

SERVICES FOR PROPERTY LAWYERS

About the Firm

Hawkswell Kilvington Limited (“HK”) was set up over 13 years ago by Jonathan Hawkswell and David Kilvington in order to establish a niche construction and engineering law firm. The firm has grown significantly and now has 4 partners, 3 associates, 3 solicitors and 3 trainee solicitors together with support staff.

The firm, which is primarily based in Wakefield also has an office in London and has developed an excellent regional and national reputation, proving that specialist construction and engineering related legal services can be successfully provided by a niche regional firm.

HK’s success has been widely recognised. The firm won Boutique Firm of the Year (Regional) at The Lawyer Awards 2012 and Law Firm of the Year (1-10 Partners) at the Yorkshire Lawyer Awards 2011.

The firm is consistently rated by Chambers & Partners Legal Directory as one of the leading construction firms in the country. In Chambers, HK was commended by clients for its “*commitment to get the best possible outcome for the client*” and “*well judged support*”.

Our Experience

HK’s team of non-contentious construction lawyers, led by partners David Kilvington and Jonathan Hawkswell, specialises in drafting, reviewing, amending and advising on all types of construction and engineering contracts, including NEC3 contracts, JCT contracts, ICE contracts, FIDIC contracts and bespoke main contracts and sub-contracts.

The team also drafts, advises on and negotiates amendments to consultant appointments, collateral warranties, novation agreements, parent company guarantees, performance bonds, confidentiality agreements, framework agreements, letters of intent, the construction aspects of development agreements and terms and conditions of purchase, sale and hire. The team has experience in almost all sectors of the construction industry, including retail, infrastructure, health, education, power and waste.

The firm’s reputation as a specialist in its field has led to it carrying out work for and in partnership with numerous local and national firms of solicitors who do not have specialist in-house construction expertise.

Recent examples of working in partnership with property lawyers include:

- Advising on the construction aspects of a development agreement between a Borough Council and an Academy client, a bespoke design & build contract between the Borough Council and a Main Contractor and collateral warranties and a deed of novation in favour of the Academy.

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CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING SOLICITORS

- Preparing all construction related documentation whilst working in conjunction with other solicitors who are simultaneously handling and preparing property related documentation in respect of the sale and purchase of land for the construction of a main link road just off the M5.
- Negotiating amendments to a JCT Design & Build Contract together with associated consultant appointments and collateral warranties relating to a refurbishment of Council offices.
- Drafting a building contract, consultant appointments and collateral warranties for a solicitor acting for a property developer client in relation to the re-development of a business centre.

Our Approach to Costs

We aim to reduce costs for clients wherever possible by offering more innovative and flexible ways of charging for legal services, including fixed fees, capped fees and blended rates. We are happy to discuss appropriate fee arrangements for individual matters on a case by case basis.

Services for Property Solicitors

It is often difficult for firms with commercial property departments to offer an appropriate solution to developer clients who seek both property and construction advice. There is always a real risk that developer clients will be attracted to larger firms who can offer both property and construction expertise.

Engaging HK solely in respect of construction law matters allows you to provide your property clients with a competitive full service solution, whilst giving you peace of mind that there is no risk of losing your property clients to our niche construction practice.

Having worked with numerous firms of solicitors through the country in providing construction contract support we are used to working with these firms as part of a team. Because of our experience and the strength and depth of our team we are able to provide guaranteed turnaround and cost certainty. As we are a truly niche firm only practising in construction you can also have the reassurance that you will not lose your clients – we do not do property! Clients often respect their property lawyers for bringing on board specialist assistance to give their clients the best results.

For more information about working in partnership with HK, please contact Jonathan Hawkswell (jhawkswell@hklegal.co.uk), David Kilvington (dkilvington@hklegal.co.uk), Daniel Silberstein (dsilberstein@hklegal.co.uk) or Thomas Salter (tsalter@hklegal.co.uk).

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