

# Helen Dennis

Call 2013



Helen Dennis has a broad commercial practice. She is regularly instructed in the context of both litigation and arbitration, either as sole counsel or as part of a larger team.

She has a wide range of experience working on high value domestic and international disputes, in a variety of courts within England and Wales as well as having worked on both ad hoc arbitrations and arbitrations under a variety of institutional rules.

Helen's practice spans the following areas:

## Construction, Energy & Engineering

Helen has significant experience of a range of construction, energy and engineering disputes, in the context of litigation, arbitration and adjudication. Many of her cases involve a cross-border element. She is familiar with main standard form contracts used for projects in both the UK and internationally, including FIDIC, JCT and NEC forms in addition to having experience of working with bespoke agreements and PFI contracts.

### Featured Construction, Energy & Engineering cases

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Being instructed as sole counsel in a multi-million pound adjudication concerning applications for extensions of time in relation to a high profile energy sector project

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Assisting as junior counsel in an adjudication between international parties in a dispute concerning construction of a large skyscraper complex in the City of London

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Being instructed as sole counsel representing architects in a high value multi-party construction-based professional negligence dispute concerning the development of a large number of luxury apartments and townhouses in Central

London

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Acting as junior counsel in a construction defects claim arising from a domestic infrastructure project

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Being instructed in a high value arbitration between joint venture partners in relation to a large infrastructure project.

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Representing defendant engineers in a claim concerning the alleged failure of vibro-compaction ground improvement works.

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Being instructed to act for engineers in a multi-party TCC dispute relating to a retail development.

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Acting as sole counsel in TCC adjudication enforcement proceedings.

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Assisting as junior counsel in relation to a claim concerning the interpretation of a significant PFI contract.

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Acting in an arbitration in which a technical claim was brought relating to the structural integrity of concrete elements of a design.

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Being instructed on a high-value arbitration in respect of a significant construction project involving nuclear implicated design and construction.

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Assisting on an international arbitration arising out of a micro-tunnelling project.

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Working on a multimillion dollar international arbitration concerning disputes as to variations, extensions of time and prolongation costs.

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Assisting with the preparation and drafting statements of case for a dispute between a contractor and sub-contractor in relation to refurbishment works being carried out to a building.

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Providing assistance in relation to an arbitration concerning a large international airport project.

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Working on an adjudication concerning the validity and effect of various contractual payment and payless notices.

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Being instructed as sole counsel for a claim for design and manufacturing defects in relation to a bespoke structural project.

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## Shipping & Shipbuilding

Helen has experience of a range of shipping and shipbuilding cases, providing her with an understanding of issues which commonly arise in the context of such disputes.

### Featured Shipping & Shipbuilding cases

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Advising buyers of a number of vessels in relation to the operation of the matrix of agreements between the various parties involved, including in the context of termination and as to the effect of certain refund guarantees which had been

issued

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A claim pursuant to a voyage charter to recover loss as a result of delay, involving allegations of fraudulent misrepresentation and deceit.

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A claim to recover losses following contamination of a ship's cargo.

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An arbitration between shipbrokers and shipbuilders in relation to unpaid commission fees.

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A claim for unpaid hire involving issues of fraud.

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Acting as sole counsel in relation to a claim to enforce a ship mortgage

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An arbitration in relation to defects on a newly-built vessel.

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## Professional Negligence

Helen has experience working on a variety of professional negligence claims spanning various sectors. Cases with which she has assisted include those involving accountants, solicitors, engineers, surveyors, builders and independent financial advisors. She has a particular interest in claims involving alleged technical defects.

### Featured Professional Negligence cases

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Acting as sole counsel to represent architects in a high value multi-party construction-based professional negligence dispute concerning the development of a large number of luxury apartments and townhouses in Central London

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Being instructed to represent defendant engineers in a multi-party dispute concerning the alleged failure of vibro-compaction ground improvement works.

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Acting as sole counsel in a marine surveyor's negligence case.

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Instructed as junior counsel in an international case relating to the deficient design and installation of a secure entry system at the claimant's retail premises in which allegations were made in relation to the door and façade construction.

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Instructed as sole counsel to draft the statement of case in a dispute concerning allegations of negligence in relation to a mortgage valuation.

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## Commercial Litigation

Helen has worked on a number of general commercial disputes.

## Featured Commercial Litigation cases

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A high-value dispute concerning a residential development.

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Acting as junior counsel in relation to a claim in which urgent interim injunctions were sought.

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Being instructed to draft particulars of claim for a case relating to a defective and/or delayed conveyancing transaction.

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A claim in relation to the destruction of a luxury yacht.

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Advising and drafting statements of case in relation to sale of goods claims.

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Being instructed as junior counsel to assist on a case in which interlocutory orders were being sought in relation to fraudulently obtained funds.

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Being instructed as sole counsel to draft statements of case in respect of a number of restitutionary claims, including those for mistaken payment.

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Assisting with a case relating to defective catering equipment.

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Acting as sole counsel in relation to a claim to enforce a ship mortgage.

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Being instructed on a number of claims to attend hearings concerning charging orders, including those involving insolvency issues.

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## Banking & Financial Services

Helen has experience of a number of disputes involving derivatives as well as regulatory litigation involving the Financial Conduct Authority. She has worked on cases involving the ISDA Master Agreement as well as GMRA and GMSLA. She has been instructed to represent major UK and international financial institutions.

## Featured Banking & Financial Services cases

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Litigation following the discovery of two large pyramid schemes in the UK.

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Being instructed to draft pleadings in relation to claims in which various allegations of banking regulations were made.

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A claim against a broker dealer in relation to the trading of swaps.

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A number of disputes involving the valuation of derivatives arising out of the 2008 financial crisis.

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Being instructed as sole counsel in cases concerning the Payment Services Regulation 2009 and allegations of breach of duty.

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A claim concerning alleged misappropriation of money by a bank employee.

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## Other Experience

Before coming to 4 Pump Court Helen spent six months working as a stagiaire at the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg as the Sir Peter Bristow Scholar. During her time there she worked with the cabinets of both Advocate General Sharpston and Judge Vajda where she gained an insight into various European legal issues, including cases involving insurance contracts, the international freezing of assets and European regulation of financial markets.

As a keen linguist, Helen has been instructed in a number of international disputes involving French and German documents.

## Publications

- Contributing author to Lexis Nexis' Lexis PSL KnowHow online in respect of Construction Adjudication

## Education

- LLB Law with European Legal Studies (University of Durham, including a year at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland), First Class
- LLM (University of Cambridge), First Class

## Languages

- French (good working knowledge)
- German (good working knowledge)