



Julia Dodds, Associate
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Julia specialises in the resolution of commercial disputes for UK and international businesses. She advises clients operating in a variety of sectors, but predominantly in the high-end technology and financial services industries.

Julia takes a holistic approach to her client's requirements and has advised on a broad range of issues including complex claims in relation to high value supply or development contracts, shareholder disputes, competition abuse claims, professional negligence claims, breach of directors' duties and infringement of intellectual property.

She has a wide range of experience in dispute resolution procedures including at trial, via interim applications, judicial review, adjudication and international arbitration. Julia has guided clients through proceedings in the High Court, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court, the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal and the London International Court of Arbitration. Alive to her clients' economic priorities, she regularly achieves advantageous settlement of disputes through negotiation or mediation.

Examples of legal experience

- Defending a banking group in relation to a multi-million dollar claim in the High Court brought on behalf of an offshore trust concerning advice given by a former director on a commercial property investment in the Middle East.
- Defending the director of a hedge fund, which collapsed with debts in excess of \$350 million, in third party proceedings brought against him in the High Court.
- Advising a leading European engineering and technology company on a claim against a US company to recover monies, due under a contract for a major energy infrastructure project, which had been withheld. The client won its claim at adjudication allowing it to achieve settlement of a series of related disputes.

- Successfully defending a British Virgin Islands registered company in an arbitration in the London Court of International Arbitration, involving a multi-million dollar claim for breach of contract relating to a sports tournament in the Far East.
- Advising a leading European technology company on an intervention in proceedings in the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal (*National Grid plc -v- Gas and Electricity Markets Authority [2009] CAT 14*) and the subsequent proceedings in the Court of Appeal (*National Grid plc -v- Gas and Electricity Markets Authority [2010] EWCA Civ 114*).
- Leading the mediation of a contractual dispute on behalf of a UK FTSE 250 PLC and achieving settlement of the dispute on advantageous terms for the client.
- Settlement of a multi-million pound claim relating to delay in an IT supply and development contract on behalf of leading European technology company. The claim was mediated and subsequently settled on advantageous terms for the client.
- Advising the senior employees of an insolvent UK engineering company on potential claims by the company's administrators for breach of directors' duties.
- Advising a UK venture capital company on settlement of a dispute with a former director and a related professional negligence claim against previous solicitors.
- Advising a leading UK transport company on its intervention in an application by a third party for judicial review of a decision by the Secretary of State for Transport, which if overturned would have resulted in a multi-million pound loss of revenue for the client. The court refused permission for review and the client's commercial position was protected.
- Defending a large US multi-national and its insurers against multi-party claims for industrial disease that, if successful, could lead to a multi-million pound liability. All claims were successfully defended at trial in the High Court in 2006 and although the judgment was reversed by the Court of Appeal, the original decision in favour of the client was ultimately upheld by the Supreme Court in April 2011 (*Baker v Quantum Clothing Group Limited and others [2011] UKSC17*).
- Defending a UK pharmaceuticals company facing group product liability litigation. All claims against client discontinued early in proceedings following questions raised on claimants' pleadings.

- Representation of US based client in a dispute regarding non payment of staged payments under a share purchase agreement. Successfully defended security for costs application and achieved negotiated settlement for client.
- Advising a US new media company on a copyright dispute with UK collecting societies.
- Advising a major UK distribution company in relation to a claim for losses of over £2 million supposedly caused by late deliveries.

Additional information

Prior to qualifying as a solicitor, Julia was a journalist and magazine editor in business to business publishing, focusing on the financial services industry. She uses her media experience to advise clients on reputation management.

Julia has been part of a team bringing a constitutional petition in Tanzania on behalf of street children, a project that has involved travelling to Tanzania for evidence gathering and hearings in the High Court of Tanzania.

Career Experience

- 2009 Hill Hofstetter LLP
- 2004 Reed Smith
- 2002 Eversheds (training contract)
- 1992 *Planned Savings*, Editor
- 1989 *Money Marketing*, Investment Editor

Legal Education

- 2002 LPC, De Montfort University
- 2001 Post-Graduate Diploma in Law, University of Birmingham

Graduate Education

- 1986 Post-Graduate Diploma in Periodical Journalism, City University, London

Undergraduate Education

- 1985 BA Hons in Geography, University of Leicester