the FIDIC White Book (2006). It was subject to the Federal laws of the UAE and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and provided for Abu Dhabi seated, ADCCAC, arbitration proceedings.

Part of a team that provided a strategic advice report to a bespoke global litigation finance fund based out of London in relation to the financing of a high value, high profile, case surrounding a construction and design defects claim resulting from a widely reported incident at an iconic flagship five-star hotel in the region. The contracts were subject to the Federal laws of the UAE and the laws of the Emirate of Dubai and provided for various Dubai seated DIAC arbitration proceedings and Dubai Court litigation.

Advised (as lead Associate) a leading international architectural, construction supervision and project management firm in relation to termination and payment issues under a consultancy agreement for architectural design works on the AED 2.7 billion Dubai Water Canal project. The consultancy agreement was a heavily amended FIDIC White Book (2006) subject to the laws of Dubai and the UAE and provided for Dubai seated DIAC arbitration proceedings.

Provided (as lead Associate) strategic and legal advice to an international security and defence contractor in relation to its exposure to an alleged defects claim under a contract with a UAE government entity for the supply of an aviation monitoring system. The highly bespoke contract was governed by the Federal laws of the UAE and the laws of the Emirate of Dubai and provided for Dubai seated DIAC arbitration proceedings.

Produced (as lead Associate) a strategic pre-arbitral advice and claim analysis report for an international specialist groundworks subcontractor in respect of a subcontract with a leading regional contractor for works carried out on a five-star hotel project in Abu Dhabi. The dispute related to design obligations in the context of alleged defective works. The contract was based on FIDIC Red Book (1987). It was subject to the Federal laws of the UAE and the laws of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and provided for Abu Dhabi seated ADCCAC arbitration proceedings.

Advised (as lead Associate) an international specialist structural steel contractor as to its liabilities in respect of certain claims for additional sums for works arising out of the potentially defective works of a third party. The advice was provided under the terms of a subcontract relating to the Midfield Terminal Building, Abu Dhabi Airport. The subcontract was a heavily amended FIDIC Red Book (1999). It was governed by the Federal laws of the UAE and the laws of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and provided for Abu Dhabi seated ADCCAC arbitration proceedings.

## ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS

Represented (as lead Associate) a UAE government related entity in arbitration proceedings against prominent international contractors in relation to defects in a ship repair yard machinery located within a regionally strategic USD 5 billion maritime complex covering 2.3 million square metres. The contract was based on an amended FIDIC Red Book (1987). It was subject to the Federal laws of the UAE and the laws of the Emirate of Dubai and provides for Dubai seated DIAC arbitration proceedings.

Represented (as lead Associate) a prominent Omani developer of a major ITC project in respect of a USD 150 million defects claim against the architect and engineer. The contract was based on an amended FIDIC Red Book (1987). It was subject to the laws of the Sultanate of Oman and provided for Oman seated arbitration proceedings.

Part of a team that represented a major Bahraini developer in respect of a dispute concerning claims worth USD 75 million. The alleged claims related to an extension of time relying on some 44 individual delay events and prolongation costs. The contract was based on an amended FIDIC Red Book (1987) and was subject to the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain and provided for Bahrain seated arbitration proceedings.

## **EXAMPLES OF NON-CONTENTIOUS EXPERIENCE (2012 to 2016)**

### **Associate | Trowers & Hamblins, Dubai (2012 - 2019)**

Advised (as lead Associate) an international specialist sub-contractor in relation to its employment, health and safety and human rights obligations in connection with a subcontract for works carried out at the Khalifa International Stadium in Qatar following publication of a report by an influential international human rights organisation.

Drafted (as lead Associate) an Amendment and Restatement Agreement and particular conditions amending a design, build and operate contract for an Abu Dhabi Government owned hospitality and tourism development company further to the instigation of a mothballing period in respect of an STP, main sewerage pump station and force main at Saadiyat Island. Based on the FIDIC Gold Book (2008).

Redrafted (as lead Associate) tender conditions for a UAE defence logistics provider to revise and redress the balance of risk for the construction contract of its new headquarters to be constructed at Tawazun Industrial Park, Abu Dhabi (USD 35 million contract value). Based on FIDIC Red Book (1987).

Drafted (as lead Associate) bespoke contract for the design and construction of material storage silos, associated material handling equipment, and supporting infrastructure to be installed at the Khalifa Port and Industrial Zone, Abu Dhabi UAE. Client was an international inorganic catalyst manufacturer. Based on FIDIC Green Book (1999).

Drafted (as lead Associate) highly bespoke contract for the completion of Riffa Views project, Bahrain (based) to sit alongside ESCROW refinancing agreement pursuant to new Stalled Projects Law. Contract value US\$125 million. Client was a developer in the tourism industry. Based on FIDIC Red Book (1999).

Carried out (as lead Associate) a contract review and advised as to legal and practical amendments to contract for fit out of office and laboratory in Dubai Biotechnology and Research Park. Based on FIDIC Green Book (1999).

Advised and drafted (as lead Associate) amended and restated appointment in relation to the provision of Architectural, Civil / Structural Engineering, MEP [including HVAC] and Contract Administration Services and amended and restated subcontract in relation to the carrying out of Design and Build, Structural Design, Supervision of erecting Composite Flat Slab entire System and Supply and installation of Post Tension System at a hotel complex in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Client was an international contractor. Bespoke suite of documents.

Provided construction contract advisory support to an Abu Dhabi government owned hospitality and tourism development company in respect of an iconic arts building on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi. Heavily amended FIDIC Red Book (1999).

Carried out a detailed due diligence exercise on behalf of an Abu Dhabi government owned hospitality and tourism development company on the sale of a flag ship hotel development, including corresponding advice surrounding construction, consultancy and facilities management agreements and associated warranties.

Member of international team who carried out due diligence exercise for a significant Malaysian investment company in respect of project documents in consideration of the acquisition of an Irish utility company.

## CAREER AND EDUCATION

2025 to date	Solicitor Coach, Damar Training, Manchester, UK
2024 to 2025	Accredited Diploma in Transformative Coaching (ICF Level 2, EMCC Global Practitioner, Coaching Association), Animas Centre for Coaching, UK
2019 to 2023	Knowledge Lawyer, Clyde & Co LLP Abu Dhabi, Projects and Construction Team (Band One, Legal 500 UAE and Chambers Global)
2016 to 2019	Senior Associate, Gowling WLG Dubai, International Arbitration and Construction Disputes Team (Band Two, Legal 500 UAE and Chambers Global)
2012 to 2016	Associate, Trowers & Hamlins LLP Dubai, International Construction Team (Band Three, Legal 500 UAE)
2010 to 2012	Trainee Solicitor, Trowers & Hamlins LLP, London Affordable Housing, Charities and Governance, Real Estate Disputes, Projects and Construction
2008 to 2010	Paralegal, Trowers & Hamlins LLP Dubai, Corporate & Commercial
2003 to 2008	Senior Case Worker, Legal Services Commission, Reading, UK
2007	Masters in Islamic Law, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, Merit
2007	Legal Practice Course, The College of Law, London, Commendation
2005	Graduate Diploma in Law, The College of Law, Birmingham, Pass
2003	BA (Hons) Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, 2:1
1999	A levels, Luckley Oakfield School, Wokingham, UK
1997	GCSEs, Luckley Oakfield School, Wokingham, UK

## **INTERESTS**

Member of a community choir, salsa dancing, volunteer on the wards of a St Barnabas hospice, being in nature, meditation and spirituality, painting, gardening.