**DEASON**

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**GradDipQS, LL.B(Hons), PgDipEULaw, PgCertCon, FRICS, FCIArb, Barrister**

**PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

**Personal Details**

**Nationality:** British (English)

**Date of Birth:** 22 March 1954

**Educational / Professional Qualifications**

**GradDipQS** Graduate Diploma in Quantity Surveying (South Bank University, London 1979), degree equivalent

**LL.B (Hons)** Bachelor of Laws Degree (London University 1994)

**PgDipEULaw** Post Graduate Diploma in European Union Law (King’s College London 1994)

**PgCertCon** Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Contract (University of Bristol 1997), LLM module

**FRICS** Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (ARICS 1982, FRICS 1991)

**FCIArb** Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (ACIArb 1983, FCIArb 1996)

**Barrister** England and Wales.Called to the Bar of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, November 1995

**Other** Member of the Society of Construction Law

**Profile Summary**

Christopher is a highly motivated and commercially aware construction industry professional with over 40 years varied experience in UK and International construction. He has excellent communication skills and attends diligently to both strategy and the underlying detail.

Qualified as a Fellow of the RICS and a Fellow of the CIArb, he was in private professional practice as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and Contract Administrator for some 25 years before gaining a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) with Honours degree and qualifying as a Barrister to specialise in construction claims, contract disputes and dispute resolution, in which field he has practised since 1995. Being dually qualified, Christopher has a range of technical, commercial and legal education coupled with a wide and varied professional experience which combine to provide a complementary blend of skills with which to analyse, manage and resolve construction claims and disputes.

Christopher has a broad experience of the construction industry having been employed in private professional practice, local government and international contracting environments. He has been a Commercial Vice President of a medium size construction company in the Bahamas and has worked as a Sole Practitioner in private Quantity Surveying practice in the UK. He has experience of the Standard Forms of construction contract most frequently in general use in the industry (FIDIC, JCT, ICE and NEC), together with the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Standard Form and its Bermuda Supplement, as well as bespoke variants of FIDIC.

Christopher has been involved in Mediations and Adjudications in the UK and Arbitrations in both the UK and internationally and has developed a sound practical knowledge of the UAE Civil Code and related UAE business laws and also has experience of the Qatar Civil Code and the Oman Commercial Court.

His experience encompasses projects in a varied geography, viz: Bahamas, Bermuda, Denmark, Ireland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, UAE and UK.

**Professional Background and Experience**

2015 – present Claims Expert and legal adviser, Daan Shabaan Muscat Office, seconded to Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) for Ministry of Transport and Communications – Civil Aviation Affairs (MOTC). Management of construction contract claims and provision of contractual and legal advice for the Development of Muscat International and Salalah International Airports, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

2014 – 2015 Claims Manager, Logic International LLC, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on behalf of ADPIOman Branch (a member of Aeroports de Paris Group)

* Advising on a final account fee claim (OMR199 million value), from an international practice of Consulting Engineers whose appointment was terminated, drafting contractual rebuttal and counterclaims. Development of Muscat International and Salalah International Airports, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
* Management of construction contract claims
* Provision of contractual and legal advice

2012 – 2014 Associate Director, Driver Consult, Dubai providing general contractual advice

* Reviewed a claim from a Contractor for damages, loss and expense in preparation for drafting the Defence to a DIAC arbitration Statement of Claim on Burj Khalifa, Dubai. The dispute stalled due to Client inaction
* Reviewed contractual documents and correspondence files from a Contractor on a large residential villas project in preparation for submission of a claim by the Contractor in DIAC arbitration
* Reviewed contractual documents and correspondence files from a Contractor on a large waste water project in Oman under Government of Oman standard conditions of contract in preparation for submission of a claim in arbitration in the Oman Commercial Court

2011 – 2012 Director of Systech Solicitors (and Director of Systech International), Dubai, legal/commercial advisor. Systech Solicitors is a discrete legal practice operated from UK, administered by the Law Society in UK.

 A selection of assignments:

* Advised a MEP JV Sub-Contractor on matters in dispute on a new Zayed University Campus project in Abu Dhabi involving extensions of time and quantum issues (non-payment, variations, prolongation, acceleration and lost opportunity claims). Defended calls on JV Sub-Contractor’s Performance Bond and Parent Company Guarantee. Member of a team making a Presentation to JV Main Contractor and JV Sub-Contractor Boards on contractual issues. Drafted Submissions to present claims to an Independent Evaluator for an opinion on liability and quantum
* Appointed to advise an international JV Contractor on claims to be referred to LCIA-DIFC Arbitration in Dubai on a luxury hotel project in Dubai, Kempinski on the Palm Dubai, concerning non-payment, extension of time, quantum and defective works. Partly drafted Statement of Case but the disputes were settled by commercial negotiation between the Parties
* Advised a MEP Sub-Contractor on various issues involving claims for extensions of time, non-payment and quantum (prolongation, acceleration and variations). Advised on defences against calls on Performance Bonds, involving two hotel projects Dubai (Novotel and Ibis) and a medical complex development in Abu Dhabi
* Advised a Contractor on a number of contractual issues in dispute involving non payment, quantum and extension of time on a project at a UAE Air Force Base in Abu Dhabi. Drafted general correspondence in the exchanges (Classified Project)
* Advised a MEP Sub-Contractor on disputes requiring Engineer’s Decisions. Drafted Notices and correspondence on a passenger terminal project at New Doha International Airport in Qatar. Advised on the basis of the contract and generally under Qatar Civil Code.

