

Policyholder Disputes

Construction, Energy and Infrastructure

We act exclusively for policyholders in high-value, complex coverage disputes against insurers. Our team of insurance coverage specialists has a well-recognised track record acting for UK-based and multinational clients in the construction, energy and infrastructure sectors.

We have extensive experience handling disputes with an international reach, and we regularly act in litigation and arbitration for overseas clients with insurance placed through the London market.

Our substantial litigation platform, combined with expertise with our wider team of litigation specialists in tax, insolvency and asset recovery, fraud and employment law provides a unique one-stop-shop for insured companies and their directors and officers.

Our team is recognised as a leading policyholder practice in the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners UK, with individually ranked lawyers and leading individuals. Our policyholder disputes cases have been listed in The Lawyer's annual Top 20 Cases / Top 10 Appeals for four years consecutively.

Disputes powerhouse

Stewarts is the UK's largest disputes-only law firm. We have more than 95 partners and 450 staff spread across 15 specialist contentious departments.

The firm's reputation is founded on acting in complex, high-value and high-profile disputes. Clients instruct us when the stakes are high and where genuine disputes experts are needed.

All of our practices are recognised as leading practices in the legal directories, and for the past seven consecutive years, we have been recognised by The Times as one of the top recommended disputes firms in the UK.

Our experience

Construction and Infrastructure

Our team's illustrative experience includes:

- Acting for an offshore property developer in relation to coverage of losses estimated at over £160m arising from alleged cladding and fire safety defects in UK residential developments.
- Advising the owner of a prominent City of London building on coverage of extensive glazing and structural defects under its Inherent Defects policy.
- Acting for a main contractor on coverage and settlement of cladding and fire safety claims issued in respect of a high-rise residential block.
- Advising a leading healthcare architecture practice on notification of extensive and wide-ranging circumstances and claims relating to a prominent hospital development under its professional indemnity policy.
- Advising a large residential property developer on an NHBC claim, seeking reimbursement of significant fire-safety remediation costs.
- Pursuing insurers of insolvent architects under the Third Parties (Rights against Insurers) Act 2010, for a contribution to liabilities arising out of negligent design of façades in a luxury residential block in Hyde Park.
- Acting for the developer of a large residential property tower on a fire safety coverage dispute, including issues arising out of alleged defects discovered in the building's steel framing system during remediation works. Alleged value in excess of £20m.
- Advising commercial leaseholders, developers and suppliers on claims against contractors arising from alleged defective workmanship at a large UK airport, Category A and B fit-out works in Canary Wharf, a luxury residential development in London, and a high-profile tourist attraction in Dubai.
- Advising on a professional indemnity claim arising out of a high-profile construction dispute involving multiple schools in the Republic of Ireland, with alleged quantum of €580m.
- Advising various developers and project owners on coverage under Delay in Start Up insurance policies for losses arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Advising on a Construction All Risks claim for \$7m loss arising from storm damage to a port in Chile.
- Advising contractors on Professional Indemnity and Construction All Risks claims arising from allegations of defective design.



Energy

Our team's illustrative experience includes:

Traditional

- Advising a Saudi petrochemical joint venture company in a \$160m property and business interruption claim arising from shutdown following a cracked engine turbine.
- Advising on coverage of \$184m losses arising from a sub-sea gas pipeline leak in the Gulf of Thailand, under CAR and Operational insurance policies.
- Advising on an Operational All Risks claim involving a €90m gas turbine failure and resulting business interruption at an Irish power plant.
- Advising on an \$81m ICC arbitration following an explosion at a propylene plant in KSA.
- Advising a designer and manufacturer in a \$20m arbitration in Singapore concerning alleged gas turbine defects at a power plant in Malaysia.
- Acting for a US oil and gas drilling operator in relation to coverage of losses arising from drilling rig stranded in Russia following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Advising on an ICC arbitration relating to generator failures at a power plant in Oman.
- Advising on a claim arising from a fatal blowout during oil and gas exploration activities in Kurdistan.
- Advising project owners on Construction All Risks and Operational All Risks claims following the catastrophic failure of a wind turbine at one of Europe's largest onshore wind farms, resulting in physical damage and business interruption losses.
- Advising on an Operational All Risks claim following the destruction of a hydroelectric power plant in India.
- Advising on a €3m transformer failure at an Irish windfarm.
- Advising on claims relating to the largest offshore wind project in the US.

