

Conflict Avoidance Conference 2024

Speaker Biographies

Sir John Armitt

Sir John Armitt is Chair of the National Infrastructure Commission. With a background in engineering, Sir John's expertise in infrastructure and major project delivery is extensive. He has a proven track record of working at the forefront of UK infrastructure in positions that included the Chief Executive of Network Rail, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers and Chairman of the Olympic Delivery Authority, where he played a key role in coordinating the 2012 London Olympics. He was awarded a CBE in 1996 for his contribution to the rail industry and a knighthood in 2012 for his work in engineering and construction.

John Fletcher

John is Executive Director of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' (RICS) Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) and is responsible for delivering services including arbitration, adjudication, dispute boards, mediation, expert witnesses, and conflict avoidance.

He took his B Com LLB from Rhodes University and his M Phil and PhD in administrative law from Cambridge. He returned to South Africa and practised as a barrister at the Johannesburg Bar for ten years in a civil commercial practice with some constitutional work.

At RICS John has overseen the extensive development of DRS services both in the UK and internationally. DRS offers training, accreditation, panel membership, administration, and appointments in all of dispute resolution including bespoke dispute resolution and conflict avoidance consultancy. John has also spearheaded the creation of the Conflict Avoidance Coalition which is growing rapidly in the infrastructure and construction industries.

Prior to working for RICS, John was the Projects Director for ADR Group. He developed their international joint ventures in South Africa, Europe, Brazil, the Caribbean and other developing countries; their UK workplace mediation service; and their mediation training in UK universities.

Tim Tapper

Tim Tapper leads the Dispute Resolution team for Turner & Townsend in the UK and Europe and boasts over thirty years of experience as a chartered Quantity Surveyor, with over twenty of those years specialising in claims, dispute resolution and expert witness work.

He has acted as a quantum expert in over 50 cases and has been cross examined in the Technology and Construction Court, Commercial Court and both domestic and international arbitrations, along with representation in adjudication and mediation. He has lived and worked in the Middle East and Far East and also worked extensively in Africa and mainland Europe.

He provides independent advice to clients and contractors on contractual issues and quantum matters on construction and infrastructure projects, with expertise in the avoidance or resolution of disputes before they escalate.

Peter Gillies

Peter Gillies is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with over 10 years of combined experience in quantity surveying, estimating, commercial and contract management in the UK, Europe, Middle East and Africa. Peter's experience notably extends from cost estimating and planning to project establishment, delivery and close-out spanning across multiple infrastructure, real estate, and energy related sectors. Peter is an experienced consultant in claims, dispute avoidance and dispute resolution both in live project environments and those in formal dispute resolution proceedings and has been instructed as quantum expert advisor and witness.

Peter holds a BA (Hons) in Business Management, an MSc in Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying and has recently completed the MSc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution programme at King's College, London. As well as being a Member of the RICS, Peter is an Assessor for candidates on undergoing the RICS' Assessment of Professional Competency, a Senior Associate of the Academy of Experts, an NEC4: ECC accredited Project Manager and has guest lectured at various institutions throughout the UK.

Sue Barrett

Sue is Head of Contracts and Procurement at the Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal Delivery Authority. Leading the Development of the Procurement Strategy for the programme.

Sue has worked in the construction industry for over 25 years, in a range of procurement and senior leadership roles. Her experience includes delivering enhancements to strategic network extensions, station capacities and interchanges, and station upgrade schemes.

Sue has worked at a strategic level on a number of high value projects. She has been responsible for the development of commercial, procurement and contract strategies across a portfolio of construction projects with individual values in excess of £4bn and a portfolio value of £9bn. Prior to joining the Delivery Authority in 2023 Sue worked at the Urban Growth Company (UGC), where she was a member of the Senior Management Team and [delivered XYZ, driving ABC, etc – say something high level about what you worked on or achieved]. Before that, she worked for Transport for London, where she worked on various initiatives including the Northern Line Extension (a £1bn programme to extend the Northern Line to Battersea), the construction of two new stations and a new line extension, Bank Station Capacity Enhancement using Innovative Contractor Involvement, and the Victoria and Tottenham Court Road Station project (a £550m project to rebuild the station and create the adjacent Crossrail station in a very dense urban environment).

Stephen Blakey

Stephen is a Strategic Commercial Director for Network Rail with accountabilities to strengthening commercial stewardship and supply chain collaboration.

With 25 years of rail experience, he has a keen understanding of corporate governance, business transformation and operating models as well as £12bn of major infrastructure works delivered under his auspices. He is highly regarded across the sector for his collaborative approach to driving industry change through innovation and the promulgation of best practice. Examples include the award-winning Commercial Directors' Forum, supply chain adoption of Fair Payment, the abolition of retentions, the deployment of the Rail Method of Measurement and the establishment of Dispute Avoidance Panels.

