

Jennie Gillies

Call 2000



Jennie Gillies is an experienced junior.

Jennie has particular expertise in the following areas:

- Construction, Engineering & Adjudication
- Professional Negligence
- Commercial & Insurance

Jennie spent 15 years at the Bar – practising from 4 Pump Court – before making a lateral move in-house in 2015 when she became the global Head of Dispute Resolution for a major multi-national design and consultancy business overseeing a wide portfolio of disputes both domestic and international. She returned to the Bar in 2019 bringing with her a strong back catalogue of experience both at the Bar and in house. Her experience advising colleagues, sitting in the role of ‘the client’ and instructing legal representatives, makes her uniquely well placed to understand and interact with clients. She is quick to roll her sleeves up and get involved.

Construction & Engineering / IT & Adjudication

Jennie Gillies is an experienced construction practitioner acting for a wide range of clients. She has advised and assisted clients during contract negotiations, at very early stages when disputes have only been intimated, during preliminary contractual dispute resolution processes and in later stages when adjudication, arbitration and litigation proceedings have materialised. Jennie acts on behalf of employers (including financiers, large business and residential/private clients), developers, building contractors, design and engineering consultants and utility companies.

Jennie also has considerable experience of conducting contractual and statutory adjudication. In addition to acting in substantive adjudication proceedings, Jennie also regularly advises on the enforcement of adjudicators’ decisions, interpretation and application of contractual adjudication proceedings and the application of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (as amended by the LDEDCA 2009) and acts on behalf of various clients in proceedings to obtain and resist the enforcement of adjudicator decisions.

Featured Construction & Engineering / IT & Adjudication cases

Advising engineers in relation to the development of major London tourist attraction.

Acting in relation to disputes arising in relation to the development of the Rose Bowl stadium.

Acting on behalf of developer in relation to development of a site to build agricultural auction mart.

Advising social housing developer in relation to the merits of a claim against its building contractor for defective and delayed works.

Acting for and against residential building developers and the NHBC in a number of claims brought for alleged building defects.

Advising consulting engineers in relation to services performed in connection with the development of Middle Eastern international airport development.

Acting on behalf of rail consultancy company in relation to a series of £multi- million disputes referred to adjudication under the Railtrack Plc 1998 Adjudication Rules.

Advising in relation to the interpretation of disputed provisions within rail concession agreements.

Defending claim by local highways authority brought against road engineers.

Acting on behalf of London Underground Limited in relation to £multi-million disputes arising out of PPP Contracts governing the operation of the tube network.

Engaged in relation to a £multi- million dispute with the main contractor of a major motorway in the UK investigating and drafting responses to claims for damages and drafting submissions in relation to additional claims for value engineering savings.

Leading counsel team on the direct instruction of a multi-national firm of designers and engineers in relation to major upgrade of the London Underground network; Jennie's 18 month instruction involved liaison with the in-house legal team and project designers and thereafter drafting detailed responses to over 500 separate intimated claims.

Acting on behalf of engineers in relation to a dispute concerning offshore wind farm.

Acting on behalf of consultants following disputes arising in relation to a contract for the construction of a bio-energy process plant.

Acting on behalf of an environmental technology contractor in relation to a series of £multi-million adjudications relating to delays to completion of a Waste from Energy plant.

Acting on behalf of a multi-national engineering contractor to lead investigations in relation to a series of multi million pound disputes (relating primarily to delay and disruption) and then instructed to advise the international group holding company on the merits of the disputes. Thereafter instructed to draft a variety of submissions and witness statements for the adjudication proceedings, to liaise with experts and to appear in adjudication hearings convened by the adjudicator.

Advising major utilities company and its subsidiaries in relation to claims for breach of contract against sub-contractors arising out of defective equipment in a sewage facility.

Acting on behalf of facilities management company in relation to £multi-million fees dispute under a telecoms facilities management services contract.

Advising building contractor in relation to a fee dispute arising in relation to a number of contracts for the construction of residential healthcare centres.

Acting on behalf of WSP CEL in relation to successful £1.2 million professional fees claim against Dalkia Utilities Services Plc and subsequently in relation to the enforcement of the Adjudicator's award.

Professional Negligence

Jennie is experienced in professional liability disputes across the main professions and has experience of claims involving lawyers, accountants, insurance brokers, valuers and construction industry professionals. She acts on behalf of both Claimants and Defendant professionals.

Featured Professional Negligence cases

Instructed as junior counsel on behalf of bank appointed project monitoring surveyors in relation to alleged failures in the monitoring of a development in North London.

Instructed as junior counsel on behalf of bank appointed project monitoring surveyors claiming a contribution from bank appointed valuers in relation to a development in Manchester.

Instructed as junior counsel for engineers in relation to a claim concerning defective concrete hardstanding at a Sainsburys' distribution centre.

Acting on behalf of claim against plastics extrusion engineering consultancy.

Acting for claimant waste company in relation to claim against civil and structural engineers arising out of design of new waste treatment plant.

Instructed on behalf of architectural advisor in relation to a residential development in Devon.

Instructed on behalf of architects preparing detailed adjudication submissions in response to allegations of professional negligence, providing assistance to solicitors in relation to witness evidence, attending adjudication hearings and subsequently advising on quantum negotiations.

Acting as junior counsel on behalf of mechanical and electrical engineers, in relation to the design and build of a chilled beam cooling and heating system in a Bristol office development.

Acting on behalf of a multi-national firm of designers and engineers in relation to a multi-million pound claim involving allegations of negligence regarding the design of a major road construction project.

Acting on behalf of architects, both drafting detailed pleadings and providing advice, in relation to claims of professional negligence arising out of the renovation of a luxury property.

Acting for residential home owners in relation to claims for professional negligence against the architect responsible for supervising major refurbishment works.

Instructed in relation to a claim against consulting surveyors / engineers arising out of negligent design for underpinning at a residential property.

Acting on behalf of M&E consultancy in relation to disputes arising in relation to services provided for NHS trust under a framework agreement.

Advising in relation to claim for damage arising out of negligent design and construction of agricultural machinery.

Acting on behalf of a major firm of solicitors in relation to a claim arising out of advice provided to a former senior partner of a large multi-national managing consultancy upon resignation of partnership.

Advising solicitors in relation to allegations of negligence made in relation to registration obligations subsequent to conveyance of land.

Advising in relation to negligent conduct of solicitors and counsel in relation to conduct of adjudication prior to new representation being sought.

Acting in claim for contribution brought by surveyor defendants against solicitors acting on the relevant transaction.

Advising in relation to director's potential personal liability for negligence.

Acting for leading firm of Chartered Accountants in relation to a claim for professional negligence arising out of the acquisition of a company and 'white wash' requirements under the Companies Act 1985.

Commercial & Insurance

Jennie acts on a variety of commercial disputes, many including questions of contractual interpretation. She is instructed by a wide range of clients and in insurance matters acts for insured, insurers, insurance consultants and brokers.

Featured Commercial & Insurance cases

Acting on behalf of multi-national consultancy firm in relation to a claim for fraudulent breach of contract under a travel consultancy agreement.

Advising local authority in relation to over-payment claim by refuse contractors.

Advising local authority in relation to contractual interpretation of care contracts.

Advising on fee claim in contract and/or quantum merit basis against NHS Trust.

Acting on behalf of holiday company following early termination of a services contract.

Advising NHS trust employer in relation to claims arising out of water ingress during works.

Acting in relation to a claim against a specialist IT provider arising out of a defective IT software and hardware package used for the payment of sub-contractors.

Acting on behalf of IT consultants in relation to a stock management IT system installed for a major supermarket chain.

Acting for Insurance Loss Consultants in contractual claim for commission following settlement of insurance claim.

Advising building lessees in relation to liability arising out of a fire causing extensive damage to commercial premises in Surrey.

Acting for security firm in action against insurers refusing to provide an indemnity.

Acting on behalf of insurers and loss adjusters in both arbitration and court proceedings in relation to a flood at the insured's property and the subsequent drying out procedure. Issues involved policy coverage and allegations of negligence made by the insured and occupants.

Advising insurance brokers and their professional construction clients (principally engineers, architects and contractors) in relation to the compatibility of proposed contractual terms with their existing insurance cover.

Advising insured in relation to wrongful avoidance of policy by insurers for non disclosure, the identity of the insurer and drafting appropriate correspondence on insured's behalf to insurer and ombudsman.

Advising insurers in relation to a claim for defective fabrication of lock gates, the settlement of the action by the insured at an under value and the effect of the same on the insurer's rights of subrogation.

Education

- MA (Cantab) History
- Dip Law (City)
- Lloyd's Maritime Academy Certificate in Maritime Law & Shipping Contracts

Recommendations

Jennie has been recommended for construction in Chambers & Partners and Legal 500.

Comments include:

- Very approachable and very, very good with clients
- She has an ability to get into the real detail and rolls her sleeves up
- A formidably bright, very comprehensive and thorough barrister
- A clear thinker, who is good fun and very unstuffy
- Equally as good an advocate as she is on paper
- A fiery barrister, who is committed to her clients
- Produces excellent work in a very short time
- Very commercial and gives sound advice