2010 – 2011 Freelance Consultant, provided contractual advice on a freelance basis to Claims Consultancies and acted as a *locum tenens* in Dubai whilst seeking a new professional opportunity and challenge following the downturn in the construction market in UAE

2007 – 2010 Senior Consultant, Brewer Consulting (subsequently FTI Consulting) in Dubai, UAE providing contractual and commercial advice on claims and construction contract disputes

 A selection of assignments:

* Drafted Statement of Claim for quantum and extension of time for MEP Sub-Contractor for a project of 8 residential tower blocks of a major residential apartment development of 40 towers in Dubai Marina (Jumeira Beach Residence)
* Drafted Review Report for Employer to review the Employer’s Representative’s Determinations on Contractor’s claims for quantum and extension of time on a project comprising 7 residential condominium blocks in Dubai (Hillside Condominiums Dubai Festival City)
* Drafted Review Report for Employer to review Contractor’s claims for extension of time and prolongation costs on a luxury residential tower block in Dubai (Marsa Plaza)
* Member of a team appointed to carry out a commercial Review and Audit of Contractor’s final account of Sub-Contract packages on a major shopping mall project in Dubai (Festival City Mall multi usage commercial, retail, leisure, hotel)
* Appointed on a one year long Secondment Services Agreement to Nakheel, Master Developer in Dubai, as Contracts Adviser to the Procurement and Contracts Department dealing with Palm Jebel Ali and The Waterfront projects. Provided contractual and commercial advice; reviewed tender documentation, consultancy agreements, concession agreements and other contractual arrangements; advised on and drafted bespoke contract conditions; drafted commercial and contractual correspondence; reviewed and responded to claims; reviewed provisions for bespoke suite of in-house contracts suite derived from FIDIC 1999, including a Prime Cost Plus variant; provided contractual and commercial support to the Procurement and Contracts Department and liaison with Legal Department
* Provided contractual advice on discrete disputes to international Contractor on Dubai International Airport new terminal project. Advised on issues in dispute arising out of Dubai Civil Aviation Form of Contract and claims arising from bespoke sub-contracts of the Contractor (domestic and nominated)
* Appointed to Meydan LLC on premier racecourse development in Dubai (international racecourse and associated equestrian facilities, 5 star hotel, commercial, retail, restaurants and leisure facilities), drafted Answer to Statement of Case arbitration claim submitted by the premier Contractor in the Middle East in preparation for a DIAC arbitration on disputes involving underpayment, delay / extension of time and defective work

2005 – 2007 Consultant Contract Administrator to Property Department at an international newspaper publishing group, London, advised senior management team on commercial strategy for procurement for the redevelopment of newspaper printing facilities in London, Liverpool and Glasgow (UK) and Kells (Ireland) for major UK daily newspaper titles

1995 – 2005 Head of Claims for a major Contractor, Taylor Woodrow International, reporting to Board of Directors and Chairman. Management of all overseas and UK commercial claims and disputes on JCT, ICE, NEC and FIDIC Standard Forms and their variants and other bespoke agreements; advised on, drafted and negotiated contract terms; advised on performance bonds; selected and instructed external Solicitors and Counsel; appointed, instructed and managed technical experts; liaised with in-house legal, design and commercial teams in international litigation and arbitration fora.

 A selection of assignments:

* Management of a complex ICC international arbitration on a signature residential development of luxury apartments at Queensway Quay in Gibraltar on behalf of Taylor Woodrow Property Company (Client) and was Client representative for Taylor Woodrow International (Developer) in a ICC international arbitration against a consortium of 7 Portuguese Contractors. Drafted Answer to ICC arbitration claim and drafted Counterclaims for defective work and delayed completion. Instructed external Solicitors and Counsel (Queen’s Counsel and Junior Counsel). Instructed technical experts in Quantum, Delay and Defective Works. The arbitration ran over 7 years during which time our first appointed QC died and our party Arbitrator died which created a number of unexpected procedural complications. Outcome of the arbitration was an Award in favour of the Developer
* Management of litigation in the Courts of Gibraltar and Lisbon to enforce the latter arbitral Award under New York Convention. Court Order obtained in Gibraltar but was not recognised in Lisbon due to political differences between Spain and UK over the sovereignty of Gibraltar. Award ultimately successfully enforced against Contractor in Lisbon after political policies were partly relaxed and Spain and Portugal recognised Gibraltar as part of the EU and New York Convention enforcement was applied
* Management of litigation in Courts of Gibraltar and Lisbon against Portugal’s largest insurance company in respect of the enforcement of an unpaid on-demand Performance Bond for the latter arbitral Award in favour of Developer. Order obtained in Gibraltar Court was not recognised in Portugal. Commercial negotiations ultimately achieved a favourable settlement and payment of the Bond for the Developer
* Management of a team to present contractual claims for quantum and extension of time on the new British Embassy building in Moscow on behalf of international JV Contractor (Taylor Woodrow International and Skanska). Claims negotiated to favourable settlement with the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the JV Contractor
* Management of a team to present contractual claims for a specialist Civil Engineering Sub-Contractor for quantum and extension of time on a concrete gravity base structure for an oil drilling platform located in South Arne sector of the Danish North Sea. Disputes negotiated to satisfactory settlement with the Contractor, an American petroleum engineering Contractor
* Advised specialist Precast Concrete Supplier on contractual claims for quantum in respect of breaches of an agreement for the supply of precast concrete tunnel segments for Copenhagen Metro. Claims negotiated to favourable settlement for Supplier
* Advised Contractor on defence against claims for quantum and extension of time from an international specialist piling Sub-Contractor on Kuala Lumpur Metro. Claims negotiated to favourable commercial settlement
* Advised specialist civil engineering Sub-Contractor on presentation of claims for quantum and extension of time on major highway works project including tunnels in UK. Claims negotiated to favourable commercial settlement for Sub-Contractor
* Advised specialist civil engineering Sub-Contractor on preparation of claims for quantum and extension of time for major highway works project including diaphragm walling in UK. Claims partly litigated in London (Technology and Construction Court) and subsequently negotiated to favourable commercial settlement for Contractor
* Advised Contractor on defence to claims for defective works and late completion and on preparation of counterclaims for extension of time and quantum in UK on sewage treatment plant for major public utility Client (Thames Water). Claims subsequently litigated to successful outcome for Contractor

1995 – 1995 Senior Claims Consultant, James R Knowles Construction Contract Consultants, London, advised on defence and prosecution of various construction claims in disputes involving Adjudications, Mediations and Arbitration

1987 – 1995 Sole Principal in private Quantity Surveying practice, UK, providing full range of Quantity Surveying and Contract Administration services on a range of projects including:

* Army base, Qatar, preparation of pre-contract documents (classified project)
* Hamilton, Bermuda, for major Contractor, hotel, leisure, shopping mall and office complex, provided post contract services, project completed and delivered on time and within budget
* Hamilton, Bermuda, for major Contractor, Bank of Bermuda building, provided post contract services, project completed and delivered on time and within budget
* Office building, for Riyadh Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, provided post contract services
* For international Loss Adjusters, prepared assessments on insurance claims after first Gulf war in Kuwait, for submission to UN for financial reparations against Iraq
* Hamilton, Bermuda, for major Contractor, new maximum security prison, drafted delay and loss and expense claim against Bermuda Ministry of Works; claim negotiated and favourably settled for Contractor
* For a newspaper publishing group, UK, drafted bespoke construction contracts; provided pre and post contract administration services for 3 fast track projects (London, Watford and Oldham UK) for the refurbishment of and extensions to factory buildings and new build works, in a race against a major competitor, to provide modern printing press houses for the first colour printed daily newspapers in the UK
* Royal Stock Exchange, London, preparation of pre-contract documents for refurbishment of the building following an IRA terrorist bombing. The project was carried out under strict security and to a highly demanding programme but it was completed within time and within budget
* For a newspaper publishing group, UK, compiled claims for relief of capital allowances, successfully negotiated significant project cost write down (£25 million) for Client against UK Inland Revenue, the largest value claim the Inland Revenue had ever dealt with
* District General Hospital, UK, prepared pre-contract documents for specialist Psychiatry Wing

1986 – 1987 Commercial Vice President and General Manager of a Building Contractor, Nassau, Bahamas (Luxury Villas and Apartments, Commercial Developments, Offices, Shops, Leisure Facilities, Marine Works – sub-sea observation tower with restaurant, island adventure park with shark and sting-ray tanks and aquarium exhibits, botanical gardens)

1975 – 1986 Principal Quantity Surveyor in local government, UK, (public buildings, Schools, Colleges, Social Care Centres, Libraries, Police and Fire Service Facilities, Leisure Facilities, Theatres, Urban Redevelopment, Highways and Bridges, Water Utilities, Sewerage and Drainage)

1971 – 1975 Quantity Surveyor in private practice, London UK, providing a full range of Quantity Surveying services on a variety of projects (Churches, Hospitals and Healthcare Centres, Schools, Colleges, Residential, Offices, Banks, Retail, Prisons, Telephone Exchanges and other public facilities)