

# Laura Brunasso

## Senior Counsel

**Laura Brunasso** is a contract Senior Counsel in Clark Hill's Construction Practice Group. Laura found "her place" in construction law, which was not surprising given that her father and both grandfathers were engineers. Laura has worked in law firms, a construction company and a construction management program office and particularly enjoys the claims analysis phase, preferring to attend onsite investigations whenever possible. She brings keen analytical and technical acumen to complex construction matters and understands that any viable solution has to make business sense to the parties.

Ms. Brunasso's personal interest in construction law led her to a Graduate Diploma in Construction Law from the University of Melbourne School of Law in Melbourne, Australia in 2014. She also qualified as a Solicitor in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in 2008. In addition, she is a dual national holding both US and Italian citizenship and spent her childhood in Saudi Arabia where her father worked for Aramco the state-owned oil company. Laura is an avid traveler having visited 65 countries to date and is passing on her love of travel to her husband and three sons.

### Experience:

- Developed education and training program for client's construction, sales and contracts administration staff focusing on modification of targeted contract provisions addressing risk transfer, indemnification, insurance coverage, payment, and scope of work issues.
- Drafted, reviewed and negotiated master agreements, project agreements, subcontractor agreements, real estate leases, confidentiality agreements, and professional services agreements.
- Successfully obtained insurance coverage for an accidental chemical spill at a construction site saving the subcontractor \$126,000 charge by general contractor for clean-up costs and reducing contractor's out-of-pocket cost to \$15,000 policy deductible.
- Acted as Claims Manager in construction management program office for public tertiary education multi-billion dollar bond-financed construction program covering 9 campuses.
- Created a contract terms checklist for use by client's business development and contracts administration staff to increase efficiency in processing contracts for new clients, reducing the processing time by 60%.
- As in-house counsel for construction subcontractor designed and implemented claims database, Self-Insured Retention tracking system, metrics for assessing performance of external counsel, and annual litigation forecast based on ten-year rolling annual revenues earned and number of lawsuits per client.
- Provided legal and business advice to client's internal departments including sales, marketing, operations, and human resources to implement corporate business plan and risk management strategies including formation of corporate entities, contract negotiation strategies, contract signing authority, business processes, field operations, insurance and licensing requirements.

### Presentations:

#### West Coast Casualty

- Co-speaker, "Subcontractors: Defending Yourself Without Insurance" Annual Construction Defect Seminar, May 2007
- Guest speaker, "The Tripartite Relationship: The Insured, The Carrier, The Attorney" Construction Liability and Insurance Conference, November 2006

#### California Professional Association of Specialty Contractors (CalPASC)

- Speaker, "Contracts 101: How to Protect Your Company" Palm Desert chapter meeting, December 2007
- Co-speaker, "Subcontractors: Defending Yourself Without Insurance" Los Angeles, Palm Desert and Orange County chapter meetings, September 2007

## Practices, Industries & Services

Construction Law



### Office

Los Angeles

1055 West Seventh Street  
Suite 2400  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

(213) 417-5312 (phone)

(213) 488-1178 (fax)

lbrunasso@clarkhill.com

### Education

B.A., University of California-Irvine,  
Irvine, California

J.D., Tulane University School of  
Law, New Orleans, Louisiana

Melbourne University School of Law,  
Melbourne, Australia, Graduate  
Diploma in Construction Law

### State Bar Licenses

California

### Court Admissions

U.S. District Ct., C.D. of California

---

## Memberships

- Forum on the Construction Industry, American Bar Association
- Society of Construction Law, United Kingdom
- Advisory Board Member, Institute for Energy Law
- National Association of Women in Construction, Los Angeles Chapter
- Association of Corporate Counsel (June 2005 - January 2012)
- Contracts Council co-chair (July 2007 – February 2010), • Statewide Legal Action Subcommittee (July 2006 – February 2010), California Professional Association of Specialty Contractors, Inland Empire/Orange County chapter

## Honors

- Foreign Licenses: Solicitor (non-practicing), England, Wales & Northern Ireland