Stephen is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors and the Institute for Collaborative Working (ICW), receiving their Collaborative Leadership Award in 2015.

In 2017 he led Network Rail's successful transition from BS11000 to become the first UK client to secure ISO44001, the international accreditation for Collaboration.

In July of 2022, Stephen received the BSI Pathfinder Award in recognition of his long-term leadership and professionalising of collaborative working and in June 2024 the ICW Collaborative Pioneer Award for his unstinting contribution to ICW and the rail sector.

He is an active ICW Ambassador and chaired the Collaborative Leadership Special Interest Group which published their Insight paper to industry in 2023. He is a regular contributor to publications and forums and a founding member of the Conflict Avoidance Coalition Steering Group.

Martin Burns

Martin has worked for RICS over 30 years, and he specialises in alternative dispute resolution (ADR). His current role is to work with government and industry bodies in the UK and globally to design and implement sensible and cost-effective ways for people and businesses to avoid and manage disputes concerning land, property and construction.

Martin has been involved in projects to design tailored ADR solutions for a wide range of sectors, including CPO, commercial property, planning and development and construction. He is working with government officials, RICS members and other sector professionals in Canada, Hong Kong, and the Middle East on the development of conflict avoidance and management measures for the construction and engineering sector.

Martin currently represents RICS on the pan-industry Conflict Avoidance Coalition, which is comprised of senior directors drawn from leading professional and industry bodies. The Coalition works constantly with government and industry decision makers to promote and validate conflict avoidance and management measures in the built environment. He also represents RICS on a UK Government Taskforce, which is scoping an ADR solution for land/property disputes under the Electricity Transmission (Compensation) Act 2023.

Martin is a trained mediator and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He holds a BA Honours Degree in Politics & History and an L.LB Honours Degree in Law. Martin was called as a Barrister by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2005.

Martin tutors on RICS Diploma training courses in arbitration and adjudication. He has also been involved in developing training and accreditation courses such as the RICS online Foundation

course in ADR (FADR), the President's Adjudication Panel Competency Programme, RICS Expert Witness Accreditation Training. He is currently involved in the development of a training programme for professional advisers and party representatives in dispute resolution.

Jeremy Glover

Jeremy Glover is a partner at Fenwick Elliott LLP, the UK's largest construction law firm and is listed as a leader in his field in Who's Who Legal. Jeremy is an accredited adjudicator, Vice-President of the Conflict Avoidance Coalition, and a member of the CI Arb Adjudication Sub-Committee. He is also a FIDIC Certified Adjudicator, Member of the FIDIC President's List and of the FIDIC Net Zero Task Group TG23. Jeremy is the co-author of *Understanding the FIDIC Red and Yellow Book: A Clause by Clause Commentary*, the third edition of which was published in 2018, and lead editor of *Building Contract Disputes: Practice and Precedents*. He is a member of the Board of Examiners on the Construction Law MSc programme at King's College, and also teaches on the MSc Building Information Modelling Management Programme at Middlesex University. Jeremy serves as the President- of the DRBF Executive Board.

Julie Forsyth

For 35 years, Julie's practice has focused on the avoidance, limitation and resolution of disputes in the construction, engineering, infrastructure, aerospace and energy sectors.

Julie is a partner at Gunnercooke in London and of Counsel at Le Boulanger et Associés, a specialist arbitration practice in Paris. She has acted as counsel and adviser on commercial arbitrations in Africa, the Middle East and Europe and worked closely with FIDIC and the World Bank in drafting and debating requirements for World Bank funded projects in Africa.

Her dispute resolution experience covers a broad range of projects including dams, bridges, tunnels, airports, rail, maritime, oil and gas exploration and drilling, carbon capture and battery storage. She is a fluent French speaker and ran her own consultancy business in France, advising senior management and engineers in the oil and gas, aerospace and related industries.

Julie is President of the Society of Construction Arbitrators (SCA) and hosted the SCA Conference in Sicily this year. She previously served as the UK Country Representative for the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF) and as vice chairman of the Society of Construction Law and has been a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators since 1996.

Ysella Jago

Ysella Jago is the Chair of the Scottish Building Contract Committee (SBCC) and represents SBCC on the JCT Board and Committee.

Ysella qualified as a solicitor in Scotland in 2012. She is currently a Senior Specialist in the Dispute Resolution Service of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors where she promotes the use of alternative dispute resolution across the construction and built environment sectors. She is a qualified mediator and is undertaking a diploma in arbitration. She is an experienced non-executive director and charity trustee.

Iain McIlwee

Iain McIlwee is a Materials Engineer whose journey in construction started in a scaffolding yard in Hanwell in 1995. He has worked in around construction since in a number of roles including CEO of the British Woodworking Federation, Director of the Fire Door Inspection Scheme and serving as a non-Exec Director of FENSA and Vice Chair of the Construction Products Association. Iain is currently CEO of Finishes and Interiors Sector, the trade body for the £10 billion fit-out, interiors and finishing sector. In addition to his role at FIS, Iain sits various industry working groups including the Conflict Avoidance Coalition Steering Group, the Steering Board of the City of London Corporation's Skills for a Sustainable Skyline Taskforce and is a Director of SKA Rating Limited. Iain has been a FIR Ambassador since 2021.

Liam Forry

Liam is a seasoned quantity surveyor and member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators with over 27 years' experience.

His project portfolio spans three continents and includes numerous landmark projects; including the new Queen Elizabeth II University Hospital (Birmingham), Perth Children's Hospital (Western Australia); the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (Queensland, Australia) and the Trillium Line Extension Project, Ottawa, Canada.

He has managed regional office departments for multi-national contractors in commercial management and dispute resolution disciplines in the UK and Australia.

Since beginning his career Liam has specialised in the mechanical and electrical engineering services sector of the construction industry and worked on healthcare, defence, education, retail, sports, pharmaceutical and residential projects in the capacity of a quantity surveyor and dispute resolution consultant.

Lisa Molloy

Lisa has over twenty years' experience in the construction industry, commercially managing major engineering projects both nationally and internationally as well as commercially managing SME's. Contractual disputes and resolution of them have always been intrinsically linked to her role and she has (and always will be) an advocate of settling disputes amicably, endeavouring to maintain relationships, enabling parties to move forward and work together in the future for the overall benefit of the industry we work in.

Len Bunton

Len Bunton, FRICS FCI Arb, Hon FRIAS, is a highly experienced dispute avoidance and resolution consultant. He is the Chair of the Conflict Avoidance Coalition Steering Group and is responsible for growth and promotion. He is past Chair of the Scottish Building Contracts Committee and was Chair of the Scottish Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He is Vice Chair of Scottish Mediation as well. He is also Co-Chair of the CICV Procurement and Supply Chain Group.

Matt Molloy

Matt is an experienced dispute resolver and has been appointed in over 900 construction and engineering disputes as either adjudicator, arbitrator, mediator, expert determiner, Conflict or Dispute Avoidance Panel/Board member. These disputes have concerned a number of high-profile projects within the UK and overseas and have involved complex technical and legal issues in a variety of sectors, including education, private and public housing, offices, hotels and leisure, sports stadia, roads and infrastructure, utilities, energy and process engineering. Matt sits on numerous panels of adjudicators and has recently co-authored his first book entitled "*Adjudicating Construction and Engineering Disputes*".

Franco Mastrandrea

Dr. Franco Mastrandrea has over 40 years of experience in the construction industry, on all continents.

He holds a law degree and is called to the English bar. He regularly acts as mediator, adjudicator, expert determiner, and arbitrator. He is a CEDR accredited mediator, appears on the panel of adjudicators and arbitrators maintained by a number of bodies including FIDIC, is a Chartered Arbitrator and appears on the panels of arbitrators maintained by RICS, CI Arb, DIAC, HKIAC and SIAC.

Franco has acted internationally as Expert on substantial construction disputes on matters of quantum, delay, and project management. He is recognised as a Global Elite Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal.

He is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, holds a Master's degree in Project Management from the University of Reading graduating top of his class and, from the same University, a Doctorate in the quantification of construction contractors' claims addressing the law, practice, and evaluation of claims for construction work on which he has written extensively, particularly in the *International Construction Law Review*, for which publication he is also on the Editorial Advisory Board.

His wealth of experience includes leading a successful recent CAP process involving three separate contracts, between the same parties, each let on the same standard form of contract.

Raj Sohal

Raj Sohal joined RICS after graduating from her LLB studies at Coventry University. Raj is also an RICS Accredited Mediator and has undertaken some community mediations with MATA in Leamington. Raj regularly supports the mediation training programmes providing coaching and feedback.

Raj has worked within the Dispute Resolution Service of RICS for over 33 years initially within the appointments team before moving into New Products. With a wealth of experience in appointments, panel administration, complaints and governance Raj now heads the teams that develops and delivers ADR training and education products within RICS globally.

Raj has been instrumental in creating and developing ADR training qualifications and accreditations globally, setting out frameworks, learning outcomes and assessment processes. These opportunities can in turn lend to panel opportunities.

Raj also works closely with the World Regional offices of RICS exploring ADR opportunities and the growth of dispute avoidance and resolution globally.