



Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd
Löwenstrasse 19
P.O. Box 2201
8021 Zürich

T +41 44 215 52 52
F +41 44 215 50 00
katherine.bell@swlegal.ch
www.swlegal.ch

Katherine Bell, MLaw

Partner / Attorney at Law

A. PRACTICE PROFILE

Katherine Bell is a Partner in Schellenberg Wittmer's Dispute Resolution Group and heads the Construction Practice Group in Zurich. Her main areas of practice are domestic and international litigation and arbitration. She advises clients front-end to back-end on complex construction and infrastructure projects and specializes in the resolution of disputes arising out of complex construction, engineering and infrastructure projects across a variety of industries. In addition, she represents clients in disputes in connection with commercial tenancy and lease agreements. She acts as counsel and arbitrator in arbitral proceedings and represents parties in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts. In addition to her disputes practice, Katherine regularly advises clients on public procurement matters, contract drafting and negotiation, contract and claims administration and dispute avoidance.

Katherine is a lecturer on Construction Law at the Campus Sursee Educational Centre for Construction. She is a member of the editorial board of Construction Law International (CLInt), the magazine of the IBA International Construction Projects Committee. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of ArbitralWomen.

Since 2019, Katherine has been recognized by Who's Who Legal as a Future Leader in the categories of both Construction and Arbitration, highlighting her "*skillful handling of complex construction disputes*" and describing her as "*an excellent advocate, who is extremely dedicated to her cases*", as "*brilliant counsel in the field of construction arbitration*" and as "*a top-notch construction lawyer for all advisory matters*". Since 2021, Katherine has been recognized by LMG Expert Guides as a Rising Star in International Commercial Arbitration. In 2022, Katherine was recognized by The Legal 500 as a Key Lawyer for Dispute Resolution in Switzerland. In 2023, Katherine was recognized by Who's Who Legal among a very small number of Thought Leaders Global Elite – Under 45 in Construction.

B. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd , Zurich, Switzerland Partner	Since 2022
Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd , Zurich, Switzerland Trainee / Associate / Senior Associate / Counsel	2014 -2021
District Court of Horgen , Canton of Zurich, Switzerland Court Clerk	2012-2013

Chairwoman of the Conciliation Authority for Property Disputes

High Prosecutor's Office of the Canton of Berne, Berne, Switzerland 2011
Legal Trainee

Johnson & Johnson, Zug, Switzerland 2007-2011
Legal Analyst / Contract Manager Supply Chain EMEA

C. EDUCATION

University of Berne, Switzerland 2009-2011
Master of Law (*summa cum laude*)

University of Stockholm, Sweden 2010
Visiting student at University of Stockholm Law School

University of Berne, Switzerland 2005-2009
Bachelor of Law (*magna cum laude*)

D. RECENT CASES IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Representative experience in dispute resolution includes:

- Acting as Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration under the Swiss Rules between a Swiss and a Dutch company related to commodities trading;
- Representing an Italian architecture firm against a Swiss employer in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts related to the design and construction of a hospitality and healthcare facility;
- Representing a German party in ICC arbitration proceedings against an Eastern European party in a dispute under a series of supply and engineering contracts related to a metals processing plant;
- Representing a German multinational company alongside its Dutch consortium partner in an ICC arbitration against a Polish shipyard operator in a dispute over a contract regarding the supply of technical equipment for a specialty ship;
- Extensive pre-arbitration advice related to a dispute between a large nuclear energy company and a general contractor related to the construction of a nuclear power plant in Eastern Europe;
- Acting as Sole Arbitrator in an arbitration under the Swiss Rules between an Austrian and a Turkish company in the field of hydropower technologies in a dispute related to the supply of electromechanical equipment;
- Representing the Swiss subsidiary of an Austrian construction company in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts against a Swiss property developer in a dispute related to a turnkey contract for the construction of a business hotel;
- Representing a Swiss multinational construction and real estate company in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts against a leading educational institution related to the construction of a cooling system for a high-performance computing centre;
- Acting as Co-arbitrator in an arbitration under the Vienna Rules between a French and a Serbian company related to a contract for the supply of petrochemical products;
- Representing an Italian construction company in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts against a Swiss employer regarding the registration of a contractor's lien;
- Representing a Swiss real estate company in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts related to claims under an agency contract;

- Representing private individuals in a dispute before Swiss courts related to defects during the rental of a luxury property;
- Acting as tribunal secretary in an ICC multi-party arbitration involving Turkish and Nigerian companies in a contractual dispute under a cooperation framework agreement in the energy sector;
- Acting as tribunal secretary in an ICC arbitration between a British company and a Belarus company related to a dispute over the construction of a mega complex in Minsk.

E. SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- GAR **Knowhow Construction Arbitration – Switzerland Chapter**, Global Arbitration Review, 2016-2022, co-authored with Elliott Geisinger and Christopher Boog
- "**The Arbitrator's Power to Adapt Contracts – Three Jurisdictions, Three Answers – The Swiss Perspective**" published in the **Austrian Yearbook on International Arbitration 2022**
- Country Update Switzerland, **Construction Law International**, Vol. 16, Issue 3, September 2021
- Chapter on **Expert Evidence in Construction Disputes**, in: Global Arbitration Review, The Guide to Construction Arbitration, 4th edition, 2021 (eds.: Stavros Brekoulakis and David Brynmor Thomas)
- **Dispute Prevention in Family-Owned Companies**, in: Neue Zürcher Zeitung, April 2018, co-authored with Manuel Liatowitsch
- **Arbitration of Trust Disputes**, in: ASA Bulletin, Vol. 35, No. 1, March 2017, co-authored with Georg von Segesser
- Regular contributions to **PLC's Monthly Arbitration Report**

F. SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Moderator at the SAC-DIS-VIAC Conference on the topic of "*Gemeinsame Schiedskultur in der DACH-Region?*", Basel, November 2022
- Speaker at the International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference on a panel organized by the International Construction Projects (ICP) Committee on the topics of **sustainable project decommissioning** and nuclear power plant decommissioning, Miami, November 2022
- Speaker at the Hogan Lovells and ArbitralWomen event entitled "**Increasing Efficiency in Construction Arbitration: Proceedings, Tools and Techniques**", Munich, June 2022
- Speaker at Schellenberg Wittmer Event "**Digitalization in the Construction Industry**" on the topic of the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and construction disputes, Zurich, June 2022
- Moderator at the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA) Below 40 Spring Conference on a panel discussing **Delay Analysis in Construction Arbitration**, Geneva, June 2022
- Speaker at the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR) Young & International Group's **Swiss Chalet Debate** on the topic of *jura novit arbiter*, Zurich, March 2022
- Speaker at an event organized by the German Initiative of Young Arbitration Practitioners of the German Arbitration Institute (DIS40) on the topic of **challenges of arbitrators**, Zurich, September 2021
- Moderator at the **59th AIJA International Young Lawyers' Congress**, Innovation Lab Session on **Third-Party Funding** in Practice, Zurich, August 2021
- Speaker at the Young Austrian Arbitration Practitioners (YAAP) Arbitration Roundtable, **The Arbitrator's Power to Amend Contracts**, Virtual, May 2021

- Speaker at the **Vienna Arbitration Days (VAD) 2021, *Construction Arbitration: Innovation and Constants***, Virtual, February 2021
- Discussion Leader at the **YConstruction** event on the topic of "**How Lessons Learned from Construction Disputes Can Help Improve Contract Drafting (and Project Management)**", Zurich, September 2019
- Speaker at the Swiss Arbitration Association (**ASA**) Below 40 Fall Conference on the topic of **Tackling Costs in International Arbitration**, Zurich, November 2018

G. POSITIONS

- Lecturer on Construction Law at the Swiss Educational Centre for Construction, Campus Sursee, Lucerne, Switzerland
- Member of the Editorial Board of Construction Law International (CLInt), the magazine of the IBA International Construction Projects Committee
- Member of the Board of Directors of ArbitralWomen

H. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Swiss and Zurich Bar Associations
- Swiss Arbitration Association, ASA Below 40
- IBA International Construction Projects (ICP)
- The Society of Construction Law
- YConstruction
- ICC Young Arbitrators Forum (YAF)
- ArbitralWomen
- LCIA Young International Arbitration Group (YIAG)
- DIS40

I. BAR ADMISSION

Zurich, Switzerland

J. LANGUAGES

German (native)

English (native)

K. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Born in Welwyn Garden City, United Kingdom, on 8 April 1985

Swiss and British citizen