Renewable

- Advising project owners of a solar power plant in Morocco on a \$140m defects claim against an EPC contractor.
- Advising on a €56m loss following the destruction of a hydroelectric power plant in India due to flash flooding.
- Advising on a £53m TCC claim concerning alleged defects at a UK energy-from-waste facility.
- Advising on coverage under a Contractors' All Risks policy for significant losses arising from the failure of a wind turbine under construction.
- Advising on a \$275m Delay in Start Up claim brought by windfarm owners in Mexico.



Stewarts' insurance team is one of the leading policyholder teams in the country."

– *Legal 500*



Stewarts are very skilful in navigating complex insurance issues."

– *Chambers*



Combination of true deep technical expertise and commercial understanding."

– *Legal 500*



Stewarts' handling of major insurance matters has been first-rate."

– *Chambers*

Our team



Aaron Le Marquer

Partner, Head of Policyholder Disputes
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Aaron leads the Policyholder Disputes team and specialises in representing policyholders in high-value and complex coverage disputes with insurers.

He is experienced in all commercial lines of business, including business interruption, construction, directors and officers, professional liability, cyber, property and casualty. Aaron is ranked as a leading practitioner in Legal 500, Chambers & Partners and Who's Who Legal, was named Lawyer of the Week in The Times in 2023, and was included in The Lawyer Hot 100 in 2025.



Chloe Derrick

Partner
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Chloe specialises in insurance coverage and professional negligence. Having previously acted for insurers, she now acts exclusively for businesses in high-value disputes against the insurance market and the financial and professional services sectors.

Chloe has successfully recovered significant funds for clients and has experience in both group actions and litigation funding. She is ranked as a Next Generation Partner in Legal 500 (Insurance litigation: for policyholders).



James Breese

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James specialises in insurance disputes, exclusively acting for policyholders in the UK and internationally. He assists businesses and individuals from various sectors with their claims for indemnity from insurers.

James' clients range from public companies, private equity houses and multinational enterprises, to high-net-worth individuals and directors of companies. He is ranked as a Next Generation Partner in Legal 500 and as an Up and Coming Partner in Chambers & Partners.



Alex Lyons

Partner
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Alex specialises in claims across the construction, energy, property and aviation sectors, having acted on some of the most significant and technically challenging losses in the insurance market.

Having previously advised insurers and completed secondments with a global insurance broker and a major insurer, Alexandra now draws on this experience to advance the interests of policyholders. She has been ranked as a Key Lawyer in Legal 500 (Insurance & Reinsurance Litigation) for several years.

Our team



Hebe Swain

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Hebe specialises in insurance coverage disputes. She has advised policyholders in relation to disputes across a wide-range of policies and in a number of sectors.

Hebe has advised on policies across several industries including construction, energy and financial services. Hebe has advised on a diverse range of policies including credit risk, event cancellation, professional indemnity and aviation contingent and possessed policies.



Claudia Seeger

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Claudia specialises in insurance and reinsurance disputes, having advised policyholders across a wide range of sectors and policy lines. Claudia's experience also includes advising (re)insurance brokers in relation to errors and omissions and other professional negligence claims.

She has experience across a variety of industries, ranging from aviation to life sciences and financial services. Claudia's work includes litigation related to political risk, business interruption, cyber risk, product liability, and professional indemnity.



Arjun Dhar

Associate
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Arjun acts exclusively for policyholders and against insurers in complex, high-value insurance coverage disputes.

Arjun has been involved in insurance disputes across a variety of industries and policy lines. His work includes cases related to property damage, business interruption, political risk, directors' and officers' liability, warranties and indemnities insurance, marine cargo and cyber risk.



Jesal Parekh

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Jesal specialises in insurance coverage disputes and construction. Having previously acted for insurers, she now acts exclusively for policyholders and against insurers in complex, high value insurance coverage disputes.

Jesal has advised on policies across a variety of industries ranging from construction to financial services. Jesal's work includes cases related to professional indemnity, business interruption and cyber risks.

Our team

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