Schellenberg Wittmer



Katherine Bell

Partner

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Recognitions
- The Legal 500: Next Generation Partner in Construction since 2024; Key Lawyer in Dispute Resolution: Litigation & Arbitration; Key Lawyer in Real Estate since 2026
- Lexology Index: Thought Leader in Arbitration since 2025; Recommended in Construction and Arbitration since 2019
- Listed in Chambers Guide 2026: Arbitration Counsel
- LMG Expert Guides: Rising Star Commercial Arbitration since 2021

Languages
German, English

Selected Publications
- Expert Evidence in Construction Disputes: Arbitrator Perspective
- The Arbitrator's Power to Adapt Contracts – Three Jurisdictions, Three Answers – The Swiss Perspective
- Construction Law International – Country Updates – Switzerland
- Expert Evidence in Construction Disputes – Arbitrator Perspective
- GAR Know How Construction Arbitration – Switzerland
- Commentary on art. 84-86 Swiss Civil Procedure Code, Basler Commentary (BSK), 4th ed.

Katherine Bell is a Partner in our 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 as well as commercial tenancy and lease agreements across a variety of industries. She acts as counsel and arbitrator in arbitral proceedings and represents parties in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts as well as before dispute boards and in other types of alternative dispute resolution procedures. 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.

Expertise
- Dispute Resolution
- International Arbitration
- Construction

Experience
- Has acted as counsel and arbitrator in arbitrations under the ICC, DIS, CEPANI, VIAC, CAS and Swiss Rules
- Has represented clients in litigation proceedings before Swiss courts including before the Swiss Supreme Court
- Main areas of specialization include construction and engineering as well as sales and commercial tenancy and lease agreements

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Career

2022	Partner at Schellenberg Wittmer
2014	Associate, Senior Associate and Counsel at Schellenberg Wittmer
2012	Law Clerk and Chairwoman of the Conciliation Authority for Disputes Relating to the Tenancy and Lease of Property at the District Court of Horgen
2011	Legal Intern at the High Prosecutor's Office of the Canton of Bern
2007	Legal Analyst / Contract Manager Supply Chain EMEA at an international healthcare company in Zug

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Education

2015	Bar Admission in Switzerland
2011	Master of Law, Universities of Bern and Stockholm
2009	Bachelor of Law, University of Bern

Additional Professional Activities

- Co-Vice Chair of the Dispute Resolution Sub-Committee of the International Bar Association's International Construction Projects Committee
- Co-Chair of the ASA Construction Group
- Next Generation Member and Arbitrator of the International Construction Arbitrators Association (ICAA)
- Lecturer at Campus Sursee Educational Centre for Construction (Construction Law)
- Vice-President and Member of the Board of ArbitralWomen
- Regular publications in the areas of dispute resolution and construction
- Member of several professional institutions, including the Swiss and Zurich Bar Associations, the Swiss Arbitration Association (ASA below 40), ArbitralWomen, YIAG, ICC YAF, IBA International Construction Projects, YConstruction and The Society of Construction Law