



Helena F Riches
Practice Manager
London

Tel: 020 7780 7480

Fax: 020 7780 7481

email: helena.riches@mcms.co.uk

Helena has worked in the construction industry, with a particular emphasis on dispute resolution, since 1998. She initially joined Watts & Partners in its central London office to work with the project management team, comprising architects, building and quantity surveyors, and quickly progressed to project management co-ordinator involved in a number of high class refurbishments and major redevelopment projects. She left Watts in 2000 to assist one of the partners in setting up his own dispute resolution and consultancy practice, acting as business administration manager for three years before joining MCMS as practice manager in August 2003. In her previous roles, Helena has worked as a conference organiser, and has carried out information management and business administration consultancy work. She has also designed and created bespoke databases to manage client records, workflow, recording of time and invoicing. Since joining MCMS in 2003 the practice has grown significantly, opening its office in Birmingham in January 2006 and moving to larger premises in London in the Summer of 2006.

Helena qualified as an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 2003. She is a past Secretary (2003 – 2006) and Chairman (2006 – 2009) of CI Arb South East Branch, was Chairman of CI Arb's Young Members Group from 2008 to 2009, and sat on CI Arb's Board of Management from 2008 to 2010. She has also contributed to the course materials for CI Arb's Law of Adjudication module.

Helena is a member of the Society of Construction Law, and was co-opted to SCL Council in June 2007. She became an elected Councillor in May 2008 (re-elected May 2011), and was one of the organisers of SCL's major International Conference held in London in October that year. She is now a member of SCL's London Programme Committee.

Helena is also a member of the Adjudication Society, and organises two residential conferences per year for the Construction Group of ARBRIX. She has also assisted with Adjudication Society events and TeCSA Adjudicator Assessment days.

Helena was admitted as a freeman of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators in October 2007, becoming a member of the Livery in October 2010.

Originally from Dorset, Helena now lives in rural Norfolk with her husband John and son James. As John is also a practising construction arbitrator and adjudicator, Helena gets little respite from 'the day job', but when she does she enjoys walking, cycling, travelling and reading. She also enjoys cooking, often catering for upwards of a dozen people in her and John's large extended family.