

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

Name : **Derek Griffiths**
Nationality : British
Telephone : 01558 824383
Fax : 01558 824383
Mobile : 0798 5682166
Email : info@dgaconstruction-law.com
Languages : English, Welsh, some conversational German

Education

- BA in Industrial Relations with Law, University of Wales, Cardiff
- LL.B. University of Wales, Aberystwyth
- Post-graduate Diploma in Arbitration, Reading University
- Diploma in Finance for Managers, Open University

Qualifications

- Solicitor (non-practising)
- Adjudicator registered with Nationwide Academy of Dispute Resolution.

Memberships

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Society of Construction Law
- Dispute Resolution Board Foundation Inc.
- Nationwide Academy of Dispute Resolution
- Association of Welsh Mediators

01 November 1994 - October 2003

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)

Derek was the non-contentious and contentious construction specialist lawyer for the LHDA.

This is the statutory corporation formed by Lesotho under Treaty obligations with South Africa in order to implement, operate and maintain a system of dams and tunnels designed to store water in and transfer it to the Gauteng industrial complex in South Africa. The project known as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is currently one of the biggest operations of its kind in the world.

Derek played a major role in contracts for the construction of roads, power lines, telecommunications and other advance infrastructure works needed to construct three major dams, 130k of tunnel and a power station, as well as in the contracts for these projects and for the provision of the services by civil engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, environmental, social sciences, insurance broking, finance raising and specialist external legal consultants.

Derek took part in multidisciplinary teams to evaluate tenders and negotiated the final contracts, and was also a member of a team negotiating amendments to the Treaty between Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. In addition he acted as secretary on the committee appointed to reorganise the LHDA in conjunction with external international consultants.

Derek analysed and advised on claims brought against the LHDA by its contractors. He advised on preparing submissions to the Dispute Review Boards in order to settle disputes amicably before arbitration. His advice also extended to negotiating settlements, following recommendations by the Dispute Review Board. In one instance where this was not possible, Derek successfully directed and managed the international commercial arbitration which followed. He also successfully directed and managed challenging some aspects of the arbitral award in the High Court and the subsequent appeal brought in the Court of Appeal.

June 1994 - October 1994

Trans-Manche Link and Taylor Woodrow

From mid-June he acted as Consultant to the Taylor Woodrow Group and to the Channel Tunnel Contractors initially on a fixed 3 month term but continued in this role until October 1994.

May 1989 - March 1994

Taylor Woodrow Construction Holdings Ltd and Trans-Manche Link

Taylor Woodrow is a large company known for its international activities and its involvement on the Channel Tunnel. Its activities cover all aspects of the following sectors: building construction; civil engineering related construction; geotechnical investigations and reporting; electrical, mechanical, heating and ventilation engineering; structural engineering; design and consultancy contracts; open cast coal and metal mining; marine engineering; large scale commercial developments of all types; nuclear power plant construction; private finance initiative/BOOT type concession on the Midlands Metro light railway; and its services to the defence sector.

Derek was appointed Senior Legal Adviser and also acted as Company Secretary to Taylor Woodrow Civil Engineering Limited. He operated across a very broad spectrum of activities including claims preparation and analysis on multi-million pound projects.

In the autumn of 1991 he was seconded from Taylor Woodrow to Trans-Manche Link – the Anglo/French contractors on the Channel Tunnel – to assist in the research and preparation of multi-billion pound claims for submission to a Dispute Review Panel and international arbitration arising from ground conditions, variations and general -performance aspects of the £10 billion project.

He returned to Taylor Woodrow in February 1993 until March 1994.

April 1987 - May 1989

Hughes Griffiths Partnership

Formed a practice in Swansea to provide a specialist construction law service.

May 1971 - April 1987

Thyssen (GB) Limited

The company was particularly active in major building contracting, deep, coal, mineral and metal mine design, construction and development, speculative house building, plant hire, design and consultancy work, mechanical and electrical engineering, construction equipment manufacture, civil engineering, geological investigations and geotechnical reporting and advice. It also bid for and contracted to carry out a range of building construction, roads, bridges, hydro-electric projects, dams, metro and water tunnels and shafts and frequently working in joint ventures, or consortia with other international and local companies such as Shaft Sinkers of South Africa, Hochtief of Germany, PEC Engineering and Mines Des Potass D'Alsace of France, Taylor Woodrow, Tarmac and Wimpey. .

Appointed as Group Solicitor for Thyssen (Great Britain) Limited, Derek also acted as occasional adviser to Thyssen Schachtbau GmbH in Germany and to its American, Australian

and Canadian subsidiaries. During this time he acted as observer in a court case in New Mexico concerning the Carlsbad WIP